

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-7

- *The following State and Federal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation of this SOR: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

TO: **Brigadier General Strock** **COE-NPD**
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FROM: *Marvin S. Yoshinaka*
 Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: **April 4, 2000**

SUBJECT: **Spill at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor Dams and MOP Operations**

GOAL: **Initiate spill to provide the highest survival benefit to juvenile salmonid migrants.
 Begin MOP operation to decrease fish travel time through the reservoir.**

SPECIFICATIONS:

- **Initiate spill beginning today at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams. Pending resolution of the 2000 Spill negotiations, spill should be implemented as described in the 1998 Supplemental Biological Opinion. Spill to the gas cap at Lower Monumental Dam from 1800 to 0600 daily. At Ice Harbor Dam, spill to the gas cap during nighttime hours (1800-0600) and to 45 Kcfs during daytime hours. An additional request for spill at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams is pending dependent on fish movement.**
- **By 1800 hours on April 4, 2000 begin to draft Lower Granite, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor pools to MOP. The draft operation should be completed within a 24- hour period. The request to go to MOP in Little Goose Pool is pending dependent on fish movement.**

JUSTIFICATION:

Spill is requested at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams based on fish movement. The Lyons Ferry Hatchery has released chinook from both the hatchery (450,000) and the Tucannon River (128,000) release sites. These fish have been observed at Lower Monumental Dam in substantial numbers over the last three days. The passage indices for chinook have increased from 3900 to over 8000 fish during that three-day period. Included in these fish are listed spring

chinook from the Tucannon River and yearling fall chinook from Lyons Ferry that are to serve as broodstock for this ESU. The travel time between Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams at the present low flows should be 3-4 days, placing these fish at Ice Harbor Dam. Consequently, we are requesting spill at this project as well.

The requested MOP operations at Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor pools are requested to facilitate the passage of these fish through the Lower Snake River reach. In addition, MOP operations are requested for Lower Granite Pool. This operation is to provide the fastest travel time possible at the present low flows.

At present, we have been advised that due to computer difficulties the COE is not able to provide a flow projection. A flow request may be developed after receiving and reviewing the flow projection.