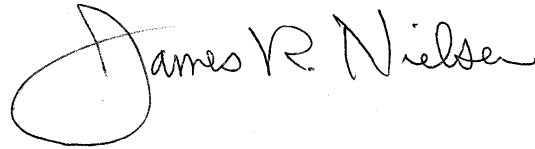


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-22

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: June 9, 1998

SUBJECT: Operations at Grand Coulee, Hungry Horse, and Libby through June 21
Operations at Brownlee through June 21
Operations at Dworshak through June 21

SPECIFICATIONS:

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.

Dworshak

- Dworshak will operate to pass inflow. Based on flow projections provided by the federal operators and regulators, average flows at Lower Granite are expected to exceed 90 kcfs through June 21.

Brownlee

- Pass inflow at Brownlee.

Libby

- Operate Libby to fill by July 5 and to meet instantaneous flows at Bonners' Ferry of 25 kcfs through June 25. Do not reduce flows at McNary Dam from June 25 through July 5 and do not shift flow from the summer to the spring. The purpose of this instantaneous flow requirement is to provide protection for spawning and incubation of Kootenai River sturgeon. Protection for Kootenai River sturgeon should be provided as required without any detrimental impacts to the ability to provide measures identified in the BIOP for spring or summer salmon migrants in the Columbia River.

Kootenai Lake

- Kootenai Lake elevations between June and August 31 should be managed to assure the ability to draft the Libby Project the full 20 feet and pass through that volume to augment flows in the Lower Columbia River for summer migrating salmon.
- The planned draft of Kootenai Lake from its present elevation to elevation 1743 on August 31 should be implemented in a manner that provides benefit for summer migrant salmon.

Grand Coulee, Hungry Horse

- Operate Grand Coulee to meet a minimum daily average flow at Priest Rapids of no less than 135 kcfs. Fill Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse during the projected, upcoming week of higher flows, while sturgeon flows and Priest Rapids flows are being met.

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.

JUSTIFICATION:

High flows occurred in the Kootenai River as a result of high precipitation in May. The weather pattern, higher than normal precipitation resulted in the high flows and favorable conditions for sturgeon spawning. USFWS has reported that sturgeons are continuing to spawn and will require a period of additional flow. At the same time significant numbers of juvenile salmonids are migrating downstream through the mid-Columbia and the Lower Columbia River. The NMFS Biological Opinion establishes spring flow targets of 135 kcfs through the mid-Columbia and 228 kcfs through the Lower Columbia through June 30. Flow requirements for each species should be met without impacting the protection for the other species. If additional flow is required for sturgeon spawning, from Libby reservoir, an additional and equal volume should be provided from another source to avoid reducing flows at McNary Dam for salmon.

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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.*

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James R. Nielse
