



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: July 31, 2018

Subject: Action Notes from July 27, 2018, FPAC meeting

On July 27, 2018, FPAC met via conference call for a special meeting regarding surface passage at Little Goose Dam. The following people participated in the meeting:

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA) | Erick Van Dyke (ODFW) |
| Charlie Morrill (WDFW) | Erin Cooper (FPC) |
| Chris Sullivan (IDFG) | Gabe Scheer (FPC) |
| Dave Swank (USFWS) | Russ Kiefer (IDFG) |
| Dave Statler (Nez Perce Tribe) | |

RSW Operations at Little Goose Dam

- FPAC members discussed three potential operations:
 - Remove the RSW for the remainder of the season
 - Close the RSW for 12 hours/day (4AM – 4PM)
 - Operate the RSW 24 hours/day, as outlined in the FPP
- There is only one day of counts with the 12 hour operation of the RSW. Sockeye counts went from 1 to 6. FPAC members agree that this is not especially convincing.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated that he is concerned that the total count of sockeye at Little Goose Dam is 40 fish fewer than Little Goose Dam, which indicates a delay.
- FPAC members reviewed the video of Little Goose under operations with and without the RSW. Dave Swank (USFWS) stated that although the eddy may be reduced or slower without the RSW, both appear to provide reasonably good attraction flow to the ladder.

- Dave Statler (Nez Perce Tribe) pointed out a larger count differential between Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental than Lower Monumental and Little Goose Dams. Paul Wagner stated that the difference between Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental may be due to Upper Columbia fish.
- Erick Van Dyke (ODFW) stated that he did not see any compelling evidence that surface spill affects adult passage, given operations at Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite.
- Paul Wagner stated that the RSW will be removed on Wednesday if FPAC members do not decide to remove it earlier.
 - Paul Wagner stated his belief that in-river migration for subyearling Chinook is not very good this time of year compared to transported fish, so increasing bypass passage over spillbay passage will have a benefit to juveniles.
- Chris Sullivan (IDFG) supports removing the RSW now. He stated that the impact to juvenile populations will be minimal and temperatures are high.
- Dave Statler (Nez Perce) confirmed that there is no change in spill volume with these operational changes.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) does not see a justification to remove the RSW, as it does not appear to have an impact on adult passage or temperatures. He will not support removing the RSW before the criteria in the FPP are met. Subyearling from the Clearwater are now passing the project, and should have the benefit of higher survival through surface passage routes.
- Paul Wagner stated that the RSW can be removed early if there is evidence of adult delay.
 - Dave Swank (USFWS) asked why, when the RSW has not impacted adult passage, would it be removed if there was adult delay?
 - Dave Swank added that it is strictly speculation to declare that subyearling Chinook are not using surface passage at this point in the season.
- Paul Wagner feels that even if there is not evidence that removing the RSW will help adult passage, there are still 40 adult sockeye not accounted for at Little Goose, and that managers should attempt to do something for those individuals, especially given that Idaho has paid lots of money to improve sockeye counts.
 - Charlie Morrill (WDFW) pointed out that there is a difference between doing an operation because there is evidence that it will improve the situation and doing an operation for the sake of doing something.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) stated that by this date, some 96% of sockeye have passed. We would expect to have already seen more fish if they were going to arrive at Little Goose.
 - Paul Wagner (NOAA) replied that in 2015, it is possible that managers acted too late to conduct operations to improve conditions for adults because managers deferred to juvenile passage.
 - Erick Van Dyke (ODFW) replied that we have some evidence of how RSW removal will negatively impact juveniles, but we do not have any evidence that it will improve conditions for adults.
- FPAC members stated their position regarding RSW removal prior to the TMT meeting.

- IDFG, NOAA, and the Nez Perce Tribe will support the 12 hours operation, with the RSW closed from 4AM to 4PM.
- ODFW, WDFW, and USFWS will support keeping the RSW in operation 24 hours/day until the removal date outlined in the FPP.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the Fish Passage Advisory Committee.