

Umatilla Target Flows through-out the Year

November 1 to November 15

Target flows are 300 cfs until November 15. The HID exchange may begin on November 2 or as soon after as the Feed Canal is operable.

November 16 to end of June

Target flows are 250 cfs this entire period. Other entities begin diverting from the Umatilla River as early as March 1st but typically around Mid-March. Typically, HID has been a diverting and/or exchanging “live” flow prior to this time. If HID is still diverting and streamflows become less than target flows, HID’s diversions are decreased and completely curtailed if necessary.¹ If additional streamflows are necessary, then WEID exchange and SID exchange can begin depending upon where water is needed.² McKay Reservoir stored water releases for fish flow enhancement typically begins during this period.

July 1 to mid-August

Historically target flows are typically not in effect during this period and no “live” flow water is exchanged. In June 2006, the Oversight Committee adopted an interim target flow of 75 cfs so “live flow” water can be exchanged during the July 1 to August 15 time frame. Due to return flows, there will generally be “live” flows at Three Mile Diversion Dam for WEID to exchange. Historically SID relied on stored water releases from McKay Reservoir during this period. This stored water is now used for streamflow augmentation and Columbia River water is now provided to SID by Phase II facilities.

FPO may however, request an augmentation flow at the UMDO gaging station. In this event, fishery releases from McKay Reservoir would be required in addition to any “live” flow exchange.

Mid-August to September 30

Target flows are 250 cfs until the end of September. Typically there will not be enough “live” flow for SID to exchange as historically they would have depended on stored water from McKay Reservoir.

Due to return flows, there will generally be “live” flows at Three Mile Diversion Dam for WEID to exchange. This exchange is made by pumping at Reclamation’s Phase I Pumping Plant into West Extension Main Canal. The predominance of instream flows however, are attributed to stored water releases for fisheries enhancement.

October 1st to October 30

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