



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
Klamath Basin Area Office
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-9365

IN REPLY REFER TO:

KO-300
ENV-7.00

FEB - 4 2011

Ms. Irma Lagomarsino
Northern California Office Supervisor
National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521

Subject: Request for Concurrence on Scheduled Variable Flow Releases from Iron Gate Dam

Dear Ms. Lagomarsino:

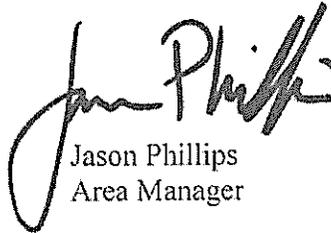
On January 3, 2011, the Bureau of Reclamation sent a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting their determination if the proposed modifications to the 2010/2011 fall and winter flows at Iron Gate Dam (IGD) developed in coordination with the technical workgroup were consistent with the NMFS 2010 biological opinion. NMFS responded in a letter dated January 3, 2011, that Reclamation's proposed modifications are expected to enhance IGD flows in the spring of 2011 and will not result in greater effects to coho salmon and their designated critical habitat than what was described in the 2010 biological opinion. Since January 3, 2011, and consistent with Term and Condition 2A and the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) A1 of the NMFS' 2010 biological opinion, Reclamation has coordinated with the technical workgroup representatives of NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, and PacifiCorp regarding implementation of a flow variability program this winter. These technical workgroup meetings have included discussions on additional flow releases below IGD to create flow variability in the Klamath River utilizing the 18,600 acre-feet as defined in RPA A1.

On January 20, 2011, NMFS sent the technical workgroup a draft recommendation to implement flow variability that included a peak flow below IGD at 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The technical workgroup discussed this proposal and agreed that a 5,000 cfs pulse flow below IGD is likely to provide benefits for coho and Chinook salmon by reducing disease infection rates during the spring of 2011. Based on these technical workgroup discussions and a review of NMFS' draft recommendation, Reclamation is proposing to implement flows from IGD in the month of February 2011 consistent with the hydrograph flow schedule in Enclosure A with the understanding that PacifiCorp will make its best efforts to provide these flows at IGD after the J.C. Boyle facility is fully operational, within the operational constraints of PacifiCorp's facilities, and without compromising the safety of the facilities, the public, or PacifiCorp personnel.

Reclamation requests a determination from NMFS' that Reclamation's proposed implementation of the flow schedule in Enclosure A as described in this letter is consistent with NMFS' 2010 biological opinion. Please respond to this request in writing as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-883-6935.

Sincerely,



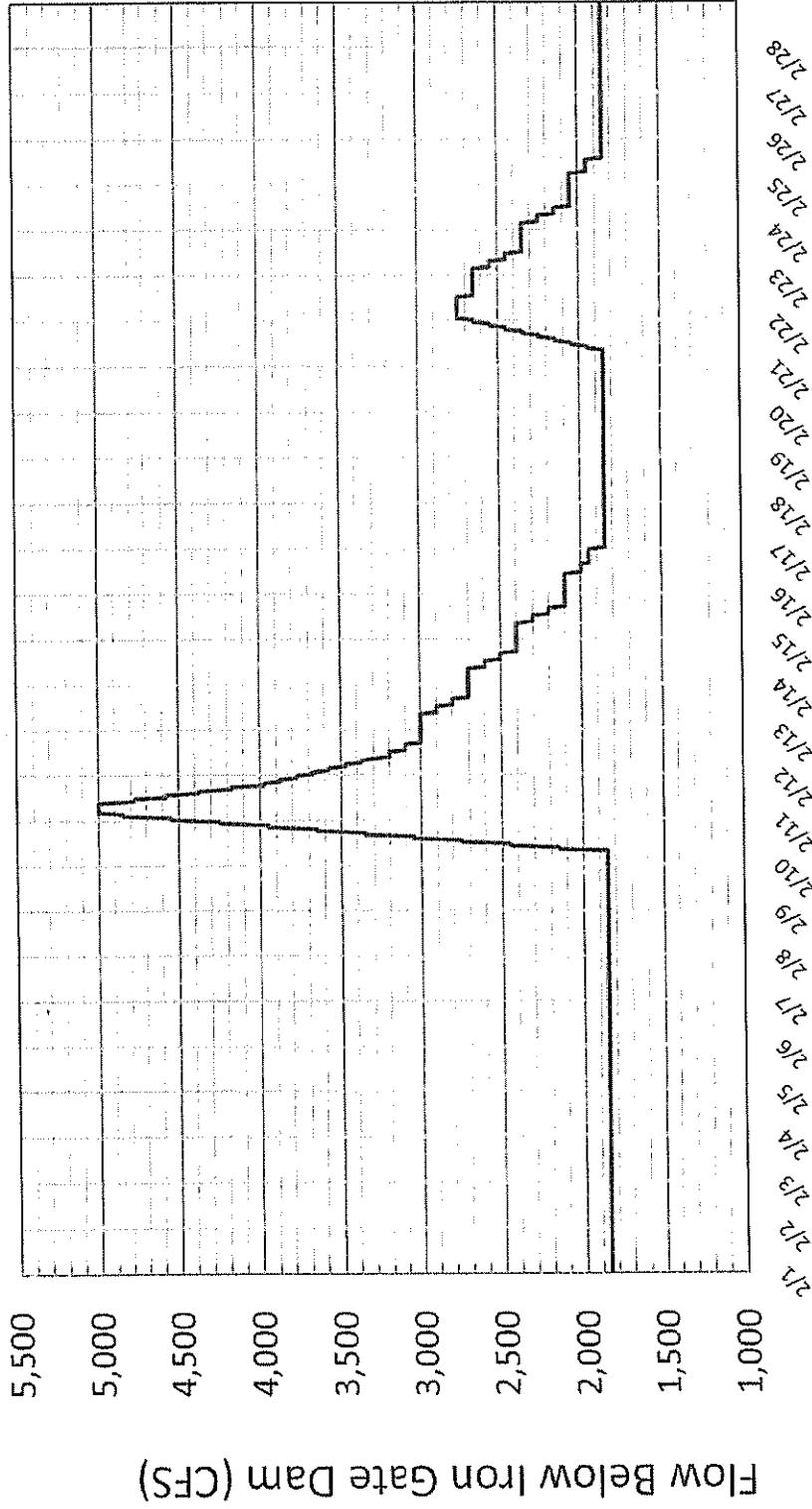
Jason Phillips
Area Manager

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Laurie Sada
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1936 California Avenue
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Enclosure A

Conceptual February 2011 Flow Schedule



Date

Notes: Objective of flow schedule is to release 18,600 acre-feet of water available for flow variability. Pulse flow timing may shift depending on natural flow conditions, operational constraints, or other factors. Hydrograph is conceptual and flows are targets given lack of precision in controlling spill at Iron Gate Dam.