

## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-14**

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

**TO:**            **Brigadier General Strock**    **COE-NPD**  
                  **William Branch**                    **COE-Water Management**  
                  **Cindy Henriksen**                   **COE-RCC**  
                  **Doug Arndt**                           **COE-P**  
                  **Col. Randall J. Butler**               **COE-Portland District**  
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                  **Judith Johansen**                    **BPA-Administrator**  
                  **Greg Delwiche**                       **BPA-PG-5**

*Marvin S. Yoshinaka*

**FROM:**        **Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers**

**DATE:**        **April 25, 2000**

**SUBJECT:**    **Flows in the Mid-Columbia Through May 7, 2000.**

**GOAL:**        **To avoid stranding fish on the Hanford Reach by augmenting flows at Priest Rapids Dam during the peak emergence period.**

**SPECIFICATIONS:** Reduce the present drafting of Grand Coulee Reservoir to move some of that water to augment flows at Priest Rapids Dam during the first week of May. Based on the data provided by the COE in the April 25, 2000 flow spreadsheet, this objective can be accomplished by drafting the Reservoir to an elevation of 1241 feet at the end of April, rather than the 1240 foot elevation modeled in the SSARR. The Reservoir will end the month above flood control, but only by one foot. Moving the water from the last week of April to the first week of May is more desirable than the alternatives presented in the flow spreadsheet. Resulting flows at Priest Rapids Dam are predicted to be 195 Kcfs for the week ending April 30 and 170 Kcfs for the week ending May 7, 2000

**JUSTIFICATION:** The present spreadsheet shows Grand Coulee Reservoir reaching its end of April flood control elevation and either refilling or passing inflow during the first week of May. Both alternatives result in unacceptable low flows in the Mid Columbia during the first week of May. As stated previously in SOR #2000-12 the projected end of emergence date for the Hanford Reach fall chinook is April 30th +/- two days. The newly emerged fish would remain vulnerable to stranding into mid-May. The projected drop in flows at Priest Rapids modeled in the spreadsheet comes when the maximum number of fish would be affected by potential stranding conditions. Stranding is more severe at these low flows than at higher flows. It is the intent of the fishery managers to best protect these fish while assuring the ability to provide other fishery needs.