

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: 17 JFT 03 – Upstream Release and Secondary Bypass Operation due to Road Closures

SUBJECT: The juvenile fish facilities were switched to secondary bypass and collected fish were trucked to the closes boat ramp downstream of Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams due to emergency road closures on both sides of the Columbia River from forest fires.

During the evening of September 4, 2017, Interstate 84 was closed due to the Eagle Creek wildfire which started on September 2, 2017. The morning of September 5, 2017 the fire jumped the Columbia River near the Bridge of the Gods. All lanes of Interstate 84 remained closed from Troutdale to Hood River from September 4 through September 14. The west bound lanes reopened September 14 and the east bound lanes reopened September 23. On the Washington side of the Columbia River SR-14 was closed to commercial traffic in both directions, but open to passenger vehicles from September 4 through September 23. Thus the fish transport trucks could not get to the designated fish release site at Bonneville Dam or the alternative release site at Dodson Boat Ramp due to the road closures from the fires.

Smolts were being collected and truck transported every other day (odd numbered days) from Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams. Lower Granite Dam is not collecting and transporting smolts because the bypass was dewatered in early August to facilitate upgrades to the bypass system.

On the morning of September 5 the CENWW Transportation Coordinator directed the project biologist at Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams to change from collection for transportation to secondary bypass until access to the release sites was restored. Collected smolts on September 4th and 5th at Lower Monumental and Little Goose dams had been loaded into trucks and were getting ready to depart when SR-14 was closed. The potential of releasing the smolts into the McNary bypass outfall was considered, however, was not an option for the mini-tankers due to the tank release being lower than the McNary bypass access port. The CENWW Transportation Coordinator instructed the project biologist to release the fish trucks at the nearest downstream boat ramp.

These changes in operation were coordinated with Paul Wagner of NMFS.

At approximately 0830 on September 5 Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams switched from juvenile fish collection for transportation to secondary bypass operation. Previously collected smolts in the fish transport truck from Little Goose Dam were released at the Texas

Rapids boat ramp. Previously collected smolts loaded into the fish transport truck from Lower Monumental Dam were released at the Windust boat ramp.

Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams remained in secondary bypass from September 5th through September 21st. During the transportation outage a total of 1,243 smolts (primarily subyearling Chinook salmon) were bypassed at Lower Monumental and Little Goose dams. Collection of smolts and transportation by truck resumed September 21st when reliable access to the downstream release sites was restored.

- 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 – NA

Sincerely,

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