

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2022-2

PORTLAND DISTRICT

*The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this
SOR: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission/Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Reservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Nez Perce Tribe.*

Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division (NWD) PORTLAND DISTRICT (NWP)	
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Tribal Liaisons: Jr. Inglis (NWD) and Craig Johnson (NWP)



FROM: Jonathan Ebel, FPAC Chair

DATE: March 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Operation of the Bonneville Corner Collector for Spring Creek NFH Emergency Release

SPECIFICATIONS: We are requesting that the Bonneville Corner Collector (B2CC) remain open until 13:00 March 20th to help improve the dam passage survival of the emergency release of 10.8 million fall Chinook from Spring Creek NFH.

JUSTIFICATION: Spring Creek NFH has made an emergency early release of all 10.8 million fall Chinook due to an outbreak of bacterial gill disease, with the last group of ~5.6 million fish released on March 14th. Since this release was prior to the normal spring spill period, most of these fish would normally be passing through powerhouse passage routes.

The dates of the emergency release (March 11th-14th) happened to coincide with a period where the B2CC has been open most of the time due to lack of turbine capacity. However, the B2CC is likely to close on March 18th when four turbines at BON PH2 that have been out of service due to maintenance are scheduled to return to service.

Tagging studies show that 90% of Spring Creek NFH fall Chinook pass Bonneville Dam anywhere from one to four days after release, depending on the year ([FPC Memo 42-21](#)). However, many of those releases occurred in April and May during the spring spill period, and several studies have shown that early migrating smolts have longer travel times than later migrating smolts, so there is a fair amount of uncertainty around the exact travel time of this release.

We are requesting that the B2CC remain open until 13:00 March 20th to help improve the dam passage survival of this emergency release, as the B2CC has a very high juvenile passage survival rate (Mean: 99%, Range 97.5-100%), based on acoustic tag studies. This extension would keep the B2CC open a full six days since the last release from Spring Creek NFH and should expand the fraction of fish that have this passage route as an option to well above 90%.