

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #99-13

- *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:

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Marvin S. Yoshinaka

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

DATE: **June 15, 1999**

SUBJECT: **Mid and Lower Columbia Flows**

SPECIFICATIONS: For the time period between June 21 to June 30, meet at least the Biological Opinion flow targets of 135 Kcfs at Priest Rapids Dam and 260 Kcfs at McNary Dam. Modify the refill schedule of Grand Coulee Dam in order to achieve this objective.

JUSTIFICATION: Presently the spring juvenile fish migration continues in the Mid and Lower Columbia rivers. The presently modeled refill schedule for Grand Coulee Dam shows the project filling by June 30 and subsequently passing high inflows. This operation causes flows during the last ten days of the spring migration to be less than the Biological Opinion flow targets, and for flows during the early part of the summer migration to exceed spring target levels. The better operation for fish would be to modify this refill approach to provide the higher flows during the last part of the spring migration. Refill of Grand Coulee could be delayed until after the July 4th weekend, an operation that is consistent with the 1998 Supplemental Biological Opinion for Steelhead.