

Mystic Lake Hydroelectric Project
Whitewater Resource Group
Conference Call – Annual Consultation Summary
June 13, 2012

All participated via conference line:

PPL Montana – Lance Elias

PPL Montana – Deb Mallowney

PPL Montana – Andy Welch

PPL Montana – Roscoe Kronfuss

PPL Montana – Brent Mabbott

DRNC – Chris Smith for Kim Overcast

MDEQ – Randy Apfelbeck

American Whitewater – Kevin Colburn

Beartooth Paddlers – Ian McIntosh

American Lands – Nancy Johnson

REC Resources – Jeff Frost

The call began at 9:30 AM. Nancy Johnson confirmed those participating and reviewed the items to be discussed.

Nancy reviewed the three whitewater flow enhancements in 2011. Releases were completed on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7, followed by a third release on Saturday, August 13. Roscoe Kronfuss asked about the number of paddlers participating in 2011, and Nancy responded that three paddlers registered at the Emerald Lake put-in on Saturday, August 6. Ian McIntosh noted it is unknown whether these numbers are correct, and that a paddler had relayed a thank-you for the work of the Mystic operations crew on the whitewater flow enhancements.

Nancy noted the information available on the Mystic Lake project website <http://www.mysticlakeproject.com/> with posting of the current pool elevation for Mystic Lake, protocol for whitewater flow enhancement in West Rosebud Creek, and a link to USGS streamflow gauge #06204050 for flows in West Rosebud Creek.

Lance Elias provided current information on snowpack levels and possible runoff this year. Lance noted that this year was very different than 2011, with a current NRCS forecast of 106 percent of runoff predicted. This indicated sufficient volume for whitewater flow enhancements this year. Mystic Lake as of June 12th is currently 20 feet from the full pool elevation of 7,673.5 feet.

Ian asked about the likely timing and number of releases, and Lance responded that late July was a likely timeframe but number of releases was not predictable. Nancy noted that weather conditions prior to the start of spill can play a role in determining the actual timing and volume of releases. Kevin Colburn asked for a review of the protocol for whitewater flow enhancement. Nancy reviewed the protocol and its Wednesday noon and Friday noon checkpoints for flows in West Rosebud Creek that would trigger a release the following weekend. Nancy also indicated that she would provide an information email to the group when spill is imminent from Mystic Lake.

Ian and Kevin said they would encourage boaters to attend the releases and register their boating activity at the registration station, which is located at the Emerald Lake put-in.

Nancy asked the group for any other information items to share. With no further discussion or questions from group members, the call adjourned at 9:50.