



LEHIGH COLDWATER FISHERY ALLIANCE

www.thelehighriver.org

Army Corps of Engineers – Francis E Walter 2006 Plan Review and 2007 Flow Plan Suggestions

November 9, 2006

The Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance would like to thank the Wildlands Conservancy with coordination from the ACOE, DCNR, PFBC and DRBC for their dedicated work in creating these yearly Flow Plans.

Who would of thought, heading into the third year, we'd experience such drastically different water years. There is certainly no perfect plan, but as we gather more data, and look at past plan's performance, hopefully well-thought-out adjustments can create balance and enhancement to both whitewater and coldwater fishery interests.

Fishery Improvement Comments/Recommendations:

- 1) Looking back at the 2006 Plan, the use of the augmentation rule curve was well thought out and achieved its goal of supplying adequate pool levels for upcoming whitewater release. However, our view is all attempts should be made for the 2007 Plan to increase the minimum flow (currently 250cfs during times of refill) and augment at minimum of 300cfs when the lake is below 1,365' in order to refill for whitewater releases. This should be obtainable especially when hydraulic conditions warrant the minimum release of 300cfs and continue to "refill" the pool.
- 2) Begin filling reservoir at end of March or earlier if hydraulic conditions warrant to gather the coldest water possible.
- 3) Use the 1,297' by-pass gates to fullest extent.
- 4) Attempt to meet 18.5c (65 deg f) water temperature release from FEW as allowable.
 - When water release temperature exceeds 18.5c, begin releasing water from the floodgates to regulate water temperature.
- 5) Consider delaying Whitewater Release weekends to begin at the end of May in order to conserve the coldwater pool longer and later into the warm weather months when it appears the demand for whitewater releases is the highest.

Water Release Comments:

- 1) Continue attempts to meet 22 days of whitewater releases at 750cfs with release dates to commence in mid-May. Release and non-release weekends should alternate so that fisherman may access the river, as releases of water at this level do not constitute favorable conditions for wading the river.
- 2) Release water during whitewater weekends in a timely manner that will conserve the coldwater pool to the extent possible.

Sincerely,

Dean Druckenmiller, President
Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance
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