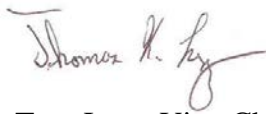


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2014-01

Northwest Division, Walla Walla District

The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

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	David Combs	COE-NWD-PDD Chief
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	Doug Baus	COE-NWD-PDW-RC
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	Paul Cloutier	COE-NWD Tribal Liaison
	Donna Turnipseed	COE-NWW Tribal Liaison



FROM: Tom Lorz, Vice-Chair FPAC

DATE: May 6, 2014

SUBJECT: Lower Monumental Spill Pattern

OBJECTIVE: Address “lack of demand” spill needs, maintain TDG standards at slightly higher spill levels, and increase spillway passage at Lower Monumental Dam.

SPECIFICATIONS: The Salmon Managers who signed on to this request, recommend that beginning immediately, the Action Agencies utilize the uniform spill pattern at Lower Monumental Dam (2014 FPP, Table LMN-10).

JUSTIFICATION

Due to generation issues, there has been a request from the Action Agencies for the Salmon Managers to review the current spill priority list for projects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. In conducting this review, the Salmon Managers recommend that Lower Monumental Dam switch to the uniform spill pattern and be moved to the top of the spill priority list. The 2014 Fish Operations Plan specifically discusses changing the spill pattern from a bulk to uniform pattern under “lack of demand” conditions. Concerning spill patterns at Lower Monumental Dam, the 2014 Spring Fish Operation Plan states:

“Consistent with adjustments made in 2013 spring operations through regional coordination, when total river flow is likely to exceed turbine capacity and spill over the 120% gas cap (occurs at a total river flow of ~140 kcfs) for three or more days, the project will use the uniform spill pattern. **This may also occur if spill over the 120% gas cap is required due to “lack of demand” spill at any river flow level.**”

Reductions in spill at this project at this time are inconsistent with efforts to effectively provide “lack of demand” spill.

In the 2009 study of bulk and uniform spill patterns at Lower Monumental Dam, the spill cap at Lower Monumental Dam was routinely higher when operating under the uniform pattern than when operating under the bulk pattern. Shifting to a uniform spill pattern under current flow conditions would allow more spill under the limitations of TDG in the Ice Harbor forebay and, at the same time, guide more fish away from the powerhouse. We believe this operation would lead to better survival of juveniles and more returning adults.