

Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team

Spring Pulse Flow Planning Subgroup

Wednesday, March 22, 2022 | 11:00 – 12:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Agency	Attendees
CDFW	Crystal Rigby, Gabe Singer, Jonathan Williams
CNRFC	Nathan Patrick, Peter Fickenscher
DWR	Mike Ford
Kearns & West	Adam Fullerton, Terra Alpaugh
NMFS	Stephen Maurano, Seth Naman
Reclamation	Jo Anna Beck, Liz Kiteck, Suzanne Manugian, Tom Patton
SWFSC	Cyril Michel, Flora Cordoleani
SWRCB	Michael Macon
SRSC	Anne Williams
USFWS	Bill Poytress, Brett Galycan, James Earley
WAPA	Ammon Danielson, Michael Prowatzke

Action Items

- SWFSC will acoustically tag and release fish the weeks of April 25 and May 9. The acoustic tags have been designated for this project, but if anyone has concerns about this use or suggestions about how they would be better used, please contact Cyril Michel (Cyril.michel@noaa.gov).
- Reclamation will walk the group through the forecast development process at a future meeting.
- Reclamation will report on today's spring pulse discussion at the next SRTTG meeting.

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Perspectives, Outcomes, and Agreements

Meeting Objectives

1. Provide operations update and explore implications for a spring pulse flow
2. Confirm recommendation regarding an April spring pulse flow to SRTTG

Operations Update & Decision to not recommend a Spring Pulse

Reclamation provided a brief update on the current conditions and operations:

- System is in extreme drought conditions, worse than last year.

- 1.7 million acre feet (MAF) currently in Shasta reservoir, Reclamation does not expect that to increase significantly, but it may reach 1.8 MAF by May 1.
- March forecast has not been completed; work is being done at the director-level to determine what will be best for the whole system.
- Shasta is currently releasing 3,250 cfs.
- Very few diversions are expected this year.
- There will be no spring pulse flow this year.

Perspectives and questions shared by subgroup members included:

- Kearns and West asked for any objections or questions regarding not moving forward with a Spring pulse flow.
 - No objections or questions were raised
- Reclamation to provide update on USST discussion at the next SRTTG meeting.
- The group discussed what causes delays in forecasts and how to make sure they are ready in time for a potential spring pulse in future years
 - Reclamation reported that much of the delay this year is a result of how dry everything is and the need for director-level coordination.
 - Reclamation offered to go through the forecast development process with the entire group at a future meeting.
- The group also discussed the history of conducting spring pulse flows.
 - WY 2021 was the first year the USST spring pulse subgroup was convened to actively consider spring pulse flows as a way to support fish runs, as directed by the 2019 Proposed Action.
 - The only use of a spring pulse to support fish appears to have been in 1982. More recently, it has been brought back up as a potential tool and was included in the Proposed Action.

Update on Coordination with the California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC)

Reclamation reported that they are continuing discussions with CNRFC on how they will work with each other and integrate CNRFC data and modeling into operations.

Perspectives and questions shared by subgroup members included:

- NMFS asked for clarification about why forecasts from CNRFC and DWR have been so different and how Reclamation reconciled the discrepancies.
 - Reclamation clarified that the DWR Bulletin 120 numbers are the official numbers used in Reclamation forecasts, but having additional information to compare to is useful, particularly when the B-120 is missing pieces of data. There are regular conversations between all the groups to understand and address any discrepancies.
 - CNRC clarified that part of the discrepancy originates from a difference in the time window being used for the forecast: CNRC utilizes the outlook, whereas DWR starts their forecast from a set date. This can create a

mismatch if the CNRC is picking up drier or wetter weather that came after DWR's set date and impacts the overall forecast.

Other items for discussion

- SWFSC reported that they are working on integrating pulse data into the CVTEMP model as staff bandwidth allows.
- SWFSC also reported that they plan to acoustically tag fish for release this spring to better understand mortality during this period. The proposed plan is to release the tagged fish during the weeks of April 25 and May 9. The acoustic tags have been designated for this project, but some staff have suggested that there is enough data on how poor survival is during these kinds of conditions and- the acoustic tags could potentially be better used in the fall, or even next spring. If anyone has concerns about the proposed use or suggestions about how they would be better used, please contact Cyril Michel.