

Wanapum Dam Impact on Irrigators

March 10, 2014

Briefing Purpose

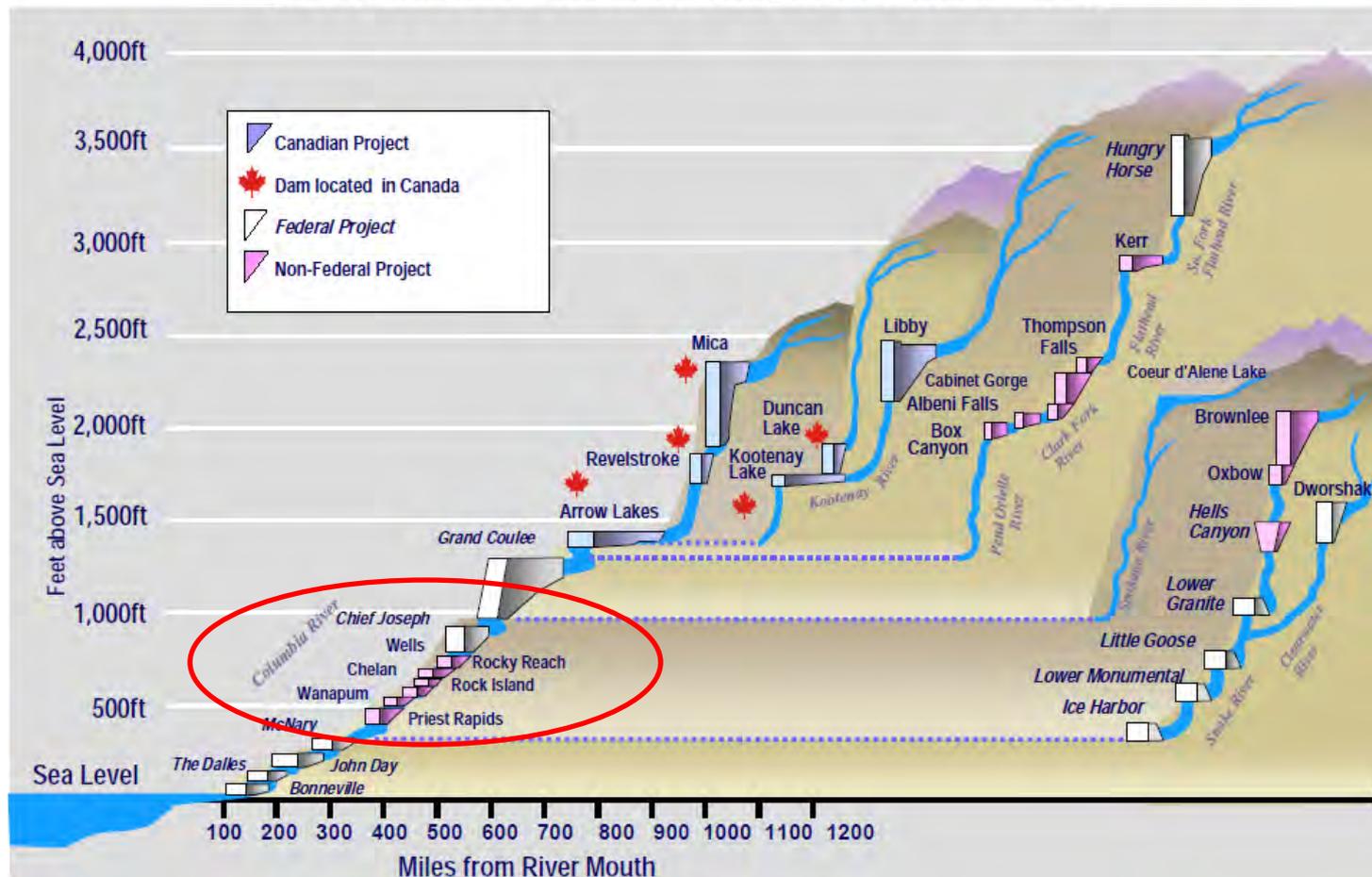
- Background and Update on Wanapum Dam situation
- Possible impacts to Agriculture and Irrigators
- Invitation to March 13 Meeting
- Washington State support for Irrigation Contingency Planning

Overview & Update

- Wanapum drawdown began Feb. 27
- Rock Island generation stopped March 3
 - Rock Island reservoir dropped to 605 feet (above sea level)
- Rock Island reservoir level increased to 609 March 8, generation restarted
- Addressing various issues based on the current conditions (fish passage, irrigation, recreation)

Wanapum Drawdown Response

FCRPS, Canadian, and Non-Federal Hydro Plant Elevations
(Does not include Willamette, Rogue, & Yakima Basins)



CHELAN COUNTY
POWER

Collaboration

- Chelan County PUD
- Grant County PUD
- Douglas County PUD
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Mid-C Hourly Coordination
- U.S. Corps of Engineers (Chief Joseph Dam)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Grand Coulee Dam)
- WA State Department of Ecology
- WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Rock Island Reservoir Level

- Normal operating range is 612 – 613
- FERC license normal operating range is 609-613
- Majority of irrigation intakes are in the water at these levels
 - We are learning about elevations of the withdrawals

River Level Uncertainties

- Coordination with Grant County PUD for Rock Island tailrace elevation
- Coordination upriver with Federal agencies and Douglas County PUD
- Goal to maintain 609 feet until a solution at Wanapum
- Runoff is an unknown

Water Withdrawals

- About 100 Columbia River irrigation withdrawal points have been identified in Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties
- Most of the withdrawal points are on the Rock Island reservoir
- Thousands of acres are impacted in the three counties

Current Water Withdrawal



Pump House



Irrigation Contingency Planning

- Three major issues
 - Adequate water for tree preservation and fruit production
 - Water for frost prevention in spring
 - Water for pesticide application
- Modifications to irrigation may be necessary at any level below 612, but how much is part of what we hope to learn over the coming week

Possible State Agency Assistance

- **Participate in March 13 Irrigator/Agriculture representative meeting**
- Expedited permits for system modifications
- Temporary permit relief for operational conditions such as instantaneous withdrawal rates
- Others areas as identified by stakeholders

March 13 Meeting

- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Confluence Technology Center
285 Technology Center Way
Wenatchee

Conclusion

- A dynamic situation that changes hourly
- Good fortune and continuing collaboration will help avoid and/or resolve emerging problems
- Plans in process if good fortune doesn't continue
- Invite and encourage the State's participation as a partner

More information

- chelanpud.org
under “[Wanapum Dam Response](#)”
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