

Table 5-4. Average, minimum, and maximum impact to wade and boat fishing days gained or (lost) below Lewiston Dam for WY 2004-2019 from the Winter Flow Project compared to baseline conditions.

Month	Change in Days of Wade Fishing (<800 cfs)			Change in Days of Boat Fishing (200-1500 cfs)		
	Average	Min	Max	Average	Min	Max
October		0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0
January	-4	0	-13 (7)	-3 (2-3)	0	-8 (4)
February	-4	0	-15 (8)	-1 (2-3)	0	-8 (4)
March	-14	-3	-31 (15)	-5 (2-3)	0	-17 (9-10)
April	-24	-14	-30	-16	0	-30
May	+8	+26	-2	+10	+30	0
June	+19	+30	+9	+18	+30	0
July	+12	+29	0	+5	+11	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual	-7	+13	-34	+8	+29	-7

The near- and long-term benefits to fisheries from this more natural flow regime would result in increased quality of recreational fishing opportunities when compared to the baseline conditions. Recreational fishing opportunities would potentially increase over time under the Winter Flow Project because the project is designed to create productive seasonal habitat for salmon through flooding, food availability through scour and drift, and optimal temperature ranges for different life stages (see Section 4.). If runs were restored, fishing opportunities could increase through expanded seasons, increased quotas, and removal of take prohibitions. While the direct and near-term impacts of Winter Flow Project would be on juvenile fish, the long-term impacts would improve fishing opportunities by increasing the size and number of smolts that leave the Trinity River, therefore increasing the health of the fishery and the rates of return of adult salmon.

5.4.2.3 Recreational and Guided Boating

Based on comments and analysis submitted during the project public outreach by the American Whitewater Association, there would be no substantial impact to the number of boatable days among the minimum (500 cfs), optimum (1,500 cfs), and high (4,000 cfs) river flow ranges that are preferred by the recreational boating community during the summer months. Additional analysis was not performed for whitewater activities (i.e., kayaking and rafting).

Under the Winter Flow Project, the overall volume of restoration releases would remain the same as baseline conditions, as mandated under the ROD. However, a portion of the restoration releases that have occurred during June and July since 2004, when the ROD was implemented, would be moved earlier in the year to be synchronized with winter runoff events in Trinity River tributaries. This could impact the experience of recreational boaters and boat guides who have grown accustomed to consistent low winter releases from Lewiston dam and higher releases in May and June.