

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2001-9

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

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FROM: Christine Mallette, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: July 10, 2001

SUBJECT: Grand Coulee Operations

SPECIFICATIONS:

Between now and July 22, discontinue refill and pass inflow from Grand Coulee, plus the additional volume of water stored between elevation 1280 feet and the present elevation of 1283.8 feet, to reach an elevation of 1280 feet by July 22. Based on the inflows projected in the SSARR dated July 9, 2001 and the projected additional volume of 147.8 Kcfs now in the reservoir, we estimate an average outflow from Grand Coulee of 72.4 Kcfs during this time period.

JUSTIFICATION:

The historic passage dates for the majority of the chinook subyearling migration at McNary Dam are late June to late July. We are presently within this migration period. Entering this critical passage period flows at McNary Dam have decreased dramatically over this past week, averaging only 83.34 Kcfs for the past five days, in comparison to the 200 Kcfs flow target contained in the 2000 Biological Opinion. Along with the drop in flow, this same time period has been characterized by a precipitous decline in the passage indices of subyearling fall chinook (see table).

At the same time that flows have dropped, the temperatures at McNary Dam have increased considerably over the past few days (see attached graph). If flows are not

increased, a greater percentage of the migration will be subjected to higher temperatures and suffer additional mortality. While transportation is being maximized at McNary Dam, the collection efficiencies still leave a considerable portion of the migration in the lower River. At these extreme low flows the travel time through this reach will be extended. The requested operation results in flows at McNary Dam that are on average about 12 Kcfs greater than the current planned operation. If allowed to continue, the operation depicted by the July 9 SSARR shows a continued refill of Grand to an elevation of 1286.1 feet on July 16 with releases from Grand Coulee as low as 30 Kcfs, and then an increase in flows subsequent to this date. This operation is not consistent with the needs of the fish migration, during what should be their peak passage period.

Source: Fish Passage Center

Updated: 7/10/01 11:38

Two-Week Summary of Passage Indices

* See sampling comments <http://www.fpc.org/currentDaily/smpcomments.htm>

This means that one or more of the sites on this date had an incomplete or biased sample.

COMBINED SUBYEARLING CHINOOK

Date	WTB (Coll)	IMN (Coll)	GRN (Coll)	LEW (Coll)	LGR (INDEX)	LGS (INDEX)	LMN (INDEX)	RIS (INDEX)	MCN (INDEX)	JDA (INDEX)	BO2 (INDEX)
06/26/2001	---	---	---	1	14,940	3,137	352	387	448,400	15,050	14,915
06/27/2001	---	---	---	0	11,940	2,151	90	520	491,100	54,350	23,832
06/28/2001	---	---	---	0	10,240	780	50	246	356,800	31,500	22,039
06/29/2001	---	---	---	0	6,620	600	84	243	327,697	22,150	28,503
06/30/2001 *	---	---	---	---	6,800	2,556	132	184	525,360	65,250	39,645
07/01/2001	---	---	---	---	4,140	1,485	196	200	665,200	28,100	19,842
07/02/2001	---	---	---	---	4,860	955	64	128	440,900	11,970	18,633
07/03/2001	---	---	---	---	9,260	886	136	310	588,100	41,970	31,198
07/04/2001	---	---	---	---	82,200	5,795	416	209	435,800	79,590	31,721
07/05/2001	---	---	---	---	46,200	7,381	500	110	214,600	55,900	20,060
07/06/2001 *	---	---	---	---	9,700	15,560	300	218	139,898	23,850	25,095
07/07/2001	---	---	---	---	27,740	11,412	370	297	82,000	11,500	37,645
07/08/2001	---	---	---	---	26,300	5,907	560	136	46,500	15,658	38,878
07/09/2001	---	---	---	---	17,720	3,558	1,110	641	17,490	7,260	67,359
07/10/2001	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28,884	16,866	26,051
Total:	0	0	0	1	278,660	62,163	4,360	3,829	4,808,729	480,964	445,416
# Days:	0	0	0	4	14	14	14	14	15	15	15
Average:	0	0	0	0	19,904	4,440	311	274	320,582	32,064	29,694
YTD	1	1	13	31	556,680	73,125	12,934	6,208	7,230,459	699,129	1,887,644

Historic and Realtime Water Temperatures at McNary Dam

