CENWP-OD-McNary **07/11/2018**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Emergency debris spill on July 10, 2018

Narrative: A fairly large amount of floating woody material had accumulated in the forebay. There was concern that movement of the debris from changes in wind direction risked damage to the Oregon shore fishway exit and powerhouse. On July 9, most of the debris had accumulated by the southern spillbays, 18 through 21, allowing it to be passed through emergency spill operations on 10 July. The debris load was reduced from heavy to very light at the spillway and from light to minimal at the powerhouse.

Location: Spillbays 16 through 21.

Method: On July 10, spillbay 16 was successfully operated in split leaf mode to pass debris to the tailrace. Bays 17 through 21 were opened and closed as needed to help maneuver the debris to bay 16. Spillbay 18 could not be used for this operation because an extra spillgate leaf is currently stored upstream of the spillgate.

Time Line - Duration: On July 9, from 1438 to 1513 hours, the project staff put bay 18 into and out of spilt leaf mode. On July 10, from 0951 to 1117 hours, project staff put bay 16 into split leaf mode, rotated through bays 17 through 21 and returned bay 16 to standard mode. Bay 16 was opened to approximately 14 feet and passed approximately 23 kcfs. Over the two days, the spill pattern was slightly altered for two hours total.

A. Species: There were no known fish losses. Subyearling Chinook are the primary race/species of juven ile salmonids passing through the spillway at this time. On average, approximately 83,000 total subyearling Chinook pass the project during 9-10 July. This is approximately 0.07 percent of the total subyearling Chinook passing through the juvenile system on a five year average. Considering the short duration and the small section of spillway effected, the overall impact on subyearling Chinook passage should have been minimal.

Sockeye salmon were the primary adult species passing on July 9 and 10, with summer Chinook and steelhead also present. All three fish species are running below their 10 year average so far in 2018. Impact to adult passage from the spill operation should have been minimal.

B. Origin: NA

C. Length: NA

D. Marks and Tags: NA

E. Marks and Injuries Found on the Carcasses: NA

F. Future and Preventative Measures: River debris loads are uncontrollable and the accumulation points are unpredictable. Removing the debris in a timely manner minimizes potential impacts to juvenile and adult fish passage and reduces risk for damage to the powerhouse and fishway systems.

G. Photos Taken: None.

Bobby Johnson
Project Fisheries Biologist
McNary Lock and Dam