

WAC 173-563-056 Application of minimum average weekly flows to out-of-stream uses. (1) For the first 4,500 cfs of water rights issued subject to this program, the following conditions shall apply:

(a) When the March 1 forecast of April-September runoff at The Dalles, Oregon (as published by the National Weather Service in Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States) is equal to or greater than 88 million acre-feet (MAF), no regulation of out-of-stream diverters shall occur, regardless of the gaged flow of the Columbia River.

(b) When the flow forecast is less than 88 MAF but greater than 60 MAF, the department shall encourage voluntary water conservation through appropriate notification of water users in an attempt to foster efficient resource use.

(c) When the flow forecast is 60 MAF or less, the department shall regulate out-of-stream diverters on the basis of first-in-time is first-in-right whenever it is predicted that gaged flows will fall below the minimum average weekly flows as established by this chapter.

(2) For any water allocations issued in excess of the first 4,500 cfs defined in WAC 173-563-056(1), the following conditions shall apply:

(a) When the March 1 forecast of April-September runoff at The Dalles, Oregon (as published by the National Weather Service in Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States) is equal to or greater than 88 million acre-feet (MAF), no regulation of out-of-stream diverters shall occur, regardless of the gaged flow of the Columbia River.

(b) When the flow forecast is less than 88 MAF, the department shall regulate out-of-stream diverters on the basis of first-in-time is first-in-right whenever it is predicted that gaged flows will fall below the CRIRPP minimum average weekly flows as established by this chapter.

(3) The department shall utilize the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) 30-day power operation plan in predicting specific periods of anticipated flow conditions.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 90.54.040, 90.54.050, chapters 90.03 and 90.22 RCW. WSR 82-21-001 and 82-21-007 (Orders DE 82-35 and DE 82-35A), § 173-563-056, filed 10/7/82 and 10/8/82.]