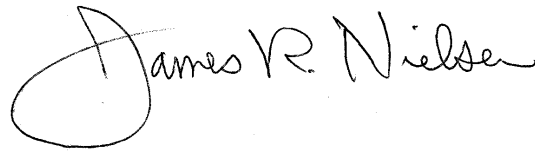


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-14

TO: Brigadier General Griffin COE-NPD
William Branch COE-RCC
Cindy Henriksen COE-RCC
Bolyvong Tanovan COE-RCC
Dave Geiger COE-P
John Keys III USBR-Boise
Jack Robertson Acting BPA-Administrator
Greg Delwiche BPA-PGP-5
Mark Maher BPA-PG-5



FROM: Jim Nielsen, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: April 21, 1998

SUBJECT:

- Flows at Priest Rapids and McNary projects.
- Operation of the Grand Coulee project.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Fill the Grand Coulee project beginning on April 27 at a rate of 10.8 kcfs per day. Fill Grand Coulee to elevation 1274 on May 3.
- Based upon inflow projections provided by the federal operators, this should provide daily average outflow from Grand Coulee of approximately 85 kcfs. Based upon projections provided by the federal operators for the Snake River Reach, this should provide daily average flows at McNary Dam of 178 kcfs for the week of April 26 through May 3 without a Dworshak operation.
- In view of the fact that this request is based upon projections provided by the FCRPS operators and regulators, short term changes in those projections, particularly for the Snake River, will result in modifications of this request and anticipated flows at McNary Dam.
- The weekend average flow should not decrease below 80% of the previous five weekday average flow.
- The intent of this operation is to provide an even refill rate of the Grand Coulee project to the June 30 BIOP elevation of 1290 and a steady increase in flows at McNary Dam and through the mid Columbia.

JUSTIFICATION:

Fish passage through the mid-Columbia River has begun as indicated by the beginning of the Mid- Columbia downstream passage program. The attached cumulative passage plot and passage indices at McNary indicate that passage at McNary is following the historic passage pattern, with passage indices increasing on April 19 and April 20, with increasing flows.

Reducing the rate of refill of Grand Coulee increases flow as the juvenile migration increases, and distributes available flow and refill more evenly through the spring migration period.

161-98.doc

**The Salmon Managers are state, federal and tribal entities who have legally recognized mandates and jurisdictions to manage salmon resources in the Columbia River Basin. The following submit this SOR:*

*Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
National Marine Fisheries Service
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife*