

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

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

COORDINATION DATE– **9 December 2020 Updated 16 February 2021**

PROJECT– **John Day Dam**

RESPONSE DATE – **7 January 2021**

Description of the problem

Current COVID-19 restrictions and preventative measures will limit the number of staff at the John Day Dam Smolt Monitoring Facility (SMF). These restrictions include reducing staff to a maximum of two Corps personnel, social distancing, face coverings when six feet of social distancing is not possible and maximizing teleworking. To achieve these COVID-19 restrictions, John Day Fisheries proposes to reduce juvenile salmon and steelhead sampling to a level needed to meet condition sampling during the 2021 fish passage season. Starting 1 March 2021 (weather dependent), the John Day maintenance staff will start deploying screens in Main Units 1-4 with deployment expected to be completed in one day. Following deployment of the screens, condition sampling will start the following morning with the sample starting at 0700. Following the deployment of the screens, sampling hours during March will be conducted at 0300-0900. These sampling hours are an attempt to collect juvenile lamprey and inform future juvenile collection needs for research purposes. A total of 8 or 9 days will have the early collection start times with the SMF returning to normal sampling times (every other day, 0700-1300 condition sampling) in April. Condition sampling will target 100 fish of the predominate salmonid species for condition sampling every other day from 0700 – 1300. Condition sampling will continue every other day until warm water temperatures are reached. When river temperatures exceed 70 degrees, the SMF will follow Fish Passage Plan protocols for warm water sampling and condition sampling will occur twice per week (Monday and Thursday) until water temperatures fall below 69.5 degrees or until 15 September.

Type of outage required - None

Impact on facility operation (FPP deviations) Change in 2021 operations from 24 hour, every other day sampling to a modified sampling schedule of every other day between 0700-1300 (6 hours). Condition sampling will target 100 fish of the predominate salmonid species migrating in the river. 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 Condition sampling will be for the entire 2021 fish passage season. The end of COVID-19 restrictions is unknown so condition sampling will likely be in place for the entire fish passage season in 2021.

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 1 March to 30 November and the proposed action will not impact adult passage. Juvenile bypass system (JBS) is operated from 1 March through 15 September for juvenile passage. 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. Condition sampling 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 condition sampling will decrease the exposure to all age classes. 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) Minimal impacts to adult and juvenile bull trout. The number of juvenile bull trout counted in the sample tank at John Day Dam since 1998 is zero. Since no juvenile bull trout have been recorded in the sample tank, the impact to juvenile bull trout will be minimal. Adult bull trout encountered in the sample or observed in the sample tank since 1998 is 1 sub-adult bull trout in 2002. No bull trout have been recorded since 2002 and the impact to adult bull trout will be minimal.

Lamprey No impacts to adult lamprey but reduced numbers of juvenile lamprey collected is likely with the COVID-19 condition sampling strategy of reduced hours of sampling that eliminates evening samples. SMF staff will be ready to assist researchers to collect lamprey outside of the proposed hours of collection when needed. SMF staff has the flexibility to start the collection up to three hours earlier to accommodate researcher needs. Specific collection needs and timing of additional collection will need to be coordinated between the researcher and SMF staff.

Comments from agencies –

210211 FPOM discussion for minutes item 7. Early Juvenile by-pass start up

JDA plan for early start and SMF operation. Fielding reported that JDA is planning to drop screens starting 1 March. There have been discussions regarding sampling to assist tribal lamprey collection. There will be nine days in March when sampling will start at 0400. Once 100 salmonids are collected, the sample will be turned off. Porter asked if the start time is supposed to be 0300. Fielding was agreeable to that earlier start time. G. Kovalchuk expressed concerns about starting early without a couple of normal sample days. He is concerned we could be inundated with fish. He proposes normal 0700 – 1300 sampling for the first week of March so PSMFC could get a feel for how many fish will be coming. Also, early start time for PSMFC is a call that the SMP program manager has to make. **FPOM was agreeable to a normal sample week the first week of March. ACTION: Martinson will seek approval from the SMP program manager for the early hour start time.** Porter has sent an informal letter to FPC. Chockley asked for clarification about the days with the 0300 start. 0300 start times will only be on weekdays. 0700 start times will occur on weekends. van Dyke asked Bettin about operational flexibility during the sample times. Screened units will be the priority units.

210211 Action Items - [February 21] JDA sampling for lamprey – starting at 0300 on weekdays when sampling will occur. **ACTION:** Martinson will seek approval from the SMP program manager for the early hour start time. *STATUS: I have confirmation from FPC and my program manager that we can work outside of our normal schedule for lamprey collection at John Day in March of 2021. Greg will plan to process samples each hour to generate what little detail can be gained by doing that. Depending on abundance of both lamprey and salmon, he will adjust both sample rate and sample processing as needed to accomplish goals as previously stated. Perhaps you could add this to the minutes as a post meeting update. Thanks, Rick Martinson*

Final coordination results

210211 FPOM - 20 JDA 21 MOC COVID-19 Daytime condition sampling proposal.

Approved! With the adjustment to the start time to 0300, normal sampling during the first week of March, and early sampling occurring only on weekdays. Fielding clarified that the MOC is for COVID restrictions and the opportunity to start earlier in the day to accommodate lamprey collection will be realized without deviating from the COVID protocols.

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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