Environmental Account Summary
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

EAC/RCC Meeting
May 3, 2022

Reservoir Content Management Water Year 2022

- AOP long-term time scale in USFWS Responsibilities Document
  - Set quantity of EA at the start of the water year
  - Allocate water for proposed releases
- Reservoir Content Management - Issue 1 in USFWS First Increment Document
  - Release Emphasis – avoid loss of EA, maximize releases
  - Conservation Emphasis – minimize releases, maximize reservoir storage
  - WY 2022 – Hybrid between release and conservation

Reservoir Content Management Water Year 2022

- Predicted EA at end of WY2022 is 186 kaf
- Overestimate - based on average contributions and losses
- Kingsley Summary - 149 kaf March, 156 kaf for April?
- Single release priority – Summer Inundation Release (Germination Suppression)
- Any improvement in hydrologic condition
  - May consider Summer Base or Fall Whooping Crane release
  - Maintain EA below 100 kaf

Summer Inundation Release

- Not a Service Target Flow, supported in Objective 2 in First Increment Document (improve understanding of EA effectiveness)
- Described in AOP - 1,800 to 2,000 cfs target; June 1 – July 15
- 98.9 kaf needed to fully implement - dry hydrologic condition
- Maintain a 200 cfs buffer for North Platte Chokepoint (NP@NP Gage)
- Benefit from PRRIP monitoring of release – effectiveness of inundation and vegetation control

Reservoir Content Management Water Year 2023

- Hydrologic condition – conservation mode, release mode, hybrid
- Non-irrigation release waiver - affects content management and specific EA releases
- Projected – 989 kaf, Very Dry - 650 kaf; Critically Low - 355 kaf
- Lake McConaughy content – default conservation mode if extreme lows observed; or additional releases with higher snowpack
- Importance of PRRIP monitoring and post-release assessment
  - Evaluate continuation of Summer Inundation Release if extensive vegetation encroachment is observed
- Continued chokepoint issues
  - Earlier release to avoid irrigation; lower magnitude release