

Federal Regulations That Protect Steelhead



Protection Provided By The Endangered Species Act

▶ The Policy of Congress Is That:

All Federal Departments and Agencies shall

- Conserve endangered and threatened species
- Utilize their authorities in the furtherance of the purposes of the act

Federal Agencies shall

- Cooperate with state and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation

▶ Federal NOAA Fisheries Is The Lead Agency

Southern California Steelhead warrant protection and are listed as an endangered species effective October 17, 1997

▶ Endangered Species Act Section 7 Requires Federal Agency Cooperation

- All Federal Agencies must utilize their authorities to advance the Endangered Species Act
- All Federal Agencies must insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out is not “destructive or adverse modification of habitat,” or “likely to jeopardize the continued existence” of an endangered species

▶ Endangered Species Act Section 9 Prohibits “Take”

- “Take is defined as: “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct”

NOAA Fisheries Provides Criteria for Operation of the Robles Fish Passage Facility

Season

- ▶ The Fish Passage season of operation is January 1 to June 30

Fish Passage Flows

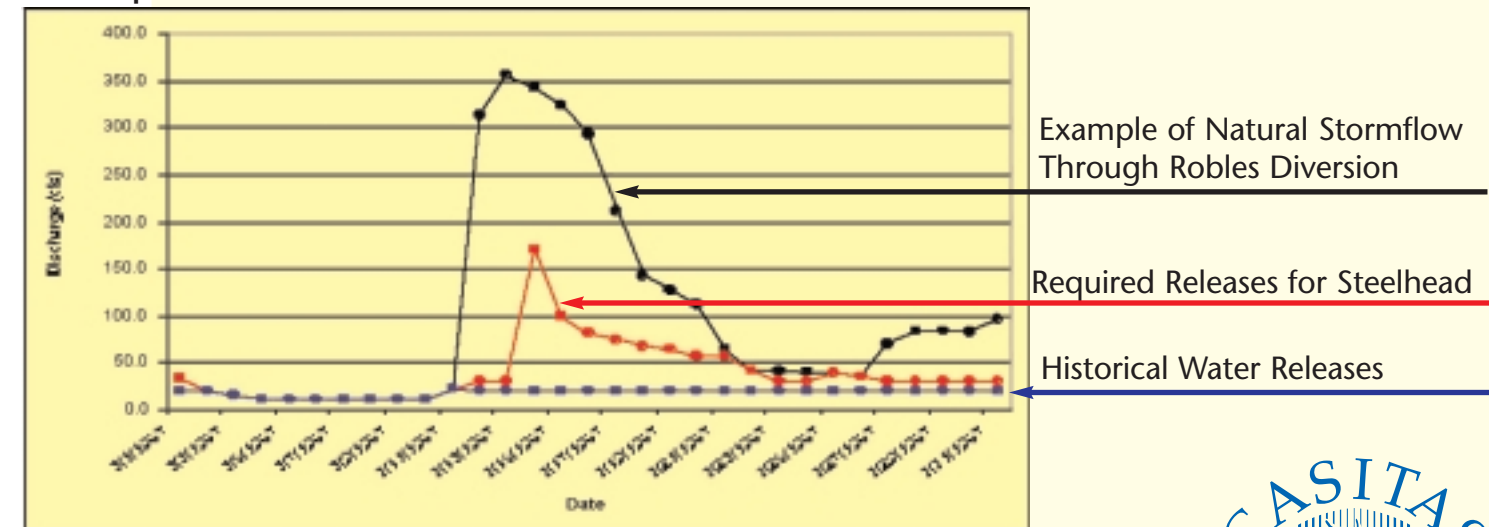
- ▶ Fish Passage flows are designed to mimic natural storm flows. The duration of these flows is 10 days with a minimum water flow of 50 cubic feet per second. This volume of water is equal to filling an average residential swimming pool every minute or less.



Minimum Flow Between Storms

- ▶ Between storms the district cannot divert water until fish flows exceed 30 cubic feet per second minimum.

Example: Storm Flows and Water Releases



Note how the required releases are designed to mimic the shape and duration of the natural storm flow.