

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2022-5

Walla Walla District

The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission/Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

TO:

| Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division (NWD) WALLA WALLA DISTRICT (NWW) | |
|--|---------------------------|
| TO: | |
| COL Geoff Van Epps | COE-NWD-ZA Commander |
| LTC Rick Childers | COE-NWW Commander |
| Beth Coffey | COE-NWD-PD |
| Rebecca Weiss | COE-NWD-PDD Chief |
| Steven Barton | COE-NWD-PDW Chief |
| Tim Dykstra | COE-NWD-PDD |
| Julie Ammann | COE-NWD-PDW-R |
| Doug Baus | COE-NWD-PDW-R |
| Aaron Marshall | COE-NWD-PDW-R |
| Lisa Wright | COE-NWD-PDW-R |
| Jon Roberts | COE-NWW-EC-H |
| Chris Peery | COE-NWW-OD-T |
| Lorri Gray | USBR-PN Regional Director |
| John Roache | USBR-PN-6208 |
| Joel Fenolio | USBR-PN-6204 |
| John Hairston | BPA Administrator |
| Bill Leady | BPA-PG-5 (acting) |
| Scott Armentrout | BPA-E-4 |
| Leah Sullivan | BPA-PGB-5 (acting) |
| Eve James | BPA-PGPO-5 |
| Tony Norris | BPA-PGPO-5 |
| Scott Bettin | BPA-EWP-4 |

Tribal Liaisons: Jr. Inglis (NWD), Dean Holecek (NWW)

FROM: Jonathan Ebel, FPAC Chair

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Juvenile transportation from Lower Monumental Dam in 2022

SPECIFICATIONS: We recommend that juvenile salmonids be returned to the river at Lower Monumental Dam rather than be collected and transported downriver via truck from August 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Summer juvenile transport period is described in section 5.1 of the 2022 Fish Operations Plan (FOP). Specifically, the FOP outlines that truck transport commence for the summer season on August 01 at all three collector projects and continue until September 30 at Lower Monumental Dam and October 31 at Little Goose and Lower Granite Dams.

[SOR 2020-4](#) requested the summer truck transport period be moved from August 15 to August 01 at Lower Granite Dam and Little Goose Dam and to not transport from Lower Monumental Dam. This request was based on applying the results of an extensive evaluation reported by Smith et al. (2018). Transport from Lower Monumental Dam suggested variable results, including marginally significant benefits or detriments, depending on the year (Smith et. al. 2018, Figure 35). Yet, when viewed in the context of generally low collection rates of 20-100 fish per day, the demographic benefit of summer truck transport from Lower Monumental is equivocal. Furthermore, the occurrence of *Columnaris* in the collector project raceways increases with water temperature and is particularly common at Lower Monumental Dam and 2022 Fish Passage Plan Appendix B guidelines can limit transportation from this project.

The 2022 Fish Passage Plan Appendix B outlines thresholds for summer transport and includes the cessation of transport when daily collection at Lower Monumental Dam is below 50 fish for three consecutive days. A consistent period (i.e., > 4 days) of daily collection below 50 fish began on August 13, August 10, and August 08 in 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively. Subyearlings were not transported from Lower Monumental Dam in 2020 or 2021. Overall, if summer transport were initiated at Lower Monumental Dam in 2022 it would likely occur for a short period of time with little benefit to fish as compared to bypassing fish encountering the juvenile bypass system.

References:

Smith, S. G., T. M. Marsh, W. P. Connor. 2018. Responses of Snake River fall Chinook salmon to dam passage strategies and experiences. Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Walla Walla, Washington.
https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/assets/26/8240_11162018_154745_Fall%20Chinook%20Transportation%202018.pdf