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## Army Corps of Engineers – Francis E Walter Flow Management Plan Recommendations for 2008

After three recreational seasons, each year has faced a variety of natural conditions that have affected how the water is managed in FEW and the performance of each Flow Management Plan. From the information that has been gathered over the last three seasons, the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance believes its time to re-evaluate the Plan and make adjustments accordingly that will strike a better balance between the aquatic resource of the Lehigh River in conjunction with whitewater and angling interests.

The following is a list of considerations and recommendations that are being submitted by the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance (LCFA) for discussion at the 2008 Flow Management Plan planning meeting with representatives from the Army Corps, DRBC, PA DCNR, PFBC and Lehigh River Stakeholders.

### ***Fishery Improvement Recommendations-***

The following recommendations are in addition to comments submitted in previous years by the LCFA. The LCFA requests that the agencies consider these changes to the 2008 Plan to enhance the trout fishery and Lehigh River's natural resources:

- 1) Further conservation of the hypolimnion (Coldwater Pool)
  - a. Elimination of first May weekend white water release.
  - b. Elimination of first June weekend whitewater release, unless pool is at 1,365' or the maximum pool elevation designation.
  - c. Reduce time duration of whitewater releases from 12hrs to 8 hrs
  - d. Consider increasing the in-lake summer pool to 1,370' or greater for the following:
    - i. To increase the available coldwater storage.
    - ii. To increase the minimum releases for improvement off the aquatic environment and natural resource.
  - e. Eliminate short duration or "High/Quick Dump" type releases. Rather have a lower release over an extended period of time, especially during non-whitewater release weekends.
  - f. Maintain strict adherence to the 5' pool fluctuation restriction during May/June to preserve the coldwater pool.
- 2) Repair and continue use of the by-pass gates to fullest extent.
- 3) Increase minimum target release to 300 cfs, after July 1<sup>st</sup> when "skimming" run-off into FEW for purposes of increasing pool storage.
- 4) Absolute minimum releases should be no less than 300 cfs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. Releases should not drop below 300 cfs during this time period.



- 5) Any changes to “low flow” release policies should consider the effects and depletion of the coldwater pool.

### ***Water Release Recommendations***

- 1) Consider reduction of designated whitewater release weekends to 18 target weekend days with potential for “bonus” weekends in October if water storage is available.
- 2) Whitewater releases or releases of water that may be considered to be of significant volume (i.e. > 600 cfs) should not occur in consecutive weekends (i.e. – alternate weekends).
- 3) Release and non-release weekends should alternate so that fisherman may access the river as releases of water greater than 500 cfs do not constitute favorable conditions for wading the river.
- 4) Incorporate more angler friendly releases during Spring and Fall seasons.
  - a. Spring time (i.e. – April) is usually time of naturally high flows. Consider having designated weekends for releases of 500 cfs or less.
  - b. Fall time (i.e. - October) releases are typically less than 300 cfs. Consider releasing any remaining available storage at a rate of 350 cfs to 450 cfs over an extended period of time (i.e. – two weeks or greater) to lower the pool to 1,300’.
  - c. Eliminate the “mega” release of 4,000 cfs and use this water when available to provide increased fishing opportunities and a better angling experience during the fall season.

In closing, on behalf of the LCFA, I want to thank all the agencies for their cooperation and hard work in making this meeting possible and the overall willingness to work towards the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the water resources of the Lehigh River.

Sincerely,

Dean Druckenmiller, President  
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