

Notes: 5/15/19 meeting NMFS, Reclamation, and USFWS (?)

Attendance:

NMFS: Maria, Garwin, Howard, Cathy, Barbara, Joe, Brian, Naseem, Evan  
Reclamation: Dave Mooney, Kristen White, Jeff Rieker, Derya Sumer, Cynthia Meyer  
USFWS: Dan Castleberry, Derek Hilts

Initial thoughts from Dave Mooney (Reclamation):

- What Reclamation thinks is “on the table” (what Reclamation thinks should or should not be considered in the BiOp/consultation)
- Reclamation is asking for the “benefit of the doubt” understanding that some operations are uncertain.
- General characterization of Reclamation’s perspective.

Discussion of Shasta effects:

- November – May, (May 1 storage being the surrogate for cold water pool)
  - Reclamation maintains minimum flows the (only?) exception being when they make increased flood releases for which Reclamation checks with the Corps.
  - November – February very low Ag. demand but downstream water quality and Delta depletions sometimes require increased reservoir releases (usually during dryer years).
- Reclamation is confident that the proposed minimum releases provide the best opportunity to build storage and that there is less discretion in March/April.
  - There may also be room to change or modify the minimum releases (in the BA the proposed minimums are “examples”).
  - When Storage is high and Delta conveyance is “good” March/April minimums can be increased.
  - Modeling shows that Dec – June average Keswick flows/releases are higher under the PA? Reclamation explained this is because of more frequent flood spill due to achieving higher storage faster.
- Reclamation assumes a “Dry year” when planning for the next year.
- Reclamation has stated that “balancing” of reservoir releases is a consideration when building storage.
  - Considerations/concern when looking to Folsom releases first: mostly M&I (safety concerns?), and downstream of Wilkins (no deliveries to SRSCs).
- There are limitations to the benefit of pulling Trinity water
  - Low refill potential
  - Lots of downstream commitments
  - Volume limitation as to what can be brought through the Carr power plant
  - Too warm (no temperature benefit) in late summer/fall
- Reclamation’s feels that NMFS has been inconsistent with regard to comparing ‘historic conditions’ with the COS (which inc. COA) and the PA (also inc. COA)
  - COA increases storage (?) ~100 TAF in C years and ~40 TAF in Dry.
  - Differences between the historic analysis and the PA include:
    - COA

- Fall Minimums
    - Fall X2
  - Changes to Delta export abilities (April/May export restrictions)
- Summer management tiers
  - Reclamation to provide additional language about:
    - Staying within a Tier,
    - Reclamation's annual process for temperature planning to include NMFS (not consultation),
    - Collaborative restoration and other conservation measures (use/build on CVPIA process inc. process, prioritization and funding), and
    - Proposed drought and dry year planning.
  - Terms and Conditions to discuss:
    - Performance measures related to TDM and ETF survival
- NMFS to review the 'exposure, risk, response' tables in the effects section to clarify language on "probable change in fitness" ← gets confusing "increase" or "decrease" relative to what??

#### Fall X2 discussion:

- Estimated export water 'cost' of ~100 TAF ← does that affect Shasta storage and the 'benefit' to May 1 storage?
  - Offline discussion of the 'process' of implementing a Fall X2 actions.
  - Very dynamic management and not prime for a term and condition.
- Kristin to provide draft language re: general approach and a clarification to allow for NMFS 'input' (not consultation).
- Reclamation to provide additional text to correct characterization of the PA

#### Delta effects discussion:

- Changes in OMR described in the effects section need context
  - It matters where on the 'hockey stick' the change occurs. Partly a magnitude issue, as a 1,000 cfs change in OMR has different effect depending on where it is on the 'hockey stick'
  - Lots of discussion of near-field vs far field effects
- Disagreement of over April/May OMR restrictions and if/when/how fish triggers were incorporated in to the modeling.
- Reclamation requests:
  - a more nuanced look at exports (Zeug and Cavallo),
  - acknowledge steelhead as a life history strategy,

Reclamation to provide in-line revisions by Thursday (?)