



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Columbia Pacific Northwest Interior Region 9
Columbia-Cascades Area Bend Field Office
1375 SE Wilson Ave Suite 100
Bend, OR 97702

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CCA-1000
2.2.4.23

VIA ELECTRONIC, FEDEX AND/OR U.S. MAIL

To: Prineville Reservoir Storage Contractors
Subject: Notice of Detrimental Late Season Flows to Resident Fishery Below Tailrace of A.R. Bowman Dam

Reclamation Project, Oregon

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is an extremely challenging year for all water users who rely on the resources provided by the Crooked River. In addition to substantially reduced allocations faced by irrigators this year, we are also expecting unprecedented low flow conditions that will affect the resident fishery below A.R. Bowman Dam.

In a typical year, irrigation season extends into October. These late season irrigation releases support the tailwater fishery (i.e., the resident fishery located in proximity below A.R. Bowman Dam) by keeping flows higher and cooler until fall. At that time, precipitation and runoff provide live flows and Reclamation can make releases that support the Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP) for fish and wildlife purposes.

This year, most irrigation releases will cease on or around September 1st. This will leave a gap of a month or more where releases below A.R. Bowman Dam will be reduced to a minimum 10 cfs of flow. These limited flows will likely result in mortalities for resident fish species and other aquatic life. Since all the remaining storage beyond the 10 cfs minimum flow is under contract, Reclamation has no authority to release any additional or supplemental flows to benefit the resident tailwater fishery.

However, if you or other contract holders wish to join together to organize or shape some of your contracted storage to provide water for late season crops¹ after August 31st and to mitigate the effects of projected low releases, it could benefit the resident fishery. The goal would be to have contractual storage releases utilized to supplant and exceed Reclamation's 10 cfs releases². A contract holder or group of contract holders that would like to maximize the benefit of their releases for the resident tailwater fishery should contact the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) at (541) 382-4077 ext. 118 or kate@deschutesriver.org. The DRC has offered to work with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and angler groups to determine best volumes and timing to most benefit the resident tailwater fishery. The DRC will then work with willing storage contract holders, Reclamation, and Ochoco

¹ Releases of contracted storage from Bowman dam during this period *can be used by the contract holder for irrigation purposes* at the designated Point of Use as provided by state law.

² The 10 cfs releases expected to be provided in September are only available when other releases up to and exceeding 10 cfs are not occurring. In other words, contracted storage releases are not "stackable" on top of the 10 cfs, they instead would replace the need for 10 cfs minimum release as is typical throughout the irrigation and storage seasons when other releases are occurring.

Irrigation District (OID, who operates A.R. Bowman Dam) to coordinate any of these contracted storage releases.

Please note:

1. Any agreements made between contract holders and DRC or any other entity, does not supersede Reclamation law, procedures, or State law. Reclamation will only release contracted storage when permission is given by the contract holder for that storage account.
2. Use of your contracted storage in this manner is **completely voluntary**. Reclamation will not release any contracted storage unless it is first approved by the contract holder.³
3. All releases of contracted storage will be subtracted from the contract holder's total allocation for this year (as is the case for use of any contracted storage) and will not be available for inclusion in carry over storage calculations in the following storage year (carry-over is not calculated if all contracted storage fills). All contracted storage use will be tracked on the spreadsheet available on Reclamation's website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/cao/projects/PrinevilleResStorage/PrinevilleResStorage.html>
4. As explained in earlier correspondence, Reclamation and OID are responsible for delivering contracted storage water to the outlet works of the dam. Neither Reclamation nor OID have any jurisdiction over, or control of, storage water after it leaves the dam's outlet works. The responsibility for administering water rights, including both natural (live) flows and storage, below the dam is vested solely in OWRD pursuant to state law.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gregg Garnett, Bend Field Office Manager, at (541) 389-6541, ext 226.

Sincerely,

GREGG GARNETT

Digitally signed by GREGG
GARNETT
Date: 2022.07.26 19:17:58 -07'00'

Gregg Garnett
Bend Field Office Manager

cc Email:

Gerald George, ODFW
Bridget Moran, USFWS
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Brad Houslet, CTWS
Bruce Scanlon, Ochco Irrigation District
Kyle Gorman, OWRD
Kate Fitzpatrick, Deschutes River
Conservancy Peter Cooper, Reclamation

³ If you, as the contract holder would like to have Reclamation to release a portion (or all) of your contracted storage after August 31st, 2022, at a specific time and rate without using the DRC to help coordinate flows, please follow the same procedures required for ordering any release of contracted storage from Prineville Reservoir as outlined in previous correspondence and available Reclamation's website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/cao/projects/PrinevilleResStorage/PrinevilleResStorage.html>