

CENWW-OD-EL

07 July 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD - 14 LWG 09 – MFR Lower Granite Dam Adult Fish Trap Hoist Failure

SUBJECT MFR Adult Fish Trap Hoist Failure – 07 July 2014

Description of the problem: At approximately 1110 hours it was discovered by the NOAA director of the Lower Granite adult trap facility that a basket used to hoist fish at the adult fish trap had failed. The basket assembly is an 8'x10" rectangular I-Beam structure with rubberized canvas sheeting. The cables (the initial failure may have involved an eye bolt) which hoist the basket broke while the NOAA fisheries group was in their office. The basket itself has three broken cables and is balanced inside the hoist area of the fish trap. There was no injury to personnel.

Actions taken: Upon seeing the situation NOAA personnel immediately stopped the sample so no more fish could enter the trap. The sample rate at the time was 15% and only one to two gate openings could have occurred from when the last fish were worked up. From visual observation at least two adult salmonids were in the pool below the broken I-beam frame. Until the area/structure above pool is secured any attempt to rescue the fish from above would not be safe. At 1415 hours the NOAA team and the Corps Project Biologist on duty decided to open a drain valve on the side of the pool to allow the adults to volitionally or by chance egress safely to the river. At this time, 1542 hours all fish in this pool have egressed to the river except one adult steelhead – smaller fish can exit through the grating at the pool bottom. There remains a sanctuary pool of at least five feet of depth with good water flow. If this fish has not left the pool by the time the overhead structure is stabilized, it can be rescued from above.

Impact on fish passage: This failure does not affect the operation of the Lower Granite fish ladder.

Length of time for repairs: It is not certain how long repairs will take. The project operations and mechanical crews are taking steps to begin investigation and repair. The estimate at this time is about one week (15 July): one day to remove obstructions, one or two days to repair the rig and cables, and one day to put it back together.

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