


SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #99-31

- *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, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

TO: **Brigadier General Strock** **COE-NPD**
 William Branch **COE-Water Management**
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FROM: **Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers**

DATE: **November 5, 1999**

SUBJECT: **Bonneville Dam Outflow**

SPECIFICATIONS:

Do not proceed with filling Bonneville Pool. Immediately increase flows at Bonneville Dam to the levels recommended in SOR 99-28 and 99-30

JUSTIFICATION:

Current elevation of Bonneville Pool is 73.3 (1100 hours) feet. It is our understanding that the COE is requiring the Bonneville Pool to be filled to a forebay elevation of 74 feet because of a mechanical failure at the PH 1 DSM. This requirement is contained in the COE's Fish Passage Plan and is for maintaining water in the ice and trash sluiceway and keeping head at the orifices. The result of the filling of Bonneville Pool will be to further decrease Bonneville Dam discharge. The outflow from Bonneville Dam is presently far below the recommended flows for fall chinook and chum salmon spawning at the Ives/Pierce Island complex. The FPP juvenile criterion is a soft constraint and because of the present low numbers of juvenile migrants, the elevation constraint should be over-ridden by concerns for adult chinook and chum salmon spawning. Therefore, flows from Bonneville Dam should be increased immediately. The fishery agencies are requesting that water be released from Grand Coulee Reservoir (current elevation 1287.7 feet) to meet spawning needs in the Ives/Pierce Islands area.