

Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

Change Form # & Title: 15LWG002 Adult Passage Season Dates
Date Submitted: March 10, 2015
Project: Lower Granite Dam
Requester Name, Agency: Bill Hevlin, NOAA Fisheries
Final Action:

FPP Section:

- LWG Section 2.4.2.1. Adult Facilities - Winter Maintenance Period (Jan 1 –end Feb).
- LWG Section 2.4.2.2. Adult Facilities – Adult Fish Passage Season (Mar 1 – Dec 31).
- LWG Section 3.2.1. Adult Facilities Maintenance – Scheduled Maintenance.

Justification for Change: In February at Lower Granite Dam, steelhead adults are being delayed due to the lack of passage facilities. Climate change appears to be causing earlier warmer water temperatures in the spring on the Lower Snake River, which stimulates earlier adult steelhead upstream migratory behavior.

At Lower Monumental, February 15, 2015, through February 26, 2015, adult steelhead passage count summary is 719 fish. At Lower Granite, the adult ladder was not available for passage until March 5, 2015, and the steelhead passage count summary for four days (3/5/15-3/8/15) is 623 fish. These fish at Lower Granite could have been delayed in the tailrace since mid to early February.

Proposed Change:

2.4.2.1. Winter Maintenance Period (January 1 – end of February). Maintenance will be scheduled to target returning the adult fish ladder to service February 15, to the extent possible, and by no later than March 1.

2.4.2.2. Adult Fish Passage Period (March 1 – December 31). The adult fish ladder may be returned to service as early as February 15, to the extent possible, and by no later than March 1.

3.2. Adult Fish Passage Facilities Maintenance.

3.2.1. Scheduled Maintenance. Scheduled maintenance of a facility that must be dewatered or where maintenance will have a significant effect on fish passage will be done during the January–February winter maintenance period. Maintenance will be scheduled to target returning the adult fish ladder to service February 15, to the extent possible, and by no later than March 1. Maintenance of facilities that will have no effect on fish passage may be conducted at any time. When facilities are not being maintained during the winter maintenance period, they will be operated according to normal criteria unless otherwise coordinated with NOAA Fisheries and other FPOM participants.

Comments:

12-Mar-2015 FPOM: Setter said NWW isn't ready to change the start date yet. She said depending on the water year and maintenance needs, the Project would like to have flexibility to keep the ladder down for that additional two weeks. She noted that facilities are aging and it may take longer to maintain the ladders. Shortening the work window could result in more coordination to request extensions or early outages. Hevlin said having 15-Feb in the FPP may help motivate to get maintenance completed earlier so that fish can move in a timely manner. Setter feels that changing the RTS date limits flexibility to conduct maintenance; however, she feels having FPP language to target 15-Feb but no later than 1-Mar could work. Benner asked if counting would begin if the ladder RTS before March 1. Setter said not necessarily. Fredricks noted that automated video counting might be useful in such situations. Skalicky asked why some dams were constructed with only one ladder. Bailey said the fact that since fish moved through the LGS ladder so quickly, it was determined that there wasn't a need for a second ladder. **FPOM agreed to revised language that targets ladder RTS by 15-Feb and no later than 1-Mar.**

9-Apr-2015 FPOM: Revisions were made in response to the discussion at March FPOM.

Record of Final Action: