# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 22MCN001 – Surface Spill for Adult Steelhead Overshoots

**Date Submitted**: 10-November-2021

**Project**: McNary

**Requester Name, Agency**: Lisa Wright, Corps RCC

**Final Action: APPROVED 27-January-2022**

**FPP Section**: MCN section 2.2 “Spill Management”

**Justification for Change**: Changes 2022 dates of surface spill for adult steelhead to comply with the Agreement for short-term operations of the CRS, which states:

“**B. Planned Fall/Winter Spill Operations.** *1. From September 1, 2022 to November 15, 2022 and March 1, 2023 to the start of the spring fish passage spill season in April 2023, the Corps will provide surface oriented spill at least three times each week on non-consecutive days for 4 hours each morning (generally between 0500 and 1100) through a spillway weir at each of the following five dams: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, Ice Harbor, and McNary. 2. Except as modified herein, the Corps shall conduct the planned fall-winter spill operation as outlined in Term and Condition 1.G of NMFS’s 2020 CRS Incidental Take Statement.*”

**Proposed Change**:

2.2. Spill Management

**2.2.2.** Surface spill will be implemented at McNary and the four lower Snake River dams as a means of providing non-powerhouse downstream passage for adult steelhead that overshoot natal tributaries prior to spawning or that strive to repeat a subsequent reproduction cycle (iteroparity). This operation is pursuant to non-discretionary terms and conditions in the 2020 NOAA Fisheries Columbia River System (CRS) Biological Opinion[[1]](#footnote-1), which calls for surface spill via the spillway weir at each of the five projects from March 1 through March 30 and from October 1 through November 15, three times each week on non-consecutive days for four hours in the morning (generally between 05:00 and 11:00). This operation is also considered in the 2020 USFWS CRS Biological Opinion[[2]](#footnote-2) as a means of providing safe and effective downstream passage for adult steelhead and other fish.

1. In 2022, surface spill in the fall will begin September 1 (instead of October 1) to comply with the Agreement for short-term operations of the Columbia River System (CRS).[[3]](#footnote-3) As such, in 2022, surface spill for adult steelhead will occur March 1–30 and September 1–November 15.

**Comments**:

1/27/22 FPOM FPP Meeting:

Van Dyke requested more specificity on the reason for this operation and its benefit to iteroparity (repeat spawning). Provided edits incorporated.

**Record of Final Action**: Approved as revised at the FPOM FPP meeting 1/27/22.

1. NOAA CRS BiOp, section 2.17.4.G, “*Reduce Take of Overshoot Adult Steelhead*”: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/109136871> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. USFWS CRS BiOp, section 5.7.4, “*Off-season Surface Spill for Downstream Passage of Adult Steelhead*”: <https://ecos.fws.gov/tails/pub/document/17101031> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See section B on page 2 of the Term Sheet (PDF page 7): http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/JointMotion\_TermSheet\_CourtOrder\_OCT2021.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)