

AMWG Recommendation

The Secretary has before her a FONSI that culminates in a January 2005 BHBF. If there is a sediment trigger, and the Secretary decides to have a BHBF in WY05, AMWG recommends 3: that with a sufficient sediment trigger, there be a BHBF in November-December; as a package along with the AMWG consensus recommendations of 1, 2 and 9: that we replicate 04 with mechanical removal of trout in FY05, with consultation, a supplemental EA, and public outreach by the POAHG; that we replicate 04 with fluctuating flows (from 5,000 to 20,000 cfs) that continue adaptively (as needed for non-native control) through April; and that there be a public outreach component.

Interior Response

- Accept AMWG recommendation with following clarifications
- the high experimental flow will be scheduled, subject to the sediment triggers, no earlier than November 15 to increase the probability that young humpback chub are not impacted by the high flow (the proposed schedule is within the “November-December” timeframe referenced in the AMWG recommendation);

Interior Response

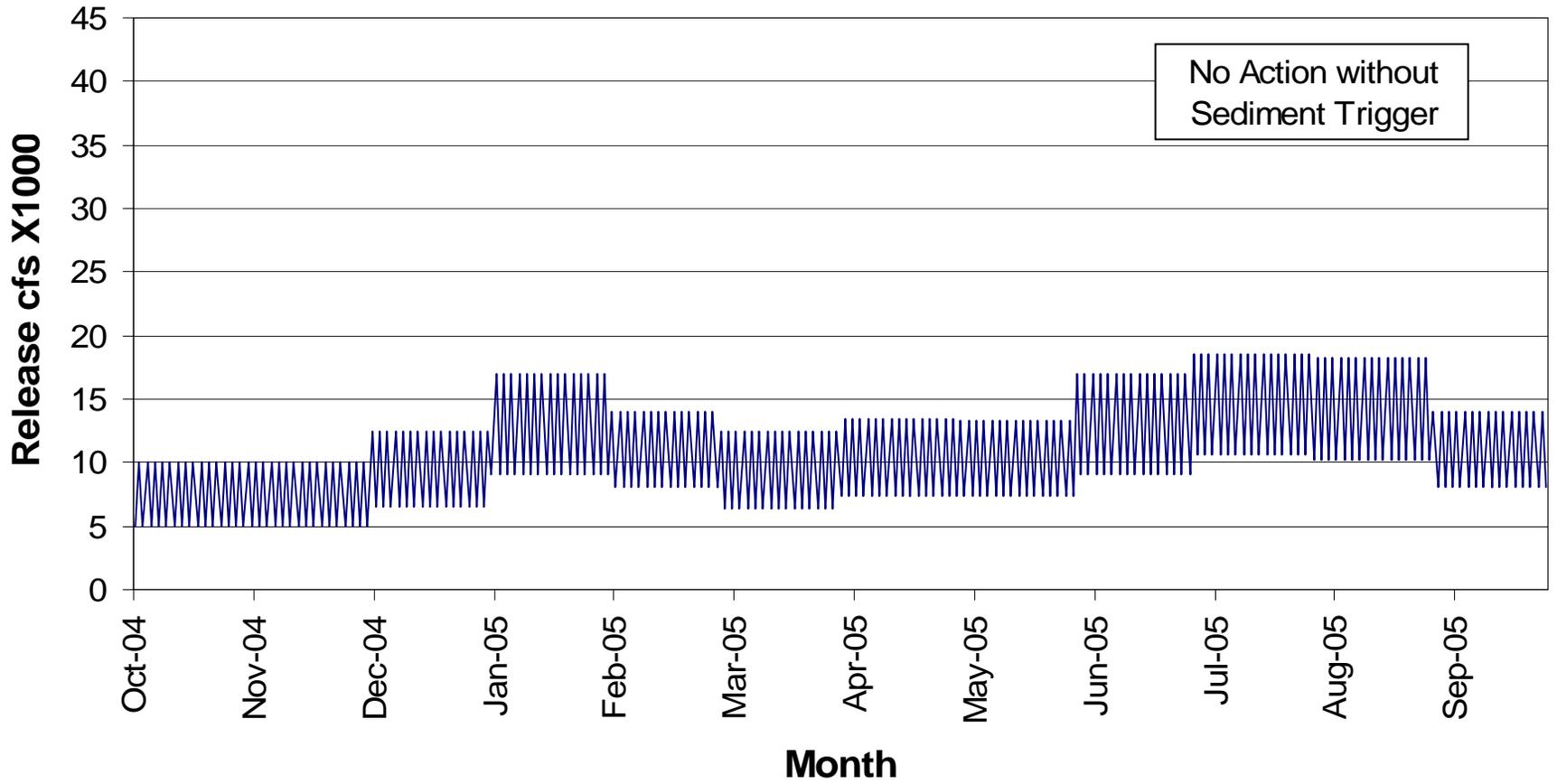
- non-native fish suppression flows will likely not persist for more than one week into April. This approach is based on a number of factors including: 1) there is projected to be a very limited water supply with which to sustain these flows, 2) ceasing these flows in early April is expected to avoid potential negative impacts to humpback chub emerging from the Little Colorado River, and 3) will similarly avoid impacts to increasing recreational use

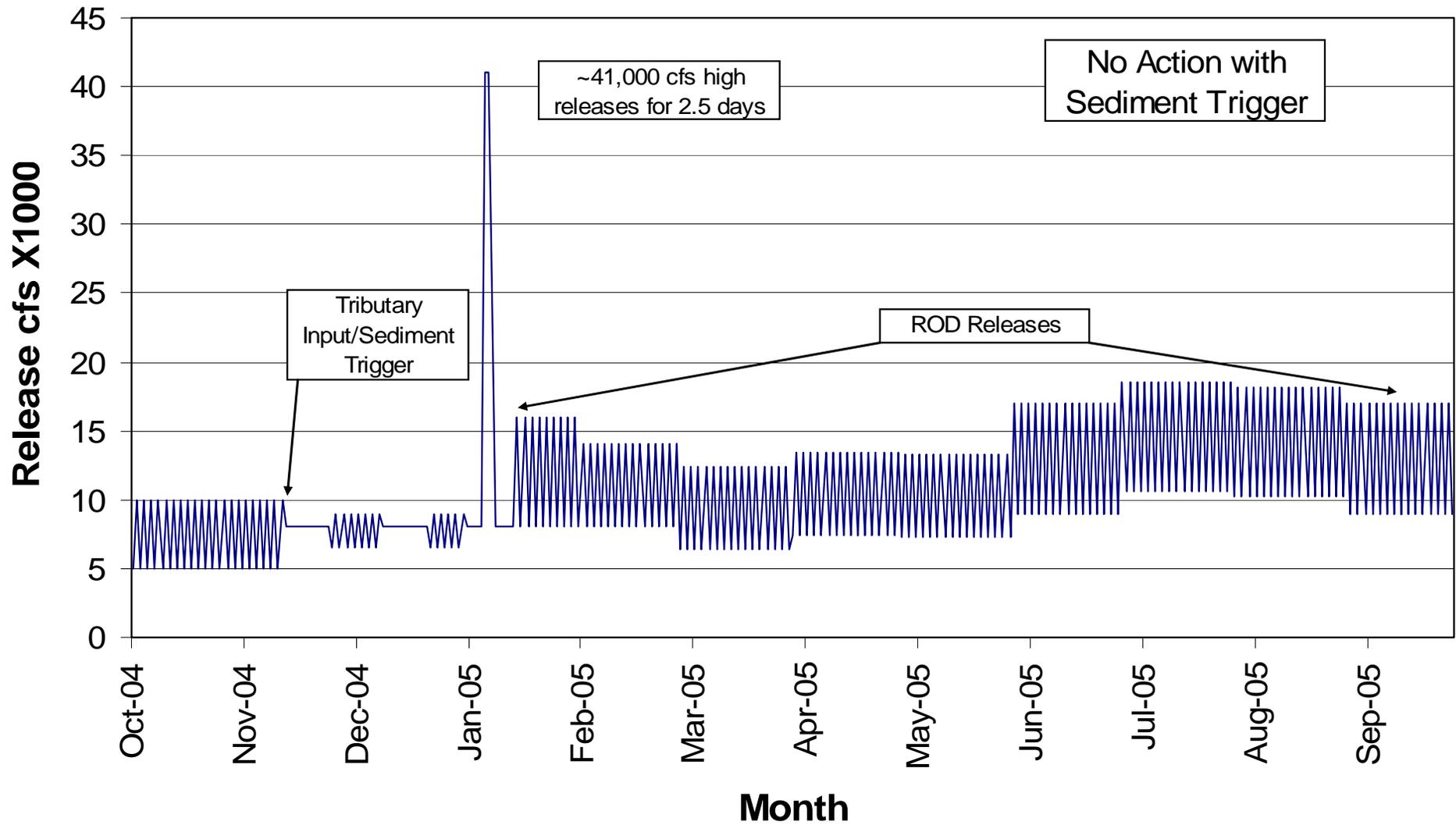
Interior Response

- compliance for the proposed action, including both the dam release components and mechanical removal of non-native fish, will explicitly cover Water Years 2005 and 2006. Notwithstanding this coverage, if the Long Term Experimental Plan ad hoc group produces an alternative experimental flow regime for WY2006 that is accepted by AMWG, that plan can then replace this proposed action for 2006;

Interior Response

- regardless of achieving the relevant sediment triggers, September and October releases in both calendar years 2005 and 2006 will be sequential 2-week periods of steady (8,000 cfs) and low fluctuating (6,500-9,000 cfs) flows. This approach is designed to assist in meeting Endangered Species Act responsibilities by testing the relative ability of the two flow regimes to improve humpback chub habitat, while also conserving sediment.





Release cfs X1000

