

## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2004-18**

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

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for

**FROM:** **David A. Wills, Chairperson, Salmon Managers**

**DATE:** **August 24, 2004**

**SUBJECT:** **Late Summer Dworshak Operations**

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Target elevation 1533 feet at Dworshak Dam by August 31, 2004. Maintain outflows of 10.0 Kcfs at Dworshak until it becomes necessary to reduce flows to 7 Kcfs in order to achieve the end of August elevation of 1533 feet. Maintain a 45-47°F release temperature from Dworshak. Maintain flows of 7 Kcfs through September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 or until elevation 1520 feet is reached.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Presently, both listed and unlisted fall chinook subyearling migrants continue to enter and pass through the hydrosystem. Flows at both Lower Granite and McNary Dams are well below the flow objectives outlined in the 2000 Biological Opinion. The summer flow objective at Lower Granite is 50 Kcfs; flows have averaged 34 Kcfs over the season and 25 Kcfs over the last week. The summer flow objective at McNary Dam is 200 Kcfs; flows have averaged about 133 Kcfs at McNary over the season and 127 Kcfs over the last week.

Maintaining outflows of 10.0 Kcfs from Dworshak as long as possible before decreasing to 7 Kcfs, will assist flows in both the lower Snake and Columbia rivers. It is recognized that by maintaining these proposed discharges, less than 200 Kaf of water may be held over for September release at Dworshak. However, current conditions warrant modification of SOR 2004-17. It is anticipated that the revised outflow from Dworshak would leave approximately 174 Kaf for use in September.