# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 21AppB001 – LMN Condition Monitoring

**Date Submitted**: 21 April 2021

**Project**: Lower Monumental Dam (Appendix B)

**Requester Name, Agency**: Trevor Conder, NOAA Fisheries

**Final Action: Moved to Appendix J**

**FPP Section**: Appendix B – Transport Plan, sections 4.1 and 4.6.

**Justification for Change**: NOAA requires that the Action Agencies monitor and document the condition (e.g., descaling and injury) of smolts at all dams with JBS systems, identify potential problems, and evaluate solutions. At Lower Monumental Dam, the FPP does not stipulate the level of monitoring necessary for the entire year to achieve the condition monitoring goals, since the Smolt Monitoring Program index sampling has been sufficient. Regional fish managers are reviewing and considering removing the SMP program from Lower Monumental Dam. In addition, transport operations are planned to pause on June 21 and resume on August 1.

With the potential to remove the SMP sampling, and pause transport, it is necessary to develop minimum condition monitoring criteria in the FPP for Lower Monumental Dam.

The condition monitoring program is intended to monitor the condition of smolts and to identify and correct problems within the bypass system. The condition monitoring program is not intended to estimate the size, timing, or condition of the population of fish arriving at any particular project. Further, condition monitoring is not conducted to sample fish for other purposes, and separate take permits are necessary if additional fish will need to be sampled for other research purposes. The sample number, frequency, and holding time of smolts should be managed in a way that balances the needs of the program with the potential impact to the resource. For condition monitoring purposes, more frequent sampling (e.g., every other day) may be necessary when debris loads are high, and the potential for debris blockages in the bypass are more likely. Conversely, periods of low debris probability with higher temperatures should consider lower sampling frequency (e.g., two days per week) to reduce handling impacts to the resource.

*NOTE: this change form was originally submitted for Appendix B (Transport). Since that time, a new section for the Snake projects was added to Appendix J (Smolt Facility Protocols), so this content will be moved there. See Change Form 21AppJ002.*

**Proposed Change**: *See following pages.*

**Comments**:

May 13, 2021 – FPOM Meeting: WA, ID, USFWS were all in support. Wright will follow up with OR and CRITFC who were not on the call.

May 13, 2021 – email from Erick Van Dyke, OR: “Reading through this change form I see a lot of what is not expected and am unsure that it gets to what discussion have been considering for how condition monitoring staff will be achieve. So I am suggesting this be held until next FPOM. Thanks for your patients.”

June 10, 2021 – email from Erick Van Dyke, OR: “I am still not ready to endorse the change form as written. I feel the justification is good but what follows is more prescriptive of Transport operations than condition sampling. I would recommend this change form move to a stand-alone condition sampling section that provides guidance that fit the justification section. Appreciate your consideration. The attached is comments to the current draft. I did not attempt to draft new language to fit my recommendation, seemed premature. Happy to work with others to get closer to a change that guides condition sampling.”

**Record of Final Action**: Moved to Appendix J (see Change Form 21AppJ002)

Appendix B – Transport Plan

4. OPERATING CRITERIA

4.1. Early Season Pre-Transport Operations

Prior to initiation of transport, or when fish are not being transported from the Snake River projects, fish collection facilities will be operated as described in **Appendix J** (Smolt Facility Protocols).

4.6. Summer Transport Operations

4.6.6. At Lower Monumental Dam, collection of fish for *truck* transport will stop when daily collection is less than 50 fish per day for 3 consecutive days. The facility will continue to collect fish for condition sampling through September 30. If collection numbers increase substantially, TMT will be notified and will determine whether to recommend resuming transport.