# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 19AppL005 – Appendix L Updates for LOWER GRANITE

**Date Submitted**: 12/21/18

**Project**: LWG

**Requester Name, Agency**: Chris Peery, USACE NWW; Elizabeth Holdren, USACE LWG

**Final Action:**

**FPP Section**: Appendix L – Avian Action Plans, section 9, Lower Granite Dam.

**Justification for Change**: Updates Appendix L avian action plans for Lower Granite.

Edited to reflect updates to the Lower Granite avian predation program over the last five juvenile fish passage seasons. In past seasons, bird abundance was based on biological technician observations of the visible tailrace from the separator deck. Beginning in 2016, Project biologist surveys have consistently been taken on a daily basis and include all piscivorous birds identified in the forebay and tailrace as seen with binoculars from the top deck of the dam. Based on the last five years of piscivorous bird counts at LWG, the incident response trigger for gulls has decreased and a response trigger has been established for cormorants.

**Proposed Change**:

*[See following pages for draft Appendix L with edits in track changes]*

**Comments**:

2/7/19 FPP Meeting: FPOM needed more time to review the Appendix L change forms. Moved to next week’s FPOM meeting on 2/14 for finalization.

2/8/19 Charles Morrill, WDFW, via email: “… please note power and field of vision for the binoculars … are the projects all using same power and field of vision binoculars ?”

**Record of Final Action**:

Delete old LWG section and replace with new language below:

9. Lower granite Dam



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**9.1. Monitoring.** A Project biologist will collect daily bird data on gulls (California and ring-billed), cormorants, and terns from April 1 through October 31. APHIS personnel will perform daily bird counts in addition to bird hazing from April 1 through June 30. Avian abundance and behavior (foraging or non-foraging) at Lower Granite will be recorded for each of the seven count zones. American white pelicans will be recorded to monitor abundance. Binoculars will be used for bird surveys.

**9.2. Action Plan.** Non-lethal hazing with 15mm pyrotechnics and Dominator rocket pyrotechnics will take place 8 hours per day from April 1 through April 20 and from June 2 through June 30. Hazing will take place 16 hours per day from April 21 through June 1. Passive deterrents include needle strips on loafing surfaces and a 34-wire array spanning from the south shore over the powerhouse and spillway tailrace downstream to the end of the navigation lock guide wall. Limited lethal take of gulls and cormorants will be conducted with a shotgun in accordance with the USFWS permit at the discretion of the APHIS agents. Corps employees, members of the public, and contractors will be notified before any lethal take activities take place. Lethal take shall not take place during public tours.

9.3. Incident Response. The trigger level for additional control measures are calculated using the previous five years (2014-2018) biologist daily bird survey counts from April 1-June 30. If gull abundance exceeds 57 per day or cormorant abundance exceeds 110 per day during a single count from April 1 through June 30, the Project will commence into action one or more of the following methods:

Initiate lethal take by APHIS wildlife services;

Biological Technician hazing with pyrotechnics;

Emergency call of off-duty separator technicians for hazing;

Others to consider in combination with above: visual deterrent devices (e.g., raptor effigies, scare-eye balloons, laser lights, etc.).

9.4. Reporting. Reporting of bird numbers will consist of a table of average daily bird counts that will be included in each weekly ESA report April 1 through October 31, along with a brief statement assessing the effectiveness of the avian deterrent program for that week. In addition, a section on bird predation control work will be included in the annual *Adult and Juvenile Fish Monitoring Report*.