

Change Request Number: 11JDA002

Date: 11/30/2010

Proposed by: JDA Fisheries

Location of Change: 1.1.3. Juvenile Migration Timing.

Proposed Change: 1.1.3. Juvenile Migration Timing. Juvenile passage timing has been determined by past gatewell and SMF sampling at John Day Dam (Table JDA-2.)...PIT interrogation will continue through November ~~1530~~, weather permitting...

Reason for Change: SMF was not designed for operations in freezing temperatures and its vulnerable components need to be dewatered and winterized well before the wintry weather arrives. In 2010 the freezing temperatures arrived early, and some of the flushing system's valves were damaged. The damage to the flushing valves resulted in them being unavailable and exposed fish to increased risk of stress and death during the dewatering operations. For example, five adult lamprey were found dead/frozen inside the transport flume in the switch gate area, a day after dewatering, on 11/30; they most likely came at night out of the adult drain pipe (white, 12 inch) which was lacking flushing water. With flushing water available, the lamprey could have survived and would be rescued.

Comments from others:

NOAA Fisheries- We don't agree with this one right now. There are ongoing studies that are using late season PIT tag detections. We would prefer to look at adopting some criteria using weather forecasts rather than a fixed date for shutting down this system. We will also be checking on the significance of the data loss with our Science Center. In any case, the language in the plan must indicate that the crest gate will be opened to pass the bypass flow through the old bypass chute.

USFWS- Do not support. Should be linked to forecast predictions for the time after November 15.

Record of Final Action: denied at 21 January 2011. JDA needs to better define "weather permitting".