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NHDES is preparing for flow management on the Lamprey River in the form of a relief pulse next Thursday, September 22, 2016.

Management is needed as a result of prolonged flows below the threshold requiring management. The Lamprey River has stream flow criteria that were established in 2013 for the protection of instream public uses. Water management plans under the program apply at this time of year when flow is below 16 cubic feet per second (cfs). Stream flow has been below 16 cfs since July 28. USGS stream flow data may be observed at

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nh/nwis/dv?cb_00060=on&format=gif_stats&site_no=01073500&referred_mod_ule=sw&period=&begin_date=2016-07-08&end_date=2016-07-28.

Affected water users have been applying provisions of their water use plans including use of alternative sources other than the Lamprey River, water conservation and outside water use bans. The water use plans are available at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/documents/lr-appb-wup.pdf>.

If conditions persist, a relief pulse from Pawtuckaway Lake will be released to restore the natural pattern of stream flows. This would be a flow release of 10.5 cfs applied for 48 hours with effects similar to a small rainstorm to relieve flow related stress on fish and other aquatic species.

The stream flow conditions relative to the protected instream flow criteria for the Lamprey River are available at http://www2.des.state.nh.us/onestoppub/watershed/lamprey_pisf_tracking.xls or by going to the NHDES Instream Flow website at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/index.htm>.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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Lamprey PISF tracking

