



Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team, Fall Flow Planning Subgroup Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Participants

- CDFW: Colby Hause, Crystal Rigby, Gary Zhao, Tracy Grimes, Travis Apgar
- DWR: Kevin Reece, Mike Ford, Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Garwin Yip, Stephen Maurano
- USBR: Elizabeth Kiteck, Derek Rupert, Elissa Buttermore, Karissa Bridges, Kevin Thielen, Lisa Elliot, Peggy Manza, Tom Patton
- SRSC: Anne Williams, Yuen Lenh
- USFWS: Bill Poytress
- Kearns & West: Eva Spiegel, Terra Alpaugh

Action Items

- The group will receive presentations in the coming weeks from Chase Ehlo (Reclamation) and Corey Phillis (MWD) and by Mark Gard; they will share their latest research/analysis with the USST on 8/27 and 9/3 respectively. Kearns & West to extend the 8/27 and 9/3 meetings to 90 minutes to accommodate presentations.
- Kearns & West to contact Doug Killam (DWR) to request cumulative % of redds emerged by week, based on historical averages
- Tom Patton (Reclamation) to share the final August forecast and update the alternatives spreadsheet with those numbers by end of the week .
- Tom Patton (Reclamation) to use 250 cfs as standard buffer amount.
- Lisa Elliot (Reclamation) to use two as the average expansion number in the Dewatering Estimate calculations.

- Participants invited to provide additional updates to the “Flow Interests and Constraints 2024” spreadsheet.

Action Items Review from 8/13

The group discussed updates on action items from the prior week.

- Action item 1: All participants to review the “Flow Interests and Constraints 2023” spreadsheet and identify any interests/constraints that are missing, outdated, or where the associated timing should be changed; provide feedback to Kearns & West by Monday 8/19. Update: Stephen Maurano (NMFS) provided feedback, suggesting the average (across recent years) percentage of redds emerged each week be added to the spreadsheet if that information is available.
- Action item 2: All participants to review SacPAS USST webpage content and provide any requests for additional information that would be helpful to Kearns & West by Monday 8/19 COB. Update: Stephen Maurano (NMFS) provided feedback, including the suggestion to select a single expansion factor for easy comparison in planning. Participants discussed and agreed to use two as the expansion factor in the calculation of what percentage of total redds might be dewatered by various alternatives, since CDFW’s analysis shows two as the average expansion in recent years. The SacPAS website should launch in early September after Labor Day. Until then, Reclamation will produce the semi-automated report.
- Action item 3: Lisa Elliot (Reclamation) will investigate if they have bandwidth to update the TDM analysis with CalSim3 data. Update: She reported that they would have time to complete this update later this season, so they will have to inform the 2025 Fall Flows Reduction Planning season.
- Action item 4: Lisa Elliot (Reclamation) to reach out to Pacific States staff to request that they post their redd data to the GitHub as soon as it is available each week. Update: Pacific States provided data dated August 8, 2024 that include information on the first shallow redds. She will continue to contact them to obtain data.
- Action item 5: Kearns & West will contact the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) to determine if they will provide a Fall Flows Coordination participant. Update: Kearns & West reached out to SWFSC but have not received a response.
- Action item 6: Tom Patton (Reclamation) will consider creating a standardized scenario naming protocol for this season. No update.
- Action item 7: Kearns & West to create a SharePoint folder for meeting materials that all participants can access. Update: Accessible folder has been created to share meeting files with participants.

Fishery Monitoring Update

- Reclamation reported that Pacific States provided data from August 8, 2024 that showed 15 shallow water redds. Since that time, Pacific States has identified an additional shallow water redd.
- The dates of emergence for the identified shallow water redds run through November 5th. The flows at which CDFW anticipates dewatering of those redds range between 3,500 and 5,000 cfs. The redds with the latest emergence dates are anticipated to be dewatered at the higher flows (5,000 cfs).
- Participants were not sure whether the estimated dewatering flows are based on Mark Gard's calculations – either the old or the new – or are calculated using rough flow-river stage relationships. The new Gard calculations are known to underestimate dewatering flows (whereas the old calculations overestimated), so if the estimates are Gard-derived, perhaps the group should increase the amount of buffer they factor in to protect the redds. The group agreed to get more information from CDFW on these numbers at future meetings.

Operations Update and Alternative Spreadsheet

- Reclamation reported that, depending on the end of September storage, the target for end of season base flows Keswick will be either 4,000 or 4,500 cfs. Right now, it looks like storage will be less than 2.8 million acre feet, which will trigger base flows of 4,000 cfs.
- Reclamation provided an overview of the Fall Flows Reduction Spreadsheet and the information provided on each tab. The numbers are currently monthly averages based on the preliminary August forecast and will be updated once that is finalized.
 - Keswick is currently at 11,500 cfs. Flows will be reduced more in the second half of the month. The August 50% number is a bit higher than 10,000 cfs to reflect what Reclamation is observing in the field.
 - Projection for September is 8,000–9,000 cfs, as they will still need to meet fall X2 requirements.
 - Projection for October has flows in the 6,000–6,500 cfs range. Fall X2 requirements will still be in place, but they can reduce flows because exports will be decreased. This is when rice decomp demand will ramp up.
 - Projection for November will be 4,000–4,500 cfs.
- SRSC reported that a meeting was held between Reclamation and the Water Contractors to discuss flows. Rice farmers have begun to turn off water and will

continue doing so through the end of August and into early September. Rice decomp will commence in October and diversions demand will increase significantly in the second half of the month. The ACID dam will be removed in the second week in November.

- Reclamation will begin to update the alternative spreadsheet with more refined numbers based on the actual diversion schedules. This will likely result in flows of around 5,000 cfs in late October/early November.