

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE - 17CGR03 Cougar Fish Facility Protocols
(outplanting/recycling)
COORDINATION DATE - 6/20/2017
PROJECT - Cougar Dam
RESPONSE DATE - 7/17/2017

Description of the problem

Downstream fish passage conditions at Cougar Dam are currently too poor to support a self-sustaining sub-population of spring Chinook salmon. Therefore when adults originating from below the dam are transported above the dam, productivity of the McKenzie population is reduced. Various transport approaches for moving natural origin (unmarked) spring Chinook after collection at the Cougar Fish Facility have been implemented the last few years, with a goal to minimize transport of unmarked spring Chinook originating from below Cougar Dam upstream of the dam, and avoid “mining” from the downstream McKenzie spring Chinook salmon population. Please refer to past MOCs (16CGR02, 15CGR02) for additional background information.

As detailed in the 2017 disposition table, for the 2017 season, natural origin adult spring Chinook [captured at the Cougar Fish Facility](#) should be tagged and released below the project in the South Fork McKenzie River or in the Mainstem McKenzie River below the mouth of the South Fork McKenzie River 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 disposition table and draft HGMP (i.e. approximately 400 females, 200 males, supplemented with hatchery fish). This protocol is consistent with the McKenzie draft HGMP Appendix F that states that this protocol will be followed until pedigree analysis and other data indicate that an alternative protocol is warranted.

Type of outage/change required

The protocol for moving fish at the Cougar Fish Facility has changed the last few years and was documented in MOC 15CGR02 for the 2015 fish collection season and 16CGR 02 for the 2016 season. The protocol for 2017 is outlined in the 2017 disposition table and the McKenzie draft HGMP (http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20HMT/Fish%20Disposition/2017%20Disposition%20Table%203-20-17.xlsx).

Impact on facility operation

Trucking and recycling will be similar to levels that have been in place during the 2015 and 2016 season.

Dates of impacts/repairs

During the 2017 adult fish collection season through October 15.

Length of time for impacts/repairs

Implementation of proposed action will occur for the next several months through October 15.

Expected impacts on fish

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, which could impact spawning. Some natural origin fish that originated from above Cougar Dam will spawn below Cougar Dam in the South Fork McKenzie or the McKenzie River after being transported and released downstream, reducing population productivity above Cougar Dam. Fish will experience additional stress with increased handling.

Comments from agencies

Edits in track changes provided by Rich Piaskowski (USACE)
NMFS comments, Attachment 1

Final results

The protocol was implemented.

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