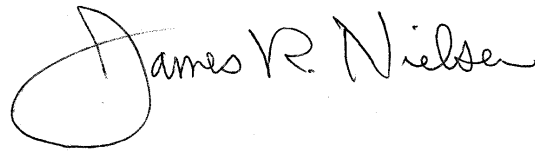


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-18

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 14, 1998

SUBJECT: Operations through May 24
Flows at Lower Granite and McNary Dam
Reservoir operations Grand Coulee, Dworshak and Hells Canyon Complex operations

SPECIFICATIONS:

All of the recommendations of the agencies and tribes are based upon the most current flow projections provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Modifications in projected operations could result in modifications of recommendations. If projected conditions change significantly, Jim Nielsen, WDFW, or the Fish Passage Center should be contacted. Questions regarding this request should be referred to Jim Nielsen or the Fish Passage Center.

Dworshak

- Operate Dworshak Reservoir to meet flows of 100 kcfs at Lower Granite Dam while still achieving refill by June 30.
- Dworshak outflow should not exceed 10 kcfs.

Hells Canyon Complex

- Operate Brownlee Reservoir to reach elevation 2069 feet on May 31, consistent with the 1995 NMFS Biological Opinion.
- Operate Hells Canyon Complex outflows to not exceed the 110 % dissolved gas water quality standard.

Grand Coulee

- Operate Grand Coulee to a straight-line refill to reach a revised May 31 flood control elevation, presently anticipated to be 1285, elevation 1285 feet. This operation is anticipated to provide flows at Priest Rapids of 138 kcfs, as projected by the federal parties.

Priest Rapids

- The federal operators and regulators, Grant County PUD, the mid-Columbia coordination agreement parties should work together, to minimize as much as possible, hourly, daily, weekly load following to reduce flow fluctuations and resulting fish stranding below Priest Rapids.

Lucky Peak and Other COE and USBR reservoirs

- Lucky Peak reservoir is projecting flood control releases through the end of May. The USBR and other operators and regulators should utilize operational flexibility to shape flood control releases into late May and early June to benefit downstream migrating salmon and steelhead.

JUSTIFICATION:

Passage indices at all smolt monitoring program sites are showing significant passage of all salmon stocks and increased passage indices for steelhead migrants. Mark recaptures and PIT tag recaptures continue to represent the entire spectrum of upstream mark releases.

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**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.*