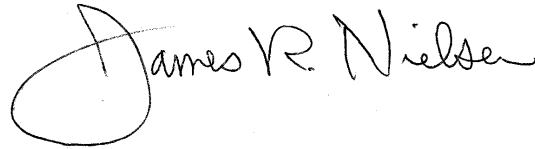


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-8

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: March 31, 1998

SUBJECT: Snake River Minimum Pool Operation
Implementation of Spill Measures

SPECIFICATIONS:

- On April 6, draft Lower Granite pool to Minimum Operating Pool during nighttime hours.¹
- On April 7, draft Little Goose pool to Minimum Operating Pool during nighttime hours.
- On April 8, draft Lower Monumental Pool to Minimum Operating Pool during nighttime hours.
- On April 9, draft Ice Harbor Pool to Minimum Operating Pool during nighttime hours
- On April 6, begin spill for fish passage at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams.
- Spill to the gas cap each day at each project. At Lower Granite, spill 45 kcfs from 6pm to 6am daily. At Little Goose Dam, spill 60 kcfs from 6pm to 6 am daily. At Lower Monumental Dam, spill 40 kcfs from 6pm to 6am daily. At Ice Harbor Dam, spill 75 kcfs during nighttime hours and 45 kcfs during daylight hours.

JUSTIFICATION:

Collection of juvenile hatchery chinook yearlings increased sharply, exceeding 3,400 fish per day on March 24, at the Whitebird trap. Collection of wild yearling chinook at the

¹ The Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission supports an alternative operation as follows. Draft to minimum operating pool as sequentially as described but start the draft sequence on April 2. Begin spill for fish passage on April 2, at the levels identified, but spill 24 hours per day.

Whitebird trap ranged from 98 to 207 daily during the same time period. Collection of wild yearling chinook ranged from 155 to 501 per day during the week of March 17 through 23, at the Innaha trap. Wild yearling chinook, daily catch at the Grande Ronde trap ranged from 23 to 114 daily for the same time period. Wild yearling chinook at the Lewiston trap ranged from 9 to 137 per day in the March 24 to 27 period. All four trap sites have captured small numbers of wild steelhead. The wild steelhead passage index at Lower Granite Dam has exceeded 700 per day for the past three days. PIT Tagged hatchery fish are being detected at Lower Granite Dam. Wild steelhead PIT tagged as parr in 1996 and 1997 are being detected as well as hatchery fall chinook. All of the passage index data and tag recovery information indicates that the spring migration is underway at the Snake River for wild chinook, steelhead, and hatchery chinook yearlings.

Spill is requested in accordance with the NMFS Biological Opinion for 1998. The seasonal average flow for the spring migration period in the Snake River is projected to exceed 85 kcfs. In accordance with the protection measures of the 1998 Biological Opinion, spill to the gas cap at each project everyday is requested, as specified above.

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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, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.*