# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 21LWG004 – RSW Operation in August

**Date Submitted**: 4 January 2021

**Project**: Lower Granite

**Requester Name, Agency**: FPOM (in-season adaptive management coordinated in 2020)

**Final Action: APPROVED – 11 February 2021**

**FPP Section**:

Lower Granite section 2.3.2.7. RSW Operating Criteria.

**Justification for Change**:

The current FPP establishes criteria to close the Lower Granite RSW during summer spill when flows drop below 30 kcfs.

In 2020, the operation was modified to keep the RSW open through August 31 in order to maintain PIT-tag detections. This in-season modification was implemented at the recommendation of regional salmon managers via [SOR 2020-5](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2020/0807_Agenda.html), as coordinated at the TMT meeting on August 7, 2020.

This change form also adds spill for steelhead to the RSW operation and clarifies that the estimated RSW spill rate is based on the forebay in MOP.

**Proposed Change**:

If FPOM recommends incorporating this modified operation into the 2021 FPP, the language would be edited as shown below in track changes. Otherwise, modifications will need to be coordinated in-season.

**2.3.2.7. Removable Spillway Weir (RSW).**

Lower Granite Dam has one removable spillway weir (RSW) that provides a surface passage route via spillbay 1. The RSW is opened and closed from the control room and spills approximately 6.8 kcfs when the forebay elevation is in the MOP range.

The RSW will be raised and operational throughout spring and summer spill for juvenile fish passage (**Appendix E**)and during spill for adult steelhead (**section 2.2**). Raise the spill gate to where it does not touch flow passing down the RSW (at least nine stops) and distribute spill according to patterns in **Table LWG-7**. If river flow is too low to maintain RSW spill and minimum generation requirements, close the RSW and distribute spill according to “No RSW” patterns in **Table LWG-8**.

During high flows, if the Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) inflow forecast for Lower Granite is above 200 kcfs, coordinate with RCC and CENWW-OD-T to initiate aggressive forebay debris removal so that RSW operation will not be impeded. If inflow exceeds 260 kcfs, the upstream river gauge flow is increasing, and the NWRFC inflow forecast is above 300 kcfs, stow the RSW (complete rotation to the landing pad).

When not spilling, the RSW may be operated for short durations during low flows at the request of the Project biologist through CENWW if it appears the juvenile fish transportation facility and barge holding capacities will be exceeded, as described in the *Juvenile Fish Transportation Plan* (**Appendix B**).

**Comments**:

28-JAN-2021 FPOM FPP Meeting:

Lorz is tentatively supportive but wants to think more on this. He’ll bring it to FPAC for more discussion.

PENDING further review. To be discussed at FPOM on 2/11.

11-FEB-2021 FPOM:

Morrill supports implementing this operation again this year.

Ebel supports. The value of the PIT-tag data is worth it.

Swank supports. We can always change in-season if there’s a problem.

Conder asked about the intent of the criteria to close the spillway weirs below 30 kcfs. Peery responded that it’s to improve tailrace hydraulics and temperature.

Lorz and Conder support doing this again this year, then re-evaluating.

**Record of Final Action**: Approved at the FPOM meeting on 11-FEB-2021.