

MAY 2008 FISHWAY INSPECTION SUMMARY

Fishway Inspections were conducted at all thirteen Columbia and Snake River Dams fitted with adult fish passage structures over May of 2008.

Overall, few problems were encountered and most fishways appeared to be in satisfactory or better operation. The few problems encountered are listed below.

McNary Dam (May 22, 2008): Entrance head differential was slightly below criteria at SFEW 1 and 2.

Lower Monumental Dam (May 29, 2008): Fish pump #3 was still down (timeline for fix unknown), entrance SPE2 still closed. Collection channel velocity was very low (i.e., below 1.0 ft/s). Operators increased the gate depth at SPE1 which also lowered entrance head differential at SPE1 (still within criteria). This action forced more water out of SPE1 and increased velocity in the collection channel to over 1 ft/s. Entrance head differential at SSE 1 and 2 was slightly below criteria. In this case, the operator reduced gate depth at SSE 1 (still within criteria) which increased the entrance head differential. This project should maintain a better balance between gate depth and head differential.

Priest Rapids Dam (May 22, 2008): The gravity Intake gate (GIG) that supplies auxiliary water is currently not functioning correctly, however is stuck open in a position that is supplying sufficient water to the fishways. Grant County PUD coordinated an operation where the GIG was raised to a position where the full extent of the damage could be evaluated; this raising did cause the fishway to be out of compliance for several hours that were the least crucial for adult fish passage, these hours were coordinated with fishery agency personnel. Currently (June 10, 2008), the GIG has not been repaired but is stuck open at a level that is supplying sufficient water to the adult fishways even with the high flows and tailwater. The GIG is expected to be completely fixed by the end of the month (June).

Rock Island (May 28, 2008): Chelan PUD has closed RPE-1. This operation was coordinated with fishery agency personnel because at high tailwater (above elevation 574.5 ft) it is very difficult to meet entrance head differential at all four right bank entrances with the current level of auxiliary water supply. Even with RPE-1 closed on the May 28, 2008 inspection, the entrance head differential was not met at the TPE entrance.