

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #99-19

- *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, Montana, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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Marvin S. Yoshinaka

FROM: **Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Fish Passage Advisory Committee**

DATE: **July 27, 1999**

SUBJECT: **Flows for July 29, 1999 to August 8, 1999**

SPECIFICATIONS:

Lower Granite Dam - Meet the Biological Opinion flow target of 54 Kcfs through August 8, 1999.

Dworshak Operations - Beginning July 29, 1999 through August 8, 1999 increase Dworshak outflow to 19 Kcfs. Water released from Dworshak should be as close to 48°F as possible. The USFWS will monitor the potential impacts of the lower temperature on hatchery operations. Based on the outcome of this monitoring modifications to the temperature may be requested next week.

Brownlee Operations – Maintain outflow at Brownlee at hydraulic capacity of Hells Canyon Dam (approximately 20 Kcfs) through August 8, 1999.

McNary Dam – The intent of this request is to meet the Biological Opinion flow target of at least 200 Kcfs on a weekly basis through the month of August. The assumptions modeled in the SSARR of July 26 show that objective being met in 1999 and predict McNary flows of 208 Kcfs for the week ending August 8, 1999, both of which are acceptable. Modifications to the reservoir drafts specified in the SSARR may be requested on a weekly basis if the assumptions contained in the SSARR model do not materialize. A specific request may be forthcoming regarding the modeled Hungry Horse discharge. Presently, the assumption is for a relatively even discharge through the month of August. Because of difficulties experienced in past years

due to routing time limitations, a request may be made to shape the Hungry Horse discharge with higher volumes released earlier in the month and stored in Grand Coulee Reservoir for later use.

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on current sampling, historic subyearling passage timing and travel time data, listed and unlisted subyearling fall chinook are present in large numbers in both the Snake and the lower Columbia rivers. Results of research on subyearling chinook passage has shown that increased flow and decreased water temperature results in improved passage conditions and survival for subyearling chinook. In the past week, subyearling passage indices at Lower Granite Dam have increased to over 5,000 per day. Similar increasing patterns have been observed at the Snake and lower Columbia sites, indicating passage of these fish through the Snake River and into the lower Columbia River.