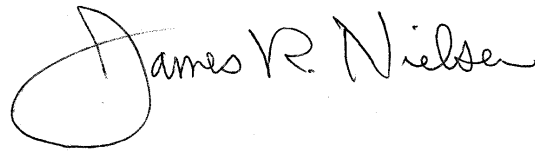


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-17

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: May 5, 1998

SUBJECT: Operations at Grand Coulee through May 17
Operations at Brownlee through May 17
Operations at Dworshak April 25 through May 17

SPECIFICATIONS:

Dworshak

- Maintain daily average flows at Lower Granite of 100 kcfs, not to exceed outflows of 10 kcfs at Dworshak.

Brownlee

- Pass inflow at Brownlee.

Grand Coulee

- Operate Grand Coulee to meet a minimum daily average flow at Priest Rapids of no less than 135 kcfs.

Priest Rapids

- The federal operators and regulators, Grant County Public Utility District, and the Mid-Columbia Coordinating Committee should work together (including power exchanges and purchases) to minimize, as much as possible, hourly, daily, and weekly load factoring and flow fluctuations below the Priest Rapids project.

McNary

- Weekend flows should not decrease to less than 80% of the previous five-day average flow.

All Projects

- All of the requested operations are based upon flow and operations projections provided by the federal operators and regulators. If projected conditions change significantly, Jim Nielsen, WDFW, or the Fish Passage Center should be contacted. Questions regarding the request should be referred to Jim Nielsen or the Fish Passage Center.

JUSTIFICATION:

Field surveys below the Priest Rapids project have provided evidence that significant stranding of fall chinook fry is taking place below Priest Rapids Dam. Mortality of stranded fry is high. Although these data are preliminary, they do indicate that a serious problem is occurring below the Priest Rapids project and that the extreme load following that has been taking place is the cause.

Passage indices and PIT tag recoveries clearly show that juvenile salmon and steelhead smolts are passing McNary and Lower Granite projects from all upstream water sheds. Passage index numbers at McNary and Lower Granite dams have increased sharply for hatchery and wild steelhead and salmon. The attached cumulative passage plots show passage indices continuing to increase sharply at Lower Granite Dam, particularly for wild chinook and wild steelhead migrants. Imnaha wild chinook dominate the PIT tag recaptures at Lower Granite Dam.

193-98.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 have participated in the preparation of 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 and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.*