

**Flathead Lake
Drought Management Plan Alternative Development
Final Workshop Agenda
August 27 and 28, 2002
Kalispell, Montana**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will hold a two-day public workshop on August 27 and August 28, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Westcoast Outlaw Hotel, 1701 Highway 93 South in Kalispell. The purpose of the workshop is to allow for public participation as the BIA begins developing alternative rule curves for the operation of the Kerr Hydroelectric Project and Flathead Lake. Participants are being asked to proactively cooperate in these workshops for the benefit of the project stakeholders.

Day 1

Tuesday, August 27, 2002

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Early Forecasting Options to Improve Operating Performance

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Coffee/Doughnuts – Hospitality

The purpose of the hospitality phase is to allow the public and agencies to get comfortable with the setting and to allow for general mixing of the presenters with the public. Boards and information developed as part of the Scoping process will be distributed around the room. Boards with biographies of the panelists and HDR staff will also be available. Copies of the final Scoping report will be available for distribution to the public.

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Introductions/Conference Purpose

HDR Drought Management Plan Project Manager Bob Beduhn will introduce the various team members and mention that the biographies are available around the room. BIA Chief of Environmental Jeffery Loman will provide a brief overview of how this workshop came about.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon Conceptual System Diagram and Current Forecasting Process

HDR will present a simple conceptual diagram illustrating the major water flow components impacting the lake and how these will be used to track issues during the workshop. HDR will then present the current forecasting process. The agencies' representatives will share information on how they utilize and develop the existing forecasting information. A matrix will be developed to document agencies' and PPL Montana's use of existing information and how it impacts their operations.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Preparedness Alternative Discussion

HDR will present an informational session on the observed impacts of climatological phenomena on Montana weather and snowpack. Issues to be covered include:

- El Niño
- La Niña
- PDO (Pacific Decadal Oscillation)
- NAO (North Atlantic Oscillation)
- Others

The discussion will then focus on the developing El Niño weather pattern that suggests a lower than normal snowpack during the 2002-03 water year. This may afford the opportunity for an actual test of preliminary drought management plan alternatives. Given a test case assumption of 65% to 74% less snowpack than normal, the agencies will share their ideas in formulating and refining this concept and how the data could be used to adjust operations.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Agency Panel Discussion – Reservoir and Forecasting Model Discussion

HDR will provide an initial presentation regarding our preferred model framework built around the STELLA. Dr. Palmer will facilitate a panel discussion on how this model can be used to develop and test DMP scenarios. Topics for discussion include model limitations, forecasting capability and ease of use of this tool for the greatest amount of project stakeholders in managing the resource.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Open Discussion

Open discussion by all participants on the use of climate predictions and current weather conditions to direct the level of preparedness of the Kerr Hydroelectric operation.

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. Recap and Closeout of Discussion

Day 2

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Impact Assessment of Drought Conditions
on Flathead Lake and Kerr Operations**

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Hospitality

The purpose of the hospitality phase is to allow the public and agencies to get comfortable with the setting and to allow for general mixing of the presenters with the public. Boards and information developed as part of Scoping process and Day 1 will be distributed around the room. Boards with biographies of the panelists and HDR staff will also be available. Copies of the final Scoping report will be available for distribution to the public.

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Recap of Day 1 Activities

HDR will recap the Day 1 activities. BIA Chief of Environmental Jeffery Loman will provide a brief overview of how this workshop came about.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Presentation of Current Operation Curve

HDR will provide a graphic of the current operating curve contained the license. The operating curve will be broken into “Impact” segments along the operating time line. A group activity will occur in which the public and agency staff will be allowed to vote on the areas of the operation that they feel are the most critical to address in the development of drought management plan alternatives. The voting process will be used to focus the subsequent operational phase discussions and provide for public input on these discussions

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon Operational Phase Discussions

Each operational phase of the project will be discussed in further detail. The purpose of this exercise will be to develop a conceptual depth damage and depth benefit relationship for Flathead Lake. This session will focus on Flathead Lake elevations. Public input will be solicited and tracked.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Continue Operational Phase Discussions

The operational phase discussions will continue. This session will focus on flows in the system during each operational phase. The same conceptual flow damage and benefit relationship will be developed. Agencies will share what data we could be collecting now to build a database on the impact of drought on factors such as economics, ice forces, erosion, in-stream flows, etc.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Business Owners and Others Describe Economic Impact of Kerr Operations

As requested during the Scoping meetings, area business will be provided an opportunity to provide testimony and evidence regarding the economic impact of drought conditions. This phase of the workshop is an attempt to capture the recreational needs for residents who live on and or use Flathead Lake for boating, fishing, swimming and other aquatic activities and businesses who depend on an acceptable lake level to support recreational and other needs. These businesses include, but are not limited to, agricultural interests, marinas, hotels, motels, lodges, tour companies, recreational sales and rental outlets, restaurants and fuel suppliers.

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Recap and Closeout of Discussion