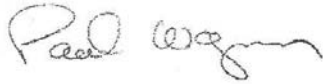


# State, Federal and Tribal Fishery Agencies Joint Technical Staff Memo

*Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

TO: James Adams, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Tony Norris, Bonneville Power Administration  
John Roache, Bureau of Reclamation



FROM: Paul Wagner, Chairperson  
Fish Passage Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: The Dalles Dam Spill Wall Construction

DATE: October 21, 2008

At the October 1, 2008 Technical Management Team meeting the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) provided an update on The Dalles Dam spill wall construction. We recognize that this is a regionally supported construction project intended to improve survival of migrating juvenile salmonids at this project. The COE advised the TMT that in order to accommodate the construction and the equipment being used by their contractor, the COE needs to maintain the Bonneville forebay elevation between 75-76.5' 24-hours a day during the in-water work season.

The Bonneville Dam forebay would normally be operated with an elevation range allowing more flexibility to achieve the identified tailwater elevation during the chum spawning season. We are concerned, as are the Action Agencies, that the limitation on the Bonneville Dam forebay elevation could impact the ability to provide appropriately protective chum spawning conditions below Bonneville Dam in November and December. We believe the loss of the Bonneville forebay flexibility necessitates greater reliance on the flexibility of upstream projects to successfully manage the flow to provide tailwater elevations at Bonneville Dam.

We appreciate the Action Agencies alerting TMT in a timely fashion. We are committed to working with the Action Agencies to identify the best possible alternatives for meeting the multiple uses of the hydrosystem given the limited flexibility at Bonneville Dam. To move this effort forward, we request that the COE and BPA provide us with their plan for hydrosystem operation to provide chum spawning conditions below Bonneville Dam. We will review it for any potential biological concerns and, if appropriate, provide alternatives for your consideration to help insure that construction of the spillway wall at The Dalles Dam and ESA obligations for chum salmon spawning conditions are met. We look forward to working with the Action Agencies on addressing this situation.