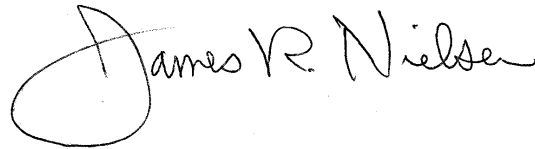


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #98-34

- *The following State and Federal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation of this SOR: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish & Game.*

TO: **Brigadier General Griffin** **COE-NPD**
 William Branch **COE-RCC**
 Cindy Henriksen **COE-RCC**
 Bolyvong Tanovan **COE-RCC**
 Dave Geiger **COE-P**
 Steve Clark **USBR-Boise Acting Regional Director**
 Judith Johansen **BPA-Administrator**
 Greg Delwiche **BPA-PGP-5**
 Mark Maher **BPA-PG-5**



FROM: **Jim Nielsen, Chairperson, Fish Passage Advisory Committee**

DATE: **September 1, 1998**

SUBJECT: **Operations at Brownlee through September 30 and
Libby through September 30**

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

- As requested by previous telephone discussions; return project outflow to 1.3 kcfs at 42°F.

Snake River Operations:

- Operate Upper Snake River projects (Milner and upstream) and Boise and Payette rivers to shape any anticipated flood control releases into the first two weeks of September to benefit Snake and Columbia river migrants still passing mainstem projects.

Brownlee

- Do not refill in September, draft to projected end of October elevation required to maintain flows for fall chinook spawning and incubation.

Columbia River Operations:

Libby

- Draft to September 30 Rule Curve (elevation 2437 ft) by September 15. Downstream projects should be managed to allow increased outflow at Libby to pass through lower Columbia River projects for the benefit of Snake and Columbia River migrants.

Kootenay Lake

- The U.S. operating agencies should request that the Canadian operating entities manage Kootenay Lake elevations to assure that flows released from the Libby project result in increased flows at McNary Dam to benefit summer migrating salmon in the Lower Columbia River.

Grand Coulee

- Fill Grand Coulee to elevation 1280 by September 7. Maintain elevation 1280 feet through September by passing inflow from September 8 through September 30.
- Weekend flows should not decrease to less than 80% of the previous five-day average flow.
- Biological Opinion seasonal flow targets were not met at McNary Dam for the summer migration. Efforts should be made to discuss and consider all proposals to provide additional water at McNary.

All Sites

- The agencies and tribes have serious concerns regarding the high water temperatures occurring at Columbia and Snake river sites. Water temperatures are exceeding State and Federal water quality standards at most projects. Increased water temperature has been shown to have cumulative stress effects on fish.

Transportation Sites

- To avoid cumulative stress on juvenile migrants from holding in warmer water temperatures, fish collected for transportation should be transported **daily**.

JUSTIFICATION:

The agencies and tribes have requested projections of potential flood control requirements for Upper Snake river projects, Milner and above as well as Payette and Boise River projects for 1998 from the USBR. These requested projections have not been provided. In 1997 the flood control releases and flows at the Milner project occurred throughout the fall without shaping of those flows to benefit juvenile and adult migrants. Fall Chinook juveniles and adults and adult steelhead are migrating in the Snake River. The USBR should consider these stocks when managing fall operations.