



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT
BONNEVILLE LOCK AND DAM PROJECT
PO BOX 150
CASCADE LOCKS OR 97014-0150

March 30, 2021

Sheanna Steingrass
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Ms. Steingrass:

This is in response to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife memorandum dated 18 December, 2020 requesting approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct sea lion hazing and capture activities at the Bonneville Project. This work will be conducted in conjunction with Mr. Scott Pearson of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Joe Dupont of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. Doug Hatch of the Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission. The proposed activities have four objectives:

- a. Capture and permanently remove California sea lions (CSLs) and Steller sea lions (SSL) from the Bonneville Dam area as permitted under Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Section 120(f) by NMFS for sea lion management in the lower Columbia River Basin.
- b. Improve our understanding of salmonid and at-risk fish stock predation levels below Bonneville Dam.
- c. Increase our sea lion food habits and prey genetics databases and assess food habits of sea lions present at Bonneville Dam.
- d. Reduce depredation of fish, reduce sea lion presence, and resultantly limit the recruitment of new pinniped predators to the area below Bonneville Dam.

With respect to the objectives outlined above, your request is approved, though please note that Project assistance may be limited, depending on the activities already scheduled at the dam.

Please follow the guidance that the BiOp, NOAA, F/NWR/2011/05874, dated February 29, 2012 (available on the FPOM website) outlines with specific limits to sea lion bomb use and boat access within the BRZ for human and fish safety issues. This includes a 100ft minimum distance for boats from all project structures, a 150 foot minimal distance from main fishway entrances, no use of seal bombs from the boats within 300 feet from all fishways, floating orifices, B2CC or smolt monitoring facility outfalls, and no use of seal bombs within 150 feet of any shoreline or shallow water area. Seal bomb use is limited to 1-3 bombs per animal/ per hazing occurrence and no seal bombs in the BRZ when fish counts reach 1000 fish per day. Additional specifications are included in the BiOp.

Prior to beginning work, please arrange a meeting with Mr. Ben Hausmann, 541-374-4598. No work may begin until copies of all required permits are on file with Mr. Andrew Derugin, Andrew.g.Derugin@usace.army.mil and Mrs. Erin Kovalchuk, Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil.

Please remain in contact with Mr. Hausmann throughout your time at the dam. There are many researchers and contractors working at the dam, please work to ensure good communication and cooperation between agencies and organizations.

A copy of this letter will be provided on <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/NWP%20Research/Research.html>. If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Hausmann or Mr. Derugin via e-mail or by phone.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Adams, P.E.
Operations Project Manager

CENWP STAFFING SHEET

Office Symbol: CENWP-ODB

DATE: 30 March 2021

SUBJECT: Approval letter for Scott Pearson (WDFW), Sheanna Steingrass (ODFW), Joe Dupont (IDFG) and Doug Hatch (CRITFC).

DESIRED ACTION: Requires OPM Signature

RETURN TO: Please send a copy of the scanned, signed letter to Erin.H.Kovalchuk@usace.army.mil and copy Andrew.G.Derugin@usace.army.mil. Call Andrew Derugin (541-374-4020) if there are questions.

DETAILED SUMMARY: 1. Purpose: To allow researchers access to Bonneville Project.

2. History: Reviewed by Bonneville Fisheries and the Bonneville Safety Officer.

3. Reason: To permit Sea Lion capture, marking, tracking, hazing, and removal operations at Bonneville Project.

REMARKS:

	Initial/Date	Name/Office Symbol
Non-Concur/Concur	Concur AGD 02/11/21	Derugin, Andrew CENWP-ODB
Non-Concur/Concur	Concur JR 03/22/21	Rerecich, Jon CENWP-PME
Non-Concur/Concur	Concur NM 03/22/21	McClain, Nathan CENWP-OD-TF
Signed		Adams, Michael CENWP-ODB