

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-23

- *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, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish & Game.*

TO:

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FROM: Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: June 6, 2000

SUBJECT: Flow at McNary Dam

SPECIFICATIONS: Meet flows of at least 170 Kcfs at McNary Dam for the week ending June 18, 2000. Target an elevation not to exceed 1268 feet at Grand Coulee Dam. Additional water should be used to augment flow at McNary Dam to provide a weekly average above 170 Kcfs.

JUSTIFICATION:

Flows are presently receding during the spring fish migration due to the need to refill reservoirs to provide water for the summer migration. The aggressive refill of reservoirs is needed because of conservative drafting of the reservoirs this past spring for flood control. Flows below flow objectives have resulted for much of the fish migration. The current flow spreadsheet (6/06/00) predicts that flows will decrease by 50 Kcfs at McNary Dam next week, even if the refill of Grand Coulee Reservoir is delayed further into July. These conditions are detrimental to the spring fish migration. Wild PIT tagged spring chinook and steelhead from the Snake River drainage as well as other locations are represented in the PIT tag detections at McNary Dam over the past several days. Protection is needed for the remainder of the spring migration and consequently, a priority should be placed on not allowing flows to drop below 170 Kcfs for the week ending June 18, 2000.