

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: 14BON63 MFR** – Bonneville Adult Fish Facility (AFF) Operation.

Record numbers of fall Chinook are currently passing through Bonneville Dam with the majority passing via the Washington ladder. Special split flow operations were implemented on 4 September to try to balance flow between the two powerhouses at Bonneville and attract more fish towards the Bradford (Oregon) ladder. Even so, the Washington shore ladder has been passing more fish; on 6 September over 36,000 adult salmonids passed the Washington count station, and on 7 September over 52,000 passed. These conditions have caused obvious fish stacking in the ladder.

Current language in the Fish Passage Plan (FPP), Appendix G, states that when adult salmonids counts at the Washington shore count station exceed 18,000 fish, researchers in the AFF may leave all four picket leads lowered for an hour before raising two picket leads for half an hour. Due to the sheer volume of fish passing and their observations of fish amassing below the picket leads during operation of the AFF, BON Project Fisheries has determined that no picket lead operation should be implemented to avoid delaying fish. Project Fisheries in exercising the authority, provided under the 2014 FPP Appendix G, section 1.3.12, to raise picket leads when necessitated by fish densities and/or ladder conditions. Until fish numbers in the Washington Shore fishway decrease, no picket leads will be lowered at the AFF.

Available information is provided below:

- A. Species – Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- B. Origin – all
- C-E. NA
- F. Cause and Time –AFF picket lead operation will cease on 9 September until fish numbers in the ladder decrease.
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – This operation may be required in future years if large daily fish passage numbers are repeated.

**Comments from others:**

**NOAA** -----Original Message-----

From: Gary Fredricks - NOAA Federal [mailto:gary.fredricks@noaa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 8:07 AM

To: Mackey, Tammy M NWP; Klatte, Bernard A NWP

Cc: Hausmann, Ben J NWP; Lorz, Tom

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination - MFR 14BON63 AFF picket lead operation  
Tammy, I discussed this with Ben yesterday and we certainly support the action. I see that this is on the agenda for FPOM. We'll need a FPP change form on this one. I'd suggest starting with a section 1.3.9.e. that indicates when WA shore counts hit 25k adults, we leave all leads out of the ladder until the numbers drop down to 20k (regardless of flow split operations). These should be familiar triggers. Gary

**USFWS** -----Original Message-----

From: Wills, David [mailto:david\_wills@fws.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 10:22 AM

To: Mackey, Tammy M NWP

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FPOM: Official Coordination - MFR 14BON63 AFF picket lead operation  
Seems like the right call. Dave

Sincerely,  
Bonneville Fisheries

