

Peer Review Plan

RiverWare Analysis of Tieton River Fisheries Enhancement and Water Reliability Projects

Date: March 21, 2022

Originating office: Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, Regional Office, 1150 N Curtis Rd., Boise, ID, 83706

Reclamation roles:

Director or delegated manager: Robert Skordas, Acting Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Peer Review Lead: Michael Poulos, Civil Engineer (Hydrologic), Pacific Northwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Subject and Purpose: The Tieton River fisheries enhancement study is evaluating the potential effects of different alternatives for increasing flow in the lower Tieton River while still delivering, and perhaps storing, water for the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (YTID). A RiverWare model of the Yakima Project was used to simulate the different alternatives. Results from the model were analyzed and summarized to assess effects to river flows, reservoir storage, and irrigation prorationing. The RiverWare model has been developed over many years by Reclamation and contractors and has been used for other analyses in the Yakima Basin. This Peer Review Plan is intended to review the model assumptions and output that were used to analyze and compare potential effects of the different alternatives.

Impact of Dissemination: The modeling study meets the definition of influential scientific information, as defined by Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and Reclamation Manual Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments Policy (CMP P14). The study is not an assessment, in that it does not present a recommendation or decision.

Peer Review Scope: The peer review should focus on the modeling assumptions related to simulating each alternative and methods used to summarize the results (i.e. how the scientific information is produced). Peer reviewers will be asked to provide responses relative to the following questions:

1. Are the assumptions clearly explained in the documentation of the modeling analysis?
2. Does the documentation clearly show the effects of the assumptions on the river-reservoir system?
3. Does the document adequately characterize the uncertainty associated with the analysis?
4. Does the model output reflect reasonable outcomes of the assumptions?

The scope of this review does not include the selection of RiverWare as the appropriate tool for this analysis, the RiverWare software, or the Yakima RiverWare model because these have all been previously reviewed.

Timing of Review: The review period is expected to be March 21 through April 1, 2022. The final Peer Review Report and the documentation that was reviewed is expected to be available on

the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Peer Review public website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>) by the end of June 2022.

Methodology of Review: Review will be conducted by Reclamation civil engineers (hydrologic) with experience in RiverWare modeling and system operations. The identities of the reviewers will be disclosed in the final Peer Review Report. Review findings/comments will be attributed to the individual reviewer. The peer review process will not provide opportunities for public participation; however, the documentation will be reviewed in parallel by external stakeholders (Jacobs Engineering Group; YTID).

Number of Peer Reviewers: It is anticipated that 2 peer reviewers will be utilized.

Reviewer Selection Process: The peer reviewers will ideally have experience with regulated river and reservoir operations, RiverWare modeling, and general hydrologic processes. Peer reviewers will have appropriate education and professional experience.

Delivery of Findings: A comment matrix template will be provided to the peer reviewers, with the option of providing comments within the document itself.

Response to Peer Review: The peer review lead shall respond to comments with document changes in direct responses to suggestions or to clarify the text where questions arose. These responses and changes will be summarized in a peer review report. Additionally, the peer-review report shall describe how the review process was conducted, how the reviewers were selected, identify the reviewers and their credentials. The peer review report will be published on the Reclamation's peer review website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>) by the end of the review period.

Federal Register Notice: Federal Register notices will not be provided announcing the formation of a peer review team and completion of the final report.

Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA): This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice from the reviewers as a group.

Agency contact:

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