# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 21AppB001 – LMN Condition Monitoring

**Date Submitted**: 21 April 2021

**Project**: Lower Monumental Dam (Appendix B)

**Requester Name, Agency**: Trevor Conder, NOAA Fisheries

**Final Action:**

**FPP Section**: Appendix B – Transport Plan, sections 4.1 and 4.6.

**Justification for Change**: NOAA requires that the Action Agencies monitor and document the condition (e.g., descaling and injury) of smolts at all dams with JBS systems, identify potential problems, and evaluate solutions. At Lower Monumental Dam, the FPP does not stipulate the level of monitoring necessary for the entire year to achieve the condition monitoring goals, since the Smolt Monitoring Program index sampling has been sufficient. Regional fish managers are reviewing and considering removing the SMP program from Lower Monumental Dam. In addition, transport operations are planned to pause on June 21 and resume on August 1.

With the potential to remove the SMP sampling, and pause transport, it is necessary to develop minimum condition monitoring criteria in the FPP for Lower Monumental Dam.

The condition monitoring program is intended to monitor the condition of smolts and to identify and correct problems within the bypass system. The condition monitoring program is not intended to estimate the size, timing, or condition of the population of fish arriving at any particular project. Further, condition monitoring is not conducted to sample fish for other purposes, and separate take permits are necessary if additional fish will need to be sampled for other research purposes. The sample number, frequency, and holding time of smolts should be managed in a way that balances the needs of the program with the potential impact to the resource. For condition monitoring purposes, more frequent sampling (e.g., every other day) may be necessary when debris loads are high, and the potential for debris blockages in the bypass are more likely. Conversely, periods of low debris probability with higher temperatures should consider lower sampling frequency (e.g., two days per week) to reduce handling impacts to the resource.

**Proposed Change**: *See following pages.*

**Comments**:

**Record of Final Action**:

Appendix B – Transport Plan

4. OPERATING CRITERIA

4.1. Non-Transport Operations

Prior to initiation of transport, or when fish are not being transported from the Snake River projects, fish collection facilities will be operated as described below:

**4.1.3. Lower Monumental**: Juvenile fish will be bypassed and routed to the primary outfall and full flow PIT-tag detection system, except during condition sampling as described below:

* + - * 1. Condition sampling will begin April 1 to monitor fish descaling and other fish condition parameters and to ensure sampling systems are operating correctly. Condition samples will be taken if fish are being sampled for barge loading purposes; the following criteria will apply when barge loading samples are not taken for any reason.
        2. From April 1 through April 14, condition sampling will occur at least twice per week, with no more than three days between samples.
        3. From April 15 through July 31, condition sampling will occur every other day.
        4. From August 1 through September 30, condition sampling will occur at least twice per week with no more than three days between samples.
        5. The sample goal should be 100 fish of the predominant salmonid species.
        6. When not sampling, the facility will return to primary (full-flow) bypass.
        7. Sampling frequency may be increased if injuries are observed or suspected (e.g., during high debris conditions).
        8. Full 24-hour samples may be taken to determine species composition to inform a decision on starting transport at this project.
        9. Fish condition reporting will follow the standardized SMP protocol and sent to FPC within 12 hours of sampling.

4.6. Summer Transport Operations

4.6.6. At Lower Monumental Dam, collection of fish for *truck* transport will stop when daily collection is less than 50 fish per day for 3 consecutive days. The facility will continue to collect fish for condition sampling through September 30. If collection numbers increase substantially, TMT will be notified and will determine whether to recommend resuming transport.