# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 22JDA001 – John Day Condition Sampling

**Date Submitted**: 9-November-2021

**Project**: John Day Dam

**Requester Name, Agency**: Scott Fielding, Corps JDA

**Final Action: APPROVED 10-February-2022**

**FPP Section**: JDA section 2.3.2.3 Smolt Monitoring Facility

**Justification for Change**:

Sampling at John Day Dam has gone through different iterations since the construction of the Smolt Monitoring Facility (SMF) in 1997. The original sampling strategy was 24-hour sampling every day and that continued until 2015. In 2015, NOAA Fisheries provided a memorandum about concerns of fish handling and holding at John Day Dam. The concern was the amount of fish being handled and held during the everyday 24-hour sampling. This led to sampling 24-hours every-other day.

John Day Fisheries proposes a new sampling strategy that would further reduce the number of fish being handled and held. The new sampling strategy would be 6–8-hour sampling Monday through Friday. The target would be 100 fish of the predominate species for condition monitoring. Condition monitoring would provide information about the Juvenile Bypass System (JBS). The JBS is an important passage route at John Day Dam with high survival for juvenile migrants. Condition sampling is one of the tools used to monitor conditions and overall health of fish passing through the JBS.

**Proposed Change**: See following page with edits to existing FPP text in “track changes.”

2.3.2.3. Smolt Monitoring Facility (SMF) From April 1 – September 15, Project fish personnel will monitor the SMF 10 hours/day, 5 days/week, to ensure proper functioning and to respond quickly in the event of an emergency. From April 1 – June 15, condition sampling will occur five days/week (Monday through Friday) for 6-8 hours with a target of 100 fish of the predominate species. From June 16 – September 15, condition sampling will occur three days/week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) for 6-8 hours with a target of 100 fish of the predominant species. On-site staff will perform a walking inspection of the entire SMF system every two hours to ensure safe fish passage conditions. The system will be fully staffed while the SMF is in operation (i.e., crest gate deployed and secondary dewatering structure receiving fish-laden flow). When the SMF is in bypass mode, Project Fisheries staff will continue to perform daily inspections of the JBS to ensure the system is operating within criteria. To ensure proper function of sampling system, staff will pay particular attention to the following:

1. Dewatering facilities, including screens, free of holes or gaps, and the screen cleaner brush system.
2. All valves and auxiliary water systems.
3. Flushing water valves and perforated plates.
4. All gates, including crest, tainter, switch, and rotating gates.
5. Fish/debris separator, including perforated plates and adult passage chamber.
6. PIT-tag detectors.
7. All sampling building systems, including holding tanks, valves, and conduits.
8. During low to normal debris loads, the Primary Dewatering Structure (PDS) sweepers will be cycled twice per shift (six times per day). If higher debris loads, the frequency of screen sweeper cycling will be increased as determined by the Project Fisheries inspection.
9. The fish/debris separator will be visually inspected every 30 minutes to prevent injury and/or mortality to fish. During high debris loading periods (likely during spring runoff), additional personnel may be required to keep the separator free of any obstructions to fish passage. The Project Biologist will decide to assign a person to remove debris from the separator for as long as necessary to ensure the safety of passing fish.
10. When water temperatures are ≥ 70°F, all fish handling to remove adult fish from the PDS area will be coordinated through FPOM. The condition sampling will be reduced to two days per week (Monday and Thursday) until water temperatures drop below 69.5°F.

**Comments**:

1/27/22 FPOM FPP Meeting:

Fielding wants to ensure no issues in JBS, that's why 5 days/wk. Reduces handling compared to 7 days/wk by putting significantly less fish over the separator.

Van Dyke needs to run this through policy.

Ebel supports reducing handling even further to 3 days/wk. Most fish are going over spillway anyway. Strike the balance between evaluating condition appropriately and minimizing handling.

Lorz – JDA has a track record of issues discovered during condition monitoring. Also valuable for lamprey monitoring. In the future, reducing further makes sense. For now, 5 days is good then can pare down in the future. He's fine with it as proposed.

Conder - the min criteria at JDA is a little low. Good idea to have higher frequency of 5 days/wk but ok with 3 days/wk.

Bellerud is ok with 5 or 3 days/wk. Reducing handling is important. Could start with 3 days then add language to increase frequency if needed.

Morrill - important to monitor condition to see if there are problems that need correcting. “But I’m not clear on monitoring for 10 hours per day and Condition Monitoring for 6 to 8 hours per day – 100 fish of predominant species – could lead to samples of 300 or more fish pending relative abundance.”

Fielding – yes, 100 fish is the target but it could be more than that.

Lorz will need to run reduced monitoring by policy. Can BPA transfer sampling $ to MCN?

Mackey - Corps is obligated to condition monitor to ensure safe passage at JDA for juvenile salmon. Need to determine what is minimum condition sampling at JDA to meet that obligation. When lamprey need more monitoring, we can coordinate that.

Lorz - excluding lamprey, he still prefers 5 days to keep on top of problems.

Mackey agrees. JDA has a history of weird problems caught only by condition monitoring.

Grosvenor - much more comfortable with 5 days/wk.

Conder - leaning that way.

Morrill - concurs with that. Based on project's experience, how about stick with 5 days/wk for this year.

Bellerud - sampling has a guaranteed impact, vs probability of occasional incidents that might have an impact due to a delayed reaction. There is a take associated with monitoring.

Ebel - agrees. Checking for an impact has an impact. Known impact vs rare potential impact.

Fielding – they proposed 5 days/wk for comfort level but 3 days is adequate. Given debris loads in the spring, 5 days is better with known issues. Next year, if no issues or collecting too many fish, then can go down to 3 safely.

Conder - a debris blockage on an off day could kill a bunch of fish before it's noticed. Could we target high debris periods for higher frequency?

Grosvenor - makes sense. How about 5 days/wk during spring, then 3 days/wk starting June 16.

Wright edited to make that change.

Lorz can live with that, just needs to run it through his folks.

Van Dyke also needs to coordinate internally.

PENDING further review and discussion at Feb 10 FPOM.

2/10/22 FPOM FPP Meeting:

Lorz - can sampling be in the morning if requested for lamprey?

Mackey - up to discretion of JDA Fisheries.

Fielding - can have that discussion.

Porter – would like to leave the option open for them to request a sampling time that would help with lamprey (rather than having the sampling time defined in the FPP).

**Record of Final Action**:

Approved as revised at the 1/27/22 FPOM FPP meeting (5 days/week April 1-June 15 and 3 days/week June 16-Sep 15).

This language has also been added to Appendix J – see Change Form 22AppJ001.