

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2018-1

WALLA WALLA DISTRICT

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

TO:	Brig. Gen. Scott Spellmon	COE-NWD Commander
	Lt. Col. Timothy R. Vail	COE-NWW Commander
	David Combs	COE-NWD-PDD Chief
	Steven Barton	COE-NWD-PDW Chief
	Tim Dykstra	COE-NWD-PDD
	Julie Ammann	COE-NWD-PDW-RC
	Doug Baus	COE-NWD-PDW-RC
	Steve Hall	COE-NWW-EC
	Ann Setter	COE-NWW-OD
	Lorri Lee	USBR-PN Regional Director
	John Roache	USBR-PN-6208
	Joel Fenolio	USBR-PN-6204
	Elliot Mainzer	BPA Administrator
	Kieran Connolly	BPA-PG-5
	Lorri Bodi	BPA-KE-4
	Jason Sweet	BPA-PGB
	Eve James	BPA-PGPO
	Tony Norris	BPA-PGPO-5
	Scott Bettin	BPA-KEWR-4
	Sean Tackley	COE-NWD Tribal Liaison
	Donna Turnipseed	COE-NWW Tribal Liaison

FROM: Paul Wagner, FPAC Chairperson

DATE: March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Operation of RSW at Lower Granite Dam (March 25-April 3, 2018)

OBJECTIVE

To maintain fish protection measures and provide an alternate passage route (i.e., non-turbine, non-powerhouse) for hatchery and wild Chinook and steelhead at Lower Granite Dam during ESBS screen installation and early period of operation and testing of new Juvenile Bypass System.

SPECIFICATIONS

Provide RSW spill at Lower Granite Dam from March 25, 2018 (0001) to April 3 (0000). Spring spill will commence on April 3, 2018 (0001), as specified in the 2018 Spring Fish Operations Plan.

JUSTIFICATION

Section 2.3.1.2.vii of the Fish Passage Plan (LGR) states that ESBSs will be installed in at least 4 turbine units (all 6 if possible) by March 24 and remaining screens will be installed by April 1. Recent issues with the emergency bypass hatch lifting system of the new JBS will result in a delay in the installation of ESBS screens. Due the delay in screen installation, the post-construction evaluation of the new JBS will not occur until all ESBS's have been deployed and the JBS is fully operational. These tests are expected to take approximately one week. Therefore, it is unlikely that the JBS will be demonstrated to be in proper working order until after the spring spill season has started.

Because of the continued Unit 3 outage at Dworshak Dam and resulting high spill levels, Chinook and steelhead at Dworshak NFH are experiencing elevated levels of total dissolved gas (TDG) that threaten their health and survival. To minimize further risks, Dworshak NFH is planning to release approximately 1.65 million yearling spring Chinook and approximately 1.17 million steelhead into the Clearwater River Basin, beginning March 28th to April 2nd (Table 1). In addition, approximately 3.65 million yearling hatchery spring/summer Chinook smolts from Kooskia NFH, the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery, and Clearwater Hatchery are planned for release into the Clearwater River Basin between March 12th and March 30th (Table 1). The new release dates were chosen to balance risk of TDG exposure while minimizing the number of fish reaching Lower Granite Dam (LGR) prior to screen deployment, testing of the new Juvenile Bypass System (JBS), and the start of spring spill on April 3rd.

The installation of the ESBS screens and testing of the new JBS system at LGR are delayed. In addition, operational constraints at DWOR, and resulting high TDG, are necessitating adjustments to in-hatchery rearing and releases. For these reasons, the salmon managers request RSW spill at LGR to provide an alternative passage route (i.e., non-turbine, non-powerhouse) and maintain fish protection measures for hatchery and wild fish passing LGR prior to the start of spring spill.

Table 1. Planned (Final AOP) and in-season adjustments (red text) to Clearwater River Basin hatchery release dates for steelhead and spring/summer Chinook salmon in 2018. In-season adjustments were made to some release dates as a result of exposure to elevated TDG from spill at Dworshak Dam.

Species	Rearing Facility (System)	Release Site	Projected Release Date(s)	Projected Release Number	Total
Steelhead	DNFH (I)	DNFH	April 17-18	589,730	3,237,585
Steelhead	DNFH (II and III)	DNFH	April 2	770,900	
Steelhead	DNFH (I)	Clear Creek	April 9-13	85,000	
Steelhead	DNFH (II and III)	Clear Creek	March 28-30	267,600	
Steelhead	DNFH (I)	Lolo Creek	April 16 9 -13	201,000	
Steelhead	DNFH (I)	Red House Hole-SF Clw	April 9-13	285,600	
Steelhead	DNFH (II and III)	Red House Hole-SF Clw	March 28-30	131,100	
Steelhead	CFH	Meadow Creek-SF Clw	April 3-6	541,119	
Steelhead	CFH	Red House Hole-SF Clw	April 2-3	233,972	
Steelhead	CFH	Newsome Creek-SF Clw	April 9-10	131,564	
Spring Chinook	DNFH	NF Clearwater (DNFH)	March 28-29 29-30	1,646,032	5,436,234
Spring Chinook	KNFH	Kooskia NFH	March 30	513,250	
Spring Chinook	NPTH	NPTH	March 29-30	187,738	
Spring Chinook	CFH	Red River	March 26-30	1,276,289	
Spring Chinook	CFH	NF Clearwater (CFH)	March 26-27 29-30	543,996	
Spring Chinook	CFH	Selway River-Lower	March 21-23	451,239	
Spring Chinook	CFH	Clear Creek	March 19-21, April 2-4	817,690	
Summer Chinook	CFH	Powell Pond	March 12 -14	674,492	