United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
1211 SE Cardinal Court, Suite 100
Vancouver, Washington 98683-9658

March 9, 2018

Joyce Casey
Chief, Environmental Resources Branch
Portland District
US Army Corps of Engineers

Dear Ms. Casey,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 60% Design Documentation Report (DDR) for Phase I Downstream Fish Passage – Selective Withdrawal Structure at Detroit Dam. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife provides comments below for your consideration in the development of the 90% DDR. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Hudson
Fish Biologist

EC: Jon Rerecich, Rich Piaskowski, USACE
Diana Dishman, NMFS
Bernadette Graham Hudson, Kelly Reis, ODFW
Nancy Gramlich, ODEQ
Lawrence Schwabe, CTGR
Leslie Bach, NPCC
Christine Peterson, BPA
Rollie White, Chris Allen, USFWS

Thank you for your comments. USACE responses follow each comment.

Comments:

Section 1 – Purpose and Introduction

1.3.2. Page 1-2. The following language is from HD531, "However, the necessity for operating most of the sub-basin projects according to local considerations is apparent. The Willamette Valley project, for example, must be operated primarily in the interest of the Willamette Valley, since its contribution to regional or lower Columbia flood control is negligible, and the 387,000 kilowatts installed capacity in the sub-basin plan is very small compared to that provided in the main control plan. Coordination as regards power requirements, between the Willamette Valley hydroelectric installations and the balance of the basin, however, should and will be effected, but as a secondary consideration, and subject to the primary purpose of these projects to provide for flood control and water conservation in the Willamette Valley.", indicates the primary purpose is flood control and water conservation. That being said, the purpose and function of Detroit Reservoir is laid out in "Authorized and Operating Purposes of Corps of Engineers Reservoirs" (Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1992), with the operating and authorized purposes of flood control, irrigation, hydroelectric power, recreation, navigation, fish/wildlife, and water quality. Given that this project is proceeding to benefit multiple species of fish, we recommend specifically including fish/wildlife in the two places in this section that list purposes and functions.

Fish and wildlife was added to the list of authorized purposes.

1.5. Page 1-3. It would be appropriate to list all regularly participating member agencies/entities of the WFFDWG.

The regularly participating members of WFFDWG has been updated in the text.

Section 2 – Biological Design Considerations and Criteria

2.1.4 Page 2-3, second paragraph. "numerous kokanee" is vague.

Stocked rainbow trout and kokanee numbers have been updated.

2.1.6. Page 2-3. Italicize scientific names of species here and elsewhere.

Scientific names have been italicized.

2.1.7. Page 2-10. Please reference current temperature control criteria in Table 5-1.

Text added to 2.1.5 and 2.1.10. pointing the reader to Section 5, the WFOP, and Table 5-1 for current temperature control criteria.

Section 5 – Water Quality

5.4.1. Page 5-23. Last sentence. "However, these elevated concentrations should dissipate downstream before the river reaches Minto (4.0 miles downstream of Big Cliff)." I am not sure that we know this. TDG monitoring at Niagara shows much elevated TDG levels at times. Recommend rephrasing to acknowledge that it is unknown to what degree these elevated concentrations dissipate, and at what point that occurs. There is current research being implemented to further investigate this.

Concerns over the statement "these elevated concentrations should dissipate downstream before the river reaches Minto (4.0 miles downstream of Big Cliff)" were expressed. The Corps has completed multiple studies on TDG in the North Santiam below Detroit/Big Cliff and continues to work with USGS on monitoring at Niagara, immediately downstream of Big Cliff. This statement is accurate, but could be expanded upon and better explained with graphics showing data from the studies mentioned. We will include more information regarding this topic to help explain better.

Section 9 – Environmental and Cultural Resources

9.3.2. Please change Lane County to Marion County.

9.3.2. If you are doing this by county, the following species are also listed as threatened (T), endangered (E), or proposed (P) in Marion County: North American wolverine (P), Water howellia (T), Streaked Horned lark (T), Bradshaw's desert-parsley (E), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (T), Marbled murrelet (T), Nelson's checker-mallow (T), golden paintbrush (T), Willamette daisy (E), Kincaid's Lupine (T). (Source – Center for Biological Diversity - http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/T_and_E_map/)

County errors have been fixed and the list of species has been updated.

Section 15 – Hydrologic Design

15.3. Is there a need for a climate change section under the hydrological summary, capturing potential impacts to future hydrology due to changing precipiation patterns? This was captured in the water quality-temperature section. Seems relevant here too.

The revised section will include a brief discussion about climate change.


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