



## COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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### SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: 2000-C2

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BPA Administrator  
BPA-PG-5 and BPA-PGPO

FROM: Kyle Martin, *Mainstem Hydrologist*, and Bob Heinith, CRITFC Hydro Program

DATE: June 28, 2000

SUBJECT: Refill of Lake Roosevelt for Anadromous and Resident Fish Protection

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

Meet the June 30 date refill of Lake Roosevelt to msl 1290 as required in Reasonable and Prudent Measure # 1 of the 1995-1998 NMFS Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power.

In order to meet the above the operating agencies should accomplish the following actions:

- BPA should obtain through purchase or other means additional Canadian storage to refill Lake Roosevelt.
- Reclamation should refrain from pumping 250-500 kaf from Lake Roosevelt to Banks Lake.

#### JUSTIFICATION:

The Reasonable and Prudent Measure # 1 of the 1995-1998 NMFS Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power states “ *Having the reservoirs full on June 30, when natural runoff declines, results in the greatest amount of water available for the summer migration period.*” Refill of Lake Roosevelt insures critical water for summer juvenile and adult anadromous fish and is vital to insure stabilization of the reservoir habitat for important resident fish production for upriver tribal interests. Refill of Lake Roosevelt also is important to protect tribal cultural resources.

The Corps extremely conservative management for flood control has resulted in the inability of natural runoff to refill Lake Roosevelt, despite an average runoff year in the mainstem Columbia (Figure 1). If the Corps had followed the CRITFC 2000 River Operations Plan, submitted to the federal operators in early April, 2000, Lake Roosevelt would have met refill to msl 1290 by June 30 without risk of flooding downstream areas (Figure 2). CRITFC had requested a tribal consultation with the Corps on this and other issues as set forth in Lt. General Ballard's *1998 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Policy Principles*, but the Corps' Northwestern Division failed to engage in consultation on the CRITFC 2000 River Operations Plan and acted in a manner that jeopardizes treaty trust resources.

CRITFC calls upon Reclamation, the Corps and BPA and NMFS to meet the specifications in RPA #1 and protect treaty trust resources as called for in the Departments of Commerce and Interior Secretarial Order, President Clinton's April 29, 1994 Memorandum to Federal Departments and Agencies on Government to Government relations with Native American Tribal Governments and the Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy.

Attachments