



SRG, Fall Flow Reduction Coordination Meeting Summary

Tuesday, September 9, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Participants

- CDFW: Travis Apgar, Tracy Grimes. Colby Hause, Doug Killam, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Kyra Fitz, Stephen Maurano
- Reclamation: Lisa Elliott, Tom Patton, Derek Rupert
- SRSC: Thad Bettner, Yuen Lenh
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland
- USFWS: Bill Poytress
- WAPA: Michael Prowatzke
- Kearns & West: Terra Alpaugh, Chelsea Cullen

Action Items

- **Reclamation** will reduce flows at Keswick to 7,600 cfs Sunday evening (9/14) and will await additional data next week before reducing further.
- **Reclamation** to notify all if they drop flows further than 7,400 cfs before the next September 23rd meeting.

Topics

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kearns & West reviewed the agenda and action items from the August 26th meeting:

- **Reclamation** will reduce flows at Keswick to 9,000 cfs tonight/tomorrow and will consider reductions down to 8,500 cfs early next week.
- **CDFW and Pacific States** will monitor flow reductions and have new shallow redd estimates available prior to the next Fall Flows meeting on 9/9.

- **Tom Patton** will follow up on whether the additional upper Sac River modeling that could inform dewatering estimates can be shared.
- **Reclamation** will confirm whether contractor decomp demands will be similar to or more than last year.
- **All participants** to review K&W's proposal to operationalize PA instructions for elevating topics to SHOT ([available on page 3](#), header highlighted in yellow); reach out to K&W with any questions, concerns, and/or proposed improvements.
- **K&W** to send an invite to staff from USBR, NMFS, USFWS, DWR, CDFW, and SWRCB to a post-SRG Fall Flows caucus meeting to be used as needed to coordinate on topics that are identified for elevation to SHOT. [DONE]
- **All participants** encouraged to review the comparative analysis between field and modeled dewatering percentages by Gosselin and Beer (2024) found [here](#) to better understand the appropriate uses and limitations of fall run dewatering estimates.

K&W reviewed the process to elevate issues to SHOT, if necessary. Participants agreed to proceed with checking in at each meeting about elevating issues and holding the caucus with six LTO agencies, when needed.

SRG-SHOT Communication

- Participants confirmed a SHOT meeting was not held since the last meeting. This meeting will help inform the next scheduled SHOT meeting.

Current Conditions & Shallow Water Redd Dewatering Estimates

- Reclamation provided updates on flow reductions:
 - Currently at 8,000 cfs at Keswick with planned further reductions to approximately 7,600 cfs by Sunday evening.
 - The goal is to evaluate how far flow reductions can be safely made and then held through October to maintain enough water for rice decomp demands, before ramping down to base flows in November. They do not want to drop flows, only to need to bring them back up to fulfill decomp needs (a risk with a scenario like B5).
 - Reclamation will monitor new survey data early the following week to evaluate further flow reductions.
- Pacific States confirmed that the first of the winter run redds has emerged. The current expansion factor is likely closer to 2.8, suggesting they have more flexibility with respect to how to operate (i.e., which scenario) and still stay under the 1% threshold.
 - Final expansion factors and redd estimates will not be available until later in the season (likely November).
- USFWS asked for clarity on decomp water timing and demand levels.

- Reclamation responded that decomp water demands are expected to be similar to (or slightly less than) last year and are projected to peak at the end of October, requiring Keswick release of approximately 7,500 cfs.
- After the peak, demands abruptly drops off at the start of November due to contractual and seasonal limits.
- The goal is always to spread decomp water use out across the month as much as possible to minimize abrupt flow changes.
- The group reviewed existing flow reduction strategies and concurred on an approach of gradual flow reduction through September and October, followed by sharper cuts in early November.
- USFWS asked for clarity on the expansion factor values and when and how those are updated.
 - CDFW explained that the final value isn't calculated until the final population estimate is complete. 2.8 is an estimate of previous years with similar conditions. 2.04 is the average of all years.
 - Final expansion factor calculations would be available only after quality control processes, expected in November.
- CDFW provided an update on shallow water redd dewatering estimates:
 - 14 shallow water redds have been dewatered thus far.
 - The carcass survey is winding down as winter run have stopped showing up. Monitoring is transitioning from winter run to fall run Chinook salmon.
 - No new redds were identified in the latest aerial survey; they will continue to monitor.
 - Dewatering flow thresholds remained consistent since the previous surveys.
 - The complexity of estimating dewatering flows continues especially in the 4,000 to 8,000 cfs range because of river morphology changes.

Elevation to SHOT

No items were identified during the meeting to elevate to SHOT for immediate decision-making.

Conclusion

Reclamation agreed to notify the group if they are considering dropping flows further than 7,400 cfs before the next September 23rd meeting.