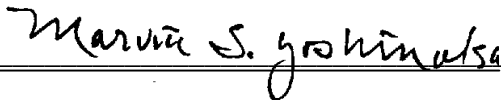


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST:

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

TO: **Brigadier General Griffin** **COE-NPD**
 William Branch **COE-Water Management**
 Cindy Henriksen **COE-RCC**
 Bolyvong Tanovan **COE-RCC**
 Doug Arndt **COE-P**
 Col. R. Slusar **COE-Portland District**
 Lieut. Col. W.E. Bulen, Jr. **COE-Walla Walla District**
 Steve Clark **USBR-Boise Acting Regional Director**
 Judith Johansen **BPA-Administrator**
 Greg Delwiche **BPA-PG-5**



FROM: **Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers**

DATE: **March 23, 1999**

SUBJECT: **Modified Operation at Bonneville Dam for the protection of 4.1 million fall chinook salmon from the March 18 Spring Creek Hatchery Release.**

SPECIFICATIONS:

The Salmon Managers are requesting the following operation at the Bonneville Project for the remaining period (March 23-28) following the March Spring Creek Hatchery tulle fall chinook release:

1. No operation of unscreened units at Bonneville powerhouse I and follow the turbine operating priority in the Fish Passage Plan for powerhouse I;
2. Operate Powerhouse I as first priority. Fully load PH I;
3. Spill to the 120% total dissolved gas supersaturation cap (as measured at the Warrendale monitor) 24 hours per day;
4. Operate Bonneville II ice and trash sluiceway only for ice and trash removal;
5. Operate turbine units within 1% of peak efficiency;
6. Operate juvenile and adult facilities according to criteria;
7. Delay diving at powerhouse I until after spill has ended on March 28; and
8. No operation of powerhouse II.

These operations are to begin on March 23 and continue through 2000 hours on March 28, 1999.

JUSTIFICATION:

Spring Creek Hatchery released 4.1-million tule fall chinook on the morning of March 18, 1999. Additional releases of this stock will occur during the spring and summer migration season. The overall importance of this stock has been previously documented and recently reported in the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality request for a total dissolved gas waiver.

The current performance of the Bonneville Project is significantly below fish passage standards. Therefore, spill is necessary to begin to achieve fish passage standards. Spill at Bonneville is also the safest route available for downstream migrating juvenile salmonids. On initial operation of the new juvenile bypass system at Bonneville dam, powerhouse II, juvenile fall chinook from the Spring Creek NFH were being injured and mortality occurred in the Unit 18 gatewell and at the dewatering screens. Because of the mortality associated with operation of the new bypass system, the salmon managers believe that spill and use of powerhouse I juvenile bypass system is the safest passage for Spring Creek fall chinook as well as for other yearling salmon currently passing Bonneville Dam.