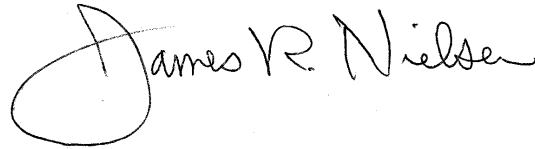


## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:#98-10**

**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:** April 14, 1998

**SUBJECT:** Spill in the Lower Columbia

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

The Salmon Managers request that spill begin on April 20, 1998 in the lower Columbia River as specified below:

- McNary Dam – Spill up to the 120% TDGS cap (approximately 150 kcfs) from 1800 hours to 0600 hours, daily.
- John Day Dam – Spill 60 % of instantaneous flow (up to the gas cap, approximately 180 kcfs) from 1800 hours to 0600 hours, up to flows of 300 kcfs. At flows greater than 300 kcfs, spill 180 kcfs for the same period.
- The Dalles Dam – Spill 64% of instantaneous flow, 24 hours per day.
- Bonneville Dam – Spill 24 hours daily. Spill a maximum of 75 kcfs during daylight hours and up to the gas cap (approximately 120 kcfs) during nighttime hours.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The passage indices at McNary Dam continue to increase for hatchery and wild steelhead and for chinook. Historic passage index data suggests that the 10% passage date for spring chinook occurs between April 19 and April 21. The collection numbers at John Day Dam have averaged between 1000 and 4000 for chinook and 200 to 600 steelhead with variable hours sampled over the past few days.

Significant hatchery releases have occurred above McNary Dam and in the lower Columbia River. Thus far, nearly 7.4 million spring/summer chinook have been released above Bonneville Dam, with over 5.1 million of those originating in the Snake and Mid-Columbia rivers. Yearling summer/fall chinook totaling near 3 million, predominately from the Mid-Columbia have been released. Almost 6 million steelhead (4.6 million from the Snake system, 1 million from the Mid-Columbia, and 0.4 million from the lower Columbia) and 3.5 million coho are in the system to-date. Additional releases are scheduled for the next two weeks as well.

In addition, several lower Columbia River hatcheries (including Carson, Spring Creek, and Little White Salmon) are timing the release of their fish to coincide with the initiation of spill on April 20, to afford these fish maximum protection. Review of historical passage data for the lower Columbia projects indicate that the April release of Spring Creek Hatchery production initiated the 10% point of passage at Bonneville Dam. Marked yearling fall chinook from Lyons Ferry Hatchery were detected at McNary Dam on April 13, 1998. PIT tagged hold-over fall chinook released in the Snake and Clearwater rivers last summer are passing McNary and John Day dams. Also PIT tagged spring chinook released in the Umatilla River are passing John Day and Bonneville dams.

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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.*