



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: 99-C7

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	Judith Johansen	BPA Administrator
	G. Delwiche, R. MacKay	BPA-PG-5 and BPA-PGPO

FROM: Bob Heinith, CRITFC Hydro Program Manager

DATE: August 17, 1999

SUBJECT: August 17-September 30, 1999 Flows in the Mainstem Columbia River

SPECIFICATIONS:

Operate storage releases from Lake Roosevelt to meet a weekly average flow at McNary Dam as follows:

Week McNary ending Ave Weekly Flow (kcfs)	
Aug22	200
Aug 29	190
Sept 5	180
Sept 12	170
Sept 19	160
Sep 26	150

If necessary to achieve the above McNary flows and achieve a Lake Roosevelt elevation at about 1283 by September 30, 1999, reduce pumping into Banks Lake as necessary and retain storage in Lake Roosevelt.

JUSTIFICATION:

The requested operation will slowly ramp down flows, mimicking a normative, receding hydrograph in the lower Columbia. Current Federal forecasted flow projections in the August 17, 1999 SSARR indicate a sharp, artificial drop in mainstem flows by early September of nearly 30%. This dramatic drop would have negative impacts to adult salmon migrants, remaining juvenile migrants and the Zone 6 tribal treaty fisheries.

About 80% of all the adult salmon and steelhead for the 1999 migration will be in the mainstem Columbia during the requested operations. The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority has noted that adults are attracted to fast flowing water and that high flows favor upstream migration (CBFWA 1991). Migration delays to adult fish and increased river temperatures from reduced flows can contribute to reproductive failure (CBFWA 1991). Low flows also increase the frequency that adult fishways are operated out of criteria.

Reducing flows slowly will reduce lower river pool fluctuations. This is important to the treaty fishery as explained in SOR 99 C-6.

If this SOR cannot be accommodated, we request an explanation in a detailed, written response.

Reference

CBFWA. 1991. The biological and technical justification for the flow proposal of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority. Portland, Oregon.

WY 1999	Columbia at McNary MCN Outflow	
	CRITFC	8-17 ssarr
Week ending		
Aug22	200	215
Aug 29	190	200
Sept 5	180	164
Sept 12	170	146
Sept 19	160	143
Sep 26	150	142
