

Gail Carmody/R4/FWS/DOI

10/17/2007 04:35 PM

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bcc

Subject Re: Volumetric Balancing

Brian,

Thank you for the information below. This action does not require a re-initiation of consultation. We covered volumetric balancing in the September 2006 Biological Opinion and in our informal consultation that is described in your May 16, 2007 letter.

Gail Carmody
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Panama City, FL

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10/17/2007 09:12 AM

To <Jerry_Ziewitz@fws.gov>, "Gail Carmody"
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Subject Volumetric Balancing

Jerry,

Our meteorologist suggest that portions of the ACF Basin could receive relatively substantial rainfall (up to an inch) this week. Per our conversation earlier today and consistent with the Volumetric Balancing clarifications described in our 16 May 2007 letter to USFWS, I am providing notice that we intend to store basin flows greater than 5,000 cfs if conditions permit. Our current volumetric balancing account has approximately 12,000 dsf credits accumulated since May and due to the drought we have not yet had an opportunity to accomplish recovery of storage used for downramping during this period. We do not

anticipate that the forecasted precipitation will result in substantial balancing of the account and it is likely that releases less than the 7-day basin inflow will not be significant. In the letter we agreed to avoid applying volumetric balancing when releases are less than 10,000 cfs to the extent practicable. However, due to the continuing drought we believe it is prudent to recover the storage as opportunities present themselves. Recovery of storage will assist us in continuing to augment flows to meet the 5,000 cfs minimum release requirement at Jim Woodruff Dam in support of listed mussels. We do not believe that releasing less than the 7-day basin inflow at this time will result in additional adverse impacts to listed species in the river. Should you have any comments or questions regarding volumetric balancing please contact me as soon as possible. Thanks.

Brian

Brian Zettle
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