

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 22JDA15 Penstock trash rack crane oil leak

On the morning of 11 October 2022 at 0940, John Day maintenance personal were performing a routine preventative maintenance task on the South fish ladder turbine penstock trash rack crane (Fig1). During the inspection a breather plug on the crane discharged approximately ¼ cup of NLGI #2 gearbox grease into the forebay of the dam between main unit 1 and the South fish ladder exit.

An iridescent sheen approximately 40ft long by 2ft wide developed because of the discharge into the river. Absorbent booms were deployed to begin the cleanup and stop the sheen from spreading. A boat crew was deployed to aid in the cleanup effort, recover the absorbent boom and complete the cleanup efforts.

During the cleanup effort all units on line 1 were out of service to stop the spread of the discharge into the main units. From 1224 – 1538 the South fish turbines were shutdown to allow boat crews to access the area in front of the dam to retrieve the absorbent boom and complete the cleanup efforts.

- A. Species – NA.
- B. Origin – NA.
- C. Length – NA.
- D. Marks and tags – NA.
- E. Marks and Injuries found on carcass – NA.
- F. Cause and Time of Death – NA.
- G. Future and Preventative Measures – An improved catch system is being developed to return excessive grease from the breather plug into the gearbox rather than out the breather plug as it was initially designed to do.



Fig 1. The John Day penstock trash rack crane.

Sincerely,
John Day Project Fisheries