

## Restoration Administrator Flow Recommendation

**To:** Don Portz, Chad Moore, Emily Thomas, Adam Nickel  
**CC:** Michael Jackson, Rufino Gonzalez, Doug Obegi, Steve Ottemoeller, Ian Buck-Macleod, TAC  
**Date:** September 18, 2020  
**From:** Tom Johnson, Restoration Administrator  
**Subject:** Updated Recommendation for 2020 Restoration Flows

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The following is an updated Flow Recommendation by the Restoration Administrator (RA) for remaining 2020 Restoration Flows pursuant to the January 2020 Restoration Flow Guidelines (RFG), as amended, and Exhibit B of the Settlement.

### **Background**

The current approved Restoration Flow Recommendation (Recommendation) for 2020 is dated June 2, 2020 based on the Restoration Allocation (Allocation) from Reclamation dated May 17, 2020. The final Restoration Allocation issued on June 19, 2020, based on the SJRRP unimpaired inflow forecast of 902 TAF, remained **at 202.197 thousand acre-feet at Gravelly Ford (a Dry year type)**. Because the May 17 issuance finalized the Spring Flexible Flow Account, the modest increase in forecast Unimpaired Runoff with the June 19 issuance did not result in any increase over the May 17, Allocation, consistent with the guidelines issued in RFG 2.1.

The Allocation also specifies certain contractual and operational constraints on Restoration Flow releases for 2020.

### **Additional Considerations**

At this juncture, the focus of the Restoration Flow release continues to be maintenance of river connectivity and delivery of cool water for spring-run Chinook spawning and incubation months of September through November.

The Fall Pulse will not be needed for adult fall-run Chinook migration or to maintain cool river temperatures in October and November; therefore, I am again recommending that this water volume be pushed to February as per the last two years to provide early spring-run Chinook juvenile/smolt outmigration pulses.

As was the case earlier this year, key current seepage constraints that limit flows in the river channel include a limit of 850 cfs in Reach 3 (inclusive of both Restoration Flows and deliveries to Henry Miller Reclamation District), and an estimated total flow limit of about 300 cfs in Reach 4A.

### **Recommendation for the Balance of Restoration Year 2020**

**At this time, I am recommending an updated flow schedule for the balance of the year as shown in Table 1** (changes from the June 2 Recommendation are in red).

Additional modifications to the fall pulse may be forthcoming later in the winter depending on fish and water temperature conditions.

**Table 1. Summary of Restoration Flow Recommendations for September 18, 2020 through February 28, 2021.**

<b>Date Range</b>	<b>Friant Release</b>	<b>Buffer Flow Release</b>	<b>Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford</b>	<b>Total Flow at Gravelly Ford*</b>	<b>Target Flow at Sack Dam</b>
September 18 through September 30, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	185 cfs	190 cfs	95 cfs
October 1 through October 31, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	195 cfs	200 cfs	105 cfs
November 1 through December 31, 2020	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	230 cfs	235 cfs	138 cfs
January 1, 2021 through February 6, 2021	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	250 cfs	255 cfs	157 cfs
February 6 through February 28, 2021	As necessary, est. at 500 cfs	0 cfs	400 cfs	405 cfs	300 cfs

**\*Total Flow includes the minimum Holding Contract flows of 5 cfs required at Gravelly Ford**

### **Additional Consultation**

I will continue to coordinate with the TAC, Program Office, and Implementing Agencies to monitor hydrologic conditions, fish population conditions, uncontrolled season releases, operational conditions, and other factors, and will update the Restoration Flow Recommendation as conditions change.