

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #99-11

- *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.*

TO: **Brigadier General Griffin** **COE-NPD**
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Marvin S. Yoshinaka

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

DATE: **May 11, 1999**

SUBJECT: **Flow Targets**

SPECIFICATIONS:

Meet, at a minimum, Biological Opinion target flows at Priest Rapids (135 Kcfs), McNary (260 Kcfs) and Lower Granite (100 Kcfs) dams for the period (**May 11-23**).

Dworshak Reservoir – Outflow from Dworshak should be used as necessary to achieve the Lower Granite flow target.

Brownlee Reservoir – Hells Canyon outflow should be maintained at Brownlee inflow levels to achieve the target flows at Lower Granite.

Grand Coulee – Operate outflow to achieve the flow targets at Priest Rapids and McNary dams, while meeting the June 30 refill date.

JUSTIFICATION:

Presently, peak migration is occurring for spring/summer chinook, steelhead and sockeye in the Snake River. Weather conditions have resulted in flows being significantly less than the Biological Opinion target levels. Migration patterns are reflecting these decreases in flow (attached passage index graphs). This condition of decreasing flows at the peak of the migration

is unacceptable in terms of its potential impacts on migrating salmonids, and must be addressed immediately. Delaying refill of the Snake projects and operating at higher outflows from the storage reservoirs will help to alleviate this flow problem. Refill can be maximized when the freshet occurs, with minimal impact on spring migrants.











