

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2005-13

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, NOAA Fisheries, 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: May 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Spill at Lower Monumental Dam

Objective: Improve migration conditions for fish that will not be transported at Lower Monumental Dam.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Begin immediately to implement bulk spill to the gas cap 24 hours per day at Lower Monumental Dam. Return to collection and holding for transport when holding criteria can be met.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Lower Monumental project has been collecting and bypassing fish since May 9, because fish transportation barges have been filled to capacity with the collections from Lower Granite and Little Goose. Spill is accepted as the safest and most effective route of passage through the projects. In 2004 bulk spill was tested at Lower Monumental and resulted in high survival rates. Spill is provided as an alternative to and in addition to powerhouse passage at

projects where transportation is not available. The attached plot summarizes PIT tagged wild Chinook and steelhead at Lower Monumental Dam. Passage at Lower Monumental has increased with increasing flows. Passage indices at Lower Granite Dam increased dramatically on May 5th and have continued at high daily levels through May 10th. The medium travel time of Chinook and steelhead between Lower Granite and Lower Monumental dams has been between 5.5 and 7.8 days. This indicates that significant passage will continue to occur at Lower Monumental for the next several days.

Wild PIT Tagged Chinook and Steelhead Observed at Lower Monumental Dam May 1st - May 11th, 2005

