



Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team, Spring Pulse Flow Planning Subgroup Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Participants

- CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Erica Meyers, Gary Zhao, Michael Memeo, Matt Johnson, Tracy Grimes, Travis Apgar
- DWR: Kevin Reece, Mike Ford, Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Stephen Maurano
- USBR: Derek Rupert, Elissa Buttermore, Lisa Elliot, Peggy Manza, Tom Patton
- SWFSC: Cyril Michel
- SWRCB: Craig Williams
- SRSC: Anne Williams, Yuen Lenh
- USFWS: Bill Poytress, Matt Brown
- Kearns & West: Eva Spiegel, Terra Alpaugh

Action Items

- 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review the “Flow Interests and Constraints 2023” spreadsheet and identify any interests/constraints that are missing, outdated, or where the associated timing should be changed; provide feedback to to Kearns & West by Monday 8/19 COB.
- All participants to review SacPAS USST webpage content and provide any requests for additional information that would be helpful to Kearns & West by by Monday 8/19 COB.
- Lisa Elliot (Reclamation) will investigate if they have bandwidth to update the TDM analysis with CalSim3 data.
- 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.

- Kearns & West will contact the Southwest Fisheries Science Center to determine if they will provide a Fall Flows Coordination participant.
- Tom Patton (Reclamation) will consider creating a standardized scenario naming protocol for this season.
- Kearns & West to create a SharePoint folder for meeting materials that all participants can access.

Welcome and Introductions

Kearns & West welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this season and asked participants to introduce themselves.

Process Refresher

This first meeting was intended to reorient participants to USST goals, process, and supporting materials before commencing the season's coordination discussions would occur. Updates included:

Kearns & West provided a two-page summary of USST, deliverables, and elevation process with language pulled from the Proposed Action and documented agreements from past seasons.

In the off-season, Kearns & West and Reclamation reviewed the Fall Flows USST Guidance Document to assess whether it should be revised to reflect the process the group has used to coordinate fall flows in past years, which involves more weekly adaptive management of flows than was imagined when the document was initially drafted. Suggested revisions were sent to the LTO Group for review, but for now the USST will continue to operate based on the existing document.

Participants agreed that they will proceed this season as they have in past seasons by proposing a draft fall flows schedule in August and September that will be shared with the SRTTG/SPG; and then pending feedback from the SPG and Reclamation, they will continue to meet weekly (or as needed) to adaptively tweak that schedule based on the latest information on redds and diversion needs throughout the season.

USST participants were asked to review the "2023 Interests and Constraints spreadsheet" and identify any interests/constraints that are missing, outdated, or where the associated timing should be changed.

The key supporting materials for USST meetings were reviewed: (1) the Alternatives Spreadsheet which Reclamation produces weekly during the season. They typically begin with two to four possible flow scenarios that then are refined during the season based on updated information about redd depths and demand timing. Participants suggested having a standardized naming format, so that it is clear which scenarios are

modifications of a particular original scenario (e.g., Scenario 1, Scenario 1.1, Scenario 1.2). (2) Redd Dewatering Estimates 2 Pager: Reclamation has created a new webpage on SacPAS that will replace the two-pager by automatically generating the same content with the latest data. The website will be live on August 31. It will automatically check for updates to the input data at the end of each day, as well as at noon on Tuesdays in advance of the Fall Flows meeting. It will be possible to produce a PDF of reports to save for records.

New Analysis and Tools

Kearns & West asked the group to identify any new tools or analysis that could be used to inform USST deliberations this year. Two new analysis memos from the Reclamation Team were sent to participants with the meeting packet.

The Fall-Run Chinook dewatering estimate memo was originally distributed and discussed in the group last year. It discusses a tool to estimate fall run dewatering; the paper compares the estimates generated with the actual field observations. They found that the tool generates higher estimates than what is found in the field but could be used, not to necessarily predict the amount of redds dewatered but to quickly compare dewatering predictions across a wide range of flow scenarios.

Reclamation also shared a memo on fall flow reduction scenarios impacts on TDM in the following year. This topic is one that is stressed in the Proposed Action but that the group has not extensively discussed in past years. To evaluate this consideration, the memo describes using existing relationships between carryover and TDM to identify thresholds of carryover needed to reduce the chance of TDM. If the water cost of flow reductions does not exceed this threshold, then TDM will likely be unaffected by the flow reduction alternatives. The memo concluded that the differences between the proposed fall flow reduction alternatives are usually only 100-200 TAF, and therefore it will be rare that this small difference will significantly change the carryover to influence TDM.

Additional new analysis that may be relevant to the USST has been completed by Chase Ehlo (Reclamation) and Corey Phillis (MWD) and by Mark Gard; they will share their latest findings with the USST on 8/27 and 9/3 respectively.