



Lake Levels To Increase Over The Next Two Weeks

March 23, 2011

Cascade expects water levels in Lake Tapps to rise to January/February levels by this weekend (March 26 – 27). A large additional rise in Lake Levels (approximately 1 to 1.5 feet) is expected in the first part of next week (March 28 – 30). By the following weekend (April 2 – 3) Lake Levels are expected to be approximately 2 to 2.5 feet above the January/February Lake Levels. Lake Levels should then rise at a slower rate until full recreational level is reached approximately April 15.

In November 2010, Cascade began active drawdown of Lake Tapps, and announced that the Lake Level would drop approximately 5 feet over the 2010-2011 winter period and that refill would begin in February 2011. This target level was reached in mid-January 2011 and held relatively constant until mid-February. In early February, Cascade announced that repairs to Barrier Dam near Buckley were necessary and that other repairs begun in 2010 were still on-going. Therefore, Lake Levels would not likely rise significantly until mid-March.

In late February, Cascade announced that in order to implement needed repairs to the Barrier Dam and complete testing of the upgraded and refurbished fish screens, the Lake would be actively managed over the next two months. The expectation was for Lake Levels to drop approximately two feet by the middle of March and then rise quickly beginning in late March. Full recreational levels were expected on or before April 15, 2011.

Lake Levels did drop approximately 1.5 feet by mid-March. While the Lake Level has risen recently, the current Lake Level is still almost 1 foot below the Lake Level in January/February.

For the past 6 months Cascade has been working to repair a number of Project facilities (including sections of the flume which carries water from the White River to Lake Tapps, the fish screens and the Barrier Dam). Testing these facilities (and the availability of water in the White River) has been a major driver in the recent refill activity.

Water for today...
and tomorrow