

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE– *20JDA21 COVID-19 Daytime condition sampling proposal*

COORDINATION DATE– 9 December 2020

PROJECT– John Day Dam

RESPONSE DATE – 7 January 2021

Description of the problem

Current COVID-19 preventative measures require reduced staffing and, maximizing telework. Starting 1 March 2021 (weather dependent), the John Day Smolt Monitoring Facility (SMF) will sample and collect juvenile fish from 0700 to 1300 for condition sampling. The sampling will occur daily until we reach 70-degree river temperatures. Warm water sampling will follow the Fish Passage Plan (FPP: Appendix K section 2.4.) and those used during the 2020 fish passage season (see 20JDA02 MFR).

Fish Passage Plan sampling protocol is to sample 24 hours every other day. JDA Project Fisheries covers the swing and graveyard shift to watch over the separator bars and screen cleaners. SMP staff conducts sampling in the morning. (FPP: Appendix K, section 2.3).

To meet COVID-19 preventative measures by reducing staff needed, collection of fish and condition sub-sampling will occur every day between 0700 -1300. The intent is to collect enough juvenile salmonids for condition sub-sampling. From 1300 – 0600 the switch gate will divert fish and flow to the river and will be interrogated at the full flow pit tag array for tags. It is anticipated that the collection of fish and conditioning sub-sampling will continue throughout the 2021 sampling season.

This preventative measure will help maintain social distancing requirements. FPP criteria will still be met, except for the 24 hour index sampling.

Type of outage required - None

Impact on facility operation (FPP deviations) Change from 24 hour, every other day sampling to every other day between 0700-1300. This will impact the index sampling in a manner similar to the COVID sampling protocols implemented with MFR 20JDA02.

Impact on unit priority No impacts to unit priority. The FPP will be followed for unit priorities.

Impact on forebay/tailwater operation No impacts to forebay/tailwater operations.

Impact on spill None, spill would follow the FPP.

Dates of impacts/repairs These measures are anticipated to begin 1 March 2021.

Length of time for repairs These measures will remain in place as long as COVID-19 restrictions are required at JDA.

Analysis of potential impacts to fish

- 1. 10-year average passage by run during the period of impact for adults and juvenile listed species, as appropriate for the proposed action and time of year;**

Adult passage season is from March 1st to November 30th and the proposed action will not impact adult passage. Juvenile passage is operated from April 1st through September 15th. Changing the sampling strategy could decrease the number of adult fallbacks passing over the wetted separator during SMF operations and reduce the number of juvenile fish passing over the wetted separator. This sampling strategy will decrease the number of juvenile fish being held prior to sampling conducted by PSMFC personnel. The average holding time for juvenile fish in the collection tanks at John Day is approximately 9.5 hours. Reducing this holding time will not impact juvenile fish collected in the SMF.

- 2. Statement about the current year's run (e.g., higher or lower than 10-year average);** No impact to current year's run.
- 3. Estimated exposure to impact by species and age class (i.e., number or percentage of run exposed to an impact by the action);** The COVID-19 sampling decrease the exposure to all age classes since we will be reducing the overall sampling time from 96 hours (4 samples per week) to 18 hours (three samples) per week. The reduction in sampling hours reduces the impact of fish crossing the wetted separator, reduces holding times, and handling times.
- 4. Type of impact by species and age class (increased delay, exposure to predation, exposure to a route of higher injury/mortality rate, exposure to higher TDG, etc.);** No significant impacts are anticipated with changing the sampling strategy from 24-hour every-other-day to warm water protocol (every other day).

Summary statement - expected impacts on:

Downstream migrants No impacts to downstream migrants. The alternative sampling strategy will benefit juvenile migrants since fewer juvenile fish will be handled or held. The JBS does have full flow PIT tag detection which will allow fisheries managers to analyze the number of PIT tagged fish passing through the JBS during non-sampling hours.

Upstream migrants (including Bull Trout) No impacts to adult bull trout and no evidence that adult bull trout are falling back through the JDA JBS.

Lamprey No impacts to adult and juvenile lamprey with the alternative sampling strategy. Analysis of juvenile lamprey collection at the SMF from 2011 to 2019 showed from 2011 to 2015, No impacts to adult and juvenile lamprey with the alternative sampling strategy. Analysis of juvenile lamprey collection at the SMF from 2011 to 2019 showed from 2011 to 2015, the SMF averaged 250,119 juvenile lamprey yearly and 118,762 between 2016 and 2019. The new sampling strategy would reduce the number of lamprey collected daily but could see an average of 50,024 annually. These numbers are calculated by taking the average number of fish collected annually during 24-hour daily sampling (2011-2015) and estimating that the alternative sampling strategy would collect 20% of lamprey passing John Day Dam. the SMF averaged 250,119 juvenile lamprey yearly and 118,762 between 2016 and 2019. The new sampling strategy would reduce the number of lamprey collected daily but could see an average of 50,024 annually. These numbers are calculated by taking the average number of fish collected annually during 24-hour daily sampling (2011-2015) and estimating that the alternative sampling strategy would collect 20% of lamprey passing John Day Dam.

Comments from agencies

Final coordination results

After Action update (After action statement stating what the effect of the action was on listed species. This statement could simply state that the MOC analysis was correct and the action went as expected, or it could explain how the actual action changed the expected effect (e.g., you didn't need to close that AWS valve after all, so there was no impact of the action). List any actual mortality noted as a result of the action)

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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