CENWP-OD-TFF August 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**TITLE** – 21DEX02 MFR Middle Fork Willamette Adult Chinook Outplanting

**SUBJECT** – W9127N19C0030, Middle Fork Willamette Adult Chinook Outplanting and Juvenile Fingerling Release(s).

Spring Chinook salmon broodstock collection, adult outplanting, and juvenile releases in the Middle Fork Willamette River are a component of the 2016 Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) and are a component of the Willamette Valley Hatcheries Contract (W9127N19C0030) and Willamette Fish Operations Plan (WFOP). Adult returns to the Dexter Fish Facility in total during the 2021 season have been below both broodstock and outplanting goals laid out in the HGMP, contract, and WFOP. Broodstock collection as of August 10, 2021 consisted of 2,565 adults collected – 435 adults short of the 3000 adult brood collection goal – with the run mostly complete.

Broodstock needs for the limited number of returning adult spring Chinook has restricted outplanting efforts. Adult outplanting to date into the North Fork Middle Fork (NFMF) Willamette River consists of 374 of the targeted 1,350 adults currently being outplanted. None of the 1,100 adults targeted for outplanting into the Middle Fork Willamette above Hills Creek Dam have occurred.

Priority has been given for the NFMF Willamette Spring Chinook outplanting and recovery efforts, to maximize adult survival per the HGMP (p. 93), due to the shorter transit time (36 miles v. 50 miles to above Hills Creek). Similarly, juvenile outmigrants will have an enhanced chance of outmigration survival due to the fact that these outplants occur lower in the system, and one less reservoir and dam will have to be navigated during juvenile outmigration to the Pacific Ocean

Limited numbers of Middle Fork Willamette Brood Year 2020 juvenile Spring Chinook also necessitated that priority be given to smolt production. As such, the scheduled release of 100,000 Spring Chinook salmon fingerlings into Hills Creek Reservoir for June 2021 have not, and likely will not occur.

The lack of Brood Year 2020 fingerling releases and Adult 2021 outplanting above Hills Creek Reservoir is probable to cause a reduction in future juvenile outmigrants from Hills Creek Reservoir.

Sincerely,

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Chris Walker

NWP Operations Division Fishery Section

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