

Mystic Lake Hydroelectric Project
Whitewater Resource Group
Conference Call – Annual Consultation Summary
June 17, 2013

All participated via conference line:

PPL Montana – Deb Mallowney

PPL Montana – Lance Elias

PPL Montana – Andy Welch

PPL Montana – Jon Jourdonnais

American Lands – Nancy Johnson

American Lands – Bruce Bugbee

REC Resources – Jeff Frost

USFS – Jeff Gildehaus

MDEQ – Dave Feldman for Eric Urban

MFWP – Ken Frazer

DNRC – not present

American Whitewater – Kevin Colburn

Beartooth Paddlers – Ian McIntosh

Beartooth Paddlers – Burgess Norrgard

The call began at 9:00 AM. Nancy Johnson confirmed those participating and reviewed the items to be discussed. Nancy welcomed Burgess Norrgard with the Beartooth Paddlers to the group.

Nancy reviewed the four weekends with whitewater flow enhancements in 2012. Releases began on Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8 and continued on July 14-15, July 21-22 and July 28-29. Forty-three paddlers registered for these whitewater flow enhancements.

Nancy briefly reviewed the protocol for West Rosebud Creek Whitewater Flow Enhancement, noting that releases are triggered when flows drop below 400 cfs as measured on Wednesdays by USGS streamflow gauge #06204050 for West Rosebud Creek. Nancy noted both Wednesday and Friday gauge readings as triggers for a planned release on the following weekend. The protocol is posted on the Mystic Lake website www.mysticlakeproject.com.

Deb Mallowney, PPL Montana Resource Coordinator, reviewed current elevation and inflow for Mystic Lake. Lake elevation on June 17 was 7,665.35 feet, 5.15 feet below full pool. Current inflow is approximately 396 cfs. Deb indicated that the lake is filling at a rate of about one foot per day, and that all snowpack has melted. Both Deb and Lance Elias indicated that adequate water for whitewater releases in West Rosebud Creek this year were questionable, with possibly one weekend for flow enhancement. Spill from Mystic Lake may occur the coming weekend of June 22-23rd or during the following weekend.

Kevin Colburn asked about a possible whitewater flow enhancement on the coming weekend, with PPLM responding that current inflow into the lake is declining and sufficient flow for a release was too close to call.

Jeff Gildehaus indicated that during a recent trip to Mystic and Island Lakes, he observed a large logjam below Island Lake that was holding back inflow into Mystic Lake. With breakdown of the logjam, Mystic Lake has recently been filling more rapidly.

Kevin Colburn requested clarification on inflow into Mystic Lake and a potential whitewater flow enhancement on the coming weekend. Nancy Johnson indicated that as the lake approaches full pool and possible spill, monitoring current creek flow provided by USGS gauge #06204050 for West Rosebud Creek becomes very important. Precipitation can also affect inflows at Mystic Lake.

Kevin noted a planned whitewater event on East Rosebud Creek on June 29, and that it would

be convenient for paddlers if whitewater releases on West Rosebud Creek occurred that weekend. Burgess Norrgard noted that the Beartooth Paddlers were planning a downriver whitewater race on West Rosebud Creek, and the questionable whitewater flow enhancements this year would make race planning difficult. Jeff Gildehaus requested that the Beartooth Paddlers contact him for necessary USFS permits for the planned event.

Nancy noted the importance of paddler registration at the put-in during whitewater releases and requested the continued cooperation of the paddling community to get the word out.

Nancy requested any additional information that members would like to share with the group. With no additional questions or topics, the call adjourned at 9:20 AM.