

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

**COORDINATION TITLE** – 19CGR04 changes in trout releases

**COORDINATION DATE** – 04 September 2019

**PROJECT** – Cougar Dam (Trout Stocking/Mitigation)

**RESPONSE DATE** – 18 September 2019

**Description of the problem** – ODFW has requested changes to trout stocking in the McKenzie River. In recent years, the McKenzie River Guides have expressed a desire to have fish reared within the McKenzie basin and released into the McKenzie River rather than fish from the Corps trout contract. One option for potentially alleviating their concerns is for ODFW and the Corps to re-evaluate their respective trout programs and find a way to equitably swap stocking so ODFW has responsibility for the McKenzie River trout stocking program.

In the past, ODFW was not agreeable to this option, however, ODFW has recently received funding and a signed lease for the operation of Leaburg. This has allowed ODFW the opportunity to explore this potential change and conduct a test during the 2019 late summer/early fall releases.

**Type of change required** –

**Remove McKenzie River Releases below from USACE stocking (ODFW will stock)**

Date	Location	Number	Pounds	Fish/lb	Current Hatchery	Proposed Hatchery
9/5/19	McKenzie below Leaburg Pool	2000	1000	2	Desert Springs	Leaburg
9/12/19	McKenzie above Leaburg Pool	1833	917	2	Desert Springs	Leaburg
Totals		3833	1917			

**Add Release below (USACE stocking)**

Week of	Location	Number	Pounds	Fish/lb	Current Hatchery	Proposed Hatchery
9/30/19	Cottage Grove Reservoir	1917	1917	1	Leaburg	Desert Springs

**Impact on facility operation** - This change will require a contract modification. It is not anticipated that this would require additional funding.

**Dates of impacts** – September 2019

**Length of time of the impacts** – This is set up as a test for 2019 but may become a permanent change for 2020 and beyond.

**Analysis of potential impacts to fish**

1. The proposed change in the size of fish at release from the currently scheduled 2.0 fish/lbs. to the new weight of 1.0 fish/lbs. will result in a reduction of 1,916 fewer fish being released although the total poundage remains the same.
2. The proposed exchange does not affect the total numbers or timing of fish released into the two waterbodies, only the hatchery of origin. We theorize that anglers will see an overall increase in catch and that at a minimum there will be no net effect to the fishery.

**Summary statement - expected impacts on the fish/program :**

- 1) **The end user's fishing experience may be enhanced.**
- 2) **The contractor - Summer Lake Trout Farm has agreed to a no-cost contract modification.**
- 3) **Pilot Year results likely may influence future trout release schedules.**

**Comments from agencies**

ODFW is supportive of this exchange and will evaluate the angler response to the release of McKenzie River reared trout into the McKenzie River.

**Final coordination results**

Changes implemented as coordinated

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,