



Our overall water supply situation and outlook are good.

Last week, 0.02 inches and 0.10 inches of precipitation were recorded in our Cedar and South Fork Tolt River watersheds, respectively. Snowpack is close to the long term average for this time of the year.

Chester Morse Lake at the Overflow Dike is at elevation 1551.1 feet, about 0.2 feet higher than last week, and about 0.1 feet above its long-term average (based on the years 1989 to 2005). Masonry Pool Reservoir at Masonry Dam is at elevation 1550.6 feet, about 6.1 feet higher than last week, and about 3.7 feet above its long term average. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir at the South Fork Tolt Dam is at elevation 1753.7 feet, about 3.7 feet lower than last week, and about 0.3 feet below its long-term average. Water releases from reservoir storage are actively being managed to balance water supply, fish habitat, and flood management objectives for both the Cedar and South Fork Tolt Rivers.

Water consumption for the previous seven days averaged approximately 107 mgd. That is less than the 109 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 126 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

Climate Outlook

(From the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in Washington D.C.)

30-Day Climate Outlook

(Issued 15 January 2009)

The Pacific Northwest Region climate probability forecast for the month of February 2009 calls for a shift towards below normal temperature (as averaged over the 1-month period) and a shift towards above, normal total monthly precipitation accumulations.

90-Day Climate Outlook

(Issued 15 January 2009)

The Pacific Northwest Region climate probability forecast for the 3-month February-March-April 2009 period calls for a shift towards below normal temperature (as averaged over the 3-month period) and equal chances for above, below and near-normal total 3-month precipitation accumulations.

Cedar River Instream Resources

Coho continue to spawn in the mainstem and tributaries. Coho spawning activity usually peaks in November or December and continues into February.

Significant numbers of young Chinook and sockeye typically begin to emerge from their redds in late January or early February. Chinook emergence usually peaks in early to mid-March and continues through mid-April. Sockeye emergence usually peaks in late March and continues through mid-May. Essentially all sockeye fry migrate downstream to Lake Washington within a day or two of emergence. Many Chinook fry also move downstream to Lake Washington shortly after emergence, but a significant number of young Chinook remain to rear in the river through May and June.

The WDFW juvenile salmon emigration enumeration barge was substantially damaged during the January 9 flood event. Crews are working to repair the damages and reinstall the barge by the end of January. The floating capture facility is relatively resilient to high stream flows and does not impose a substantial constraint on peak flow management activities. However, during periods of heavy debris loading, counting is often suspended and crews appreciate early warnings when peak flow events are expected to occur.

Adult coho salmon migration is winding down. As of January 25, 350 adult coho had passed upstream at the Landsburg fish ladder. This year's coho counts are the largest recorded since the fish passage facility was opened in 2003. Fish counts through January 25 are summarized in Table 4 below. The target elevation for the Landsburg forebay during fish sorting is 548.7 to 549.0 feet. On February 3, the Landsburg fish passage crew plans to switch the facility to passive mode, which allows all migrating fish to pass upstream without sorting.

South Fork Tolt River Instream Resources

Adult summer-run steelhead should be starting to spawn in the Tolt system. The majority of these fish enter the system during the summer and fall and hold in the upper portion of the South Fork where they spawn during the following winter and spring. Tolt River summer-run steelhead typically spawn from mid-January through mid-April.

Coho continue to spawn in the Tolt system. Although most coho are believed to spawn in smaller tributaries to the Tolt, a significant number also spawn in the mainstem and lower 1.5 miles of the S.F. Tolt. Coho spawning activity usually peaks in November or December and continues into February.

Young Chinook should be starting to emerge from their redds in the lower 1.5 miles of the South Fork Tolt River. These fish are believed to emerge from mid- to late January through mid-April. While many of these fish are thought to move downstream shortly after emergence, a significant portion of the population is believed to remain in the river to rear for up to three months before migrating downstream to the ocean. Newly emerged fry are especially vulnerable to stranding during downramping events.