

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2005-1

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

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FROM: David A. Wills, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: January 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Operations at Dworshak Reservoir

SPECIFICATIONS: Maintain Dworshak Reservoir to the highest elevation possible within the flood control rule curves. Do not evacuate 50 Ksf (99.2 Kaf) as planned by the COE over the next week for power operations. Continue to release minimum discharges (1.5 Kcfs) until further notice.

JUSTIFICATION:

The current COE April-July Water Supply Forecast at Dworshak is 1914 Kaf (approximately 70% of average), which equates to an end of January flood control elevation of 1557.4 feet. The January Final April-July Water Supply Forecast issued by the RFC is 1960 Kaf (74% of average). The RFC forecast assumes future January precipitation to be 85% of average and 100% of average beyond January. As of January 10th, 2005 precipitation over the month of January at Lewiston, Idaho has been 19% of average. With precipitation not expected to occur in any significant amount over the next week to ten days, it can be anticipated that the Water Supply Forecast at Dworshak Dam will decrease. Given these forecasts, Dworshak will remain below

its required seasonal flood control elevation, requiring no additional drafts to achieve that objective.

To summarize, the below average nature of the current Water Supply Forecasts at Dworshak Dam, the uncertainty of precipitation into the near future, and the fact that the current reservoir elevation is about seven feet below the flood control rule curve, the evacuation of 50 Ksf this early in the season would be a risk to achieving BIOP spring flow objectives and elevation targets.