

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

COORDINATION TITLE - 15CGR02 Fish Facility Recycling

COORDINATION DATE- 23 June 2015

PROJECT- Cougar Dam

RESPONSE DATE - 10 July 2015

Description of the problem

On June 5, 2015, ODFW and NMFS submitted a proposal to USACE requesting a change to disposition procedures from previous years for returning adult spring Chinook. Under the protocol used in 2013 and 2014, natural origin returns are placed above the project without any recycling until September 1st, after which, if a natural origin adult fish return to the Cougar Adult Fish Facility (AFF), it is tagged and recycled. If the natural origin adult returns a second time to the Cougar AFF, it is placed above Cougar Dam. The protocols were based upon the results of the genetic pedigree study results from 2012 and 2013 which showed Cougar fish to predominately return before September 1st. However, there were still significant numbers of Chinook captured at Cougar trap that did not originate from above Cougar Dam. Given this issue and the lack of updated pedigree study results, ODFW/NMFS proposed that natural origin adult spring Chinook be tagged and released below the project in the South Fork McKenzie River (**see 15CGR02 attachment 1 ODFW/NMFS proposal, section A**) regardless of date. If tagged natural origin fish return to the Cougar Adult Fish Facility again they would be released upstream of the dam at levels detailed in the original protocol (i.e. 400 females, 200 males, supplemented with hatchery fish).

Type of outage required NA

Impact on facility operation Increased trucking and recycling will be necessary to recycle all fish. Protocol will be reviewed and managed adaptively as outlined in **15CGR02 attachment 1 ODFW/NMFS proposal, section B**). The genetic pedigree study results from 2014 and 2015 will inform management protocols for 2016, if and when the study is funded by the Corps.

Dates of impacts/repairs - June 18, 2015 through the 2015 adult fish collection season.

Length of time for repairs - NA

Expected impacts on fish passage

Protocol will protect natural origin fish that originated below Cougar Dam from being passed above Cougar Dam, where downstream passage survival is poor and replacement rates are less than 0.4.

Natural origin fish destined to spawn above Cougar Dam will be delayed. Fish will experience additional stress with increased handling during a low water year where temperatures are of concern. Further, it is uncertain how many natural origin spring Chinook will be passed above Cougar Dam because of the new protocol.

Comments from agencies

NWP-PM-E bios -----Original Message-----

From: Piaskowski, Richard M NWP

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 2:12 PM

To: Mackey, Tammy M NWP; Eppard, Matthew B NWP; Leonhardt, David S NWP; Taylor, Gregory A NWP; Bengtson, Dustin E NWP; Griffith, David W NWP; Khan, Fenton O NWP; Fielding, Scott D NWP; Rerecich, Jonathan G NWP; Walker, Ricardo NWP

Cc: Traylor, Andrew NWP; Walker, Christopher NWP; Chane, Ian B NWP

Subject: RE: Willamette: draft MOC 15CGR02 fish facility recycling - comments requested by COB on 25 June (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hi Tammy, Attached are comments routed within PM-E-FP bios on the Cougar Trap and Transport protocol changes, based on the draft 15CGR02 ODFW and NMFS MOC and associated docs you shared. We have integrated comments for the changes also approved by ODFW and NMFS at Leaburg Dam (dip netting to remove stray hatchery Chinook). Overall, the attached comments reiterate much of what we previously submitted to HMT regarding the Cougar Trap protocol changes. If you would like suggested edits on the MOC itself, please let us know. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Rich

NWP – see attachments 2 and 3

NMFS – See attachment 4

ODFW – See attachments 1 and 5

Final results – This action will proceed as coordinated.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jeff Ziller

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