

From: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
To: [Bitterman, Deborah](#)
Subject: FW: Chelan River pump station operation for moderating Habitat Channel water temperatures
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 3:06:36 PM

From: Osborn, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Erich Gaedeke
Cc: Hays, Steve; Smith, Michelle; Sokolowski, Rosana; Truscott, Keith; Hudson, Kirk; Smith, Jeff
Subject: Chelan River pump station operation for moderating Habitat Channel water temperatures

Erich: This email is to let you know that we are implementing an adaptive measure this year for the first time to protect juvenile (fry/parr) steelhead, an ESA-listed species, currently emerging from redds constructed this spring in the Chelan River Habitat Channel.

As you know, the Lake Chelan Project license requires Chelan PUD to provide a minimum of 320 cfs, via pumped flow or spill, for steelhead spawning from March 15 through May 15 each year. This operation was implemented in 2015. From May 15 through July 15, the license requires a Chelan River flow of either 320 cfs (above average runoff volume years), 200 cfs (average years), or 80 cfs (below average years). This year is a below average runoff volume year in the Lake Chelan Basin, the first one that we have had since license issuance in 2006, so the flow requirement is 80 cfs. The 80 cfs flow has been provided since May 15. During a Chelan River Fishery Forum (CRFF) meeting held on May 21, representatives expressed concern regarding warm water temperatures that were expected to occur in the Chelan River and Habitat Channel, and whether Chelan PUD was willing to turn on one pump to moderate Habitat Channel water temperatures by pumping cooler water from the tailrace into the Habitat Channel. We said yes, because this idea and adaptive approach was contemplated in the Settlement Agreement, outlined specifically in Chapter 7: Chelan River Biological Evaluation and Implementation Plan, sections 3.3.6 (page 7-42) and 3.3.8 (page 7-43). The CRFF developed a recommendation that one pump be turned on when the daily maximum Chelan River water temperature exceeded 70° F (21.1° C) and let it run until such time as snorkel surveys, conducted monthly, determine that steelhead fry/parr are no longer present in the Habitat Channel, likely August or September. This recommendation is captured in the May 21 CRFF meeting minutes.

Temperature data from the Chelan River show that daily maximum water temperatures are exceeding 70° F already. We plan to initiate one pump operation later today or tomorrow, at the latest. We will be documenting steelhead fry/parr presence through the snorkel surveys. Results from the operation and snorkel surveys will be reported to the CRFF during a future meeting and included in the 2017 Biological Objectives Status Report.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these activities. Thank you very much.

Jeff

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