

# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

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**Change Form # & Title:** 25IHR001 – Spill Operations  
**Date Submitted:** 11-DEC-2024  
**Project:** IHR  
**Requester Name, Agency:** Lisa Wright, Corps RCC  
**Final Action:**

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**FPP SECTION:** Chapter 6 (IHR), sections 2.2. Spill Management and 2.3.2.6. RSW.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE:** Removes outdated information regarding surface spill and points to the FOP for all spill operations, March 1-November 15 (spring spill, summer spill, and fall/winter surface spill). The dates for surface spill have been expanded per the 2023 MOU and the operation is no longer explicitly for “adult steelhead overshoots” as originally defined in the BiOp.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** *Edits to existing FPP text in “track changes”.*

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## **2.2. Spill Management**

**2.2.1.** Spill operations for fish passage ([spring spill, summer spill, and fall/winter surface spill](#)) are defined in the *Fish Operations Plan* (FOP), which is included in the Fish Passage Plan as **Appendix E**.

~~**2.2.2. Surface Spill for Adult Steelhead Overshoots.** Surface spill will be implemented at John Day, McNary, and the four lower Snake River dams as described in the FOP (**Appendix E**) and summarized below to provide 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 was first implemented in fall of 2020 at McNary and the four lower Snake projects March 1–30 and October 1–November 15 for 4 hours in the morning, 3 non-consecutive days a week, pursuant to terms and conditions in the 2020 NOAA Fisheries Columbia River System (CRS) Biological Opinion. This operation is also considered in the 2020 USFWS CRS Biological Opinion as a means of providing safe and effective downstream passage for adult steelhead and other fish.~~

~~**2.2.2.1.** Starting in 2024, this operation will be expanded pursuant to the “U.S. Government Commitments in Support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative”, as included in the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)<sup>4</sup>. Details of this operation are defined in the FOP (see section 6 of **Appendix E**) and summarized below:~~

- ~~• March 1–20: RSW for 4 hours in the morning, 7 days/week.~~
- ~~• March 21–April 9: RSW 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.~~
- ~~• September 1–November 15: RSW for 4 hours in the morning, 7 days/week.~~

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<sup>4</sup>See “Fall/Winter Spill Operations” in Attachment 2, Appendix B of the MOU, page 88 of 92 (pdf page 141): [pweb.crohms.org/tmt/JointMotion\\_TermSheet\\_CourtOrder\\_and\\_Extensions\\_2023\\_and\\_Stay\\_Motion\\_MOU\\_2450-1.pdf](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/JointMotion_TermSheet_CourtOrder_and_Extensions_2023_and_Stay_Motion_MOU_2450-1.pdf)

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

i. Ice Harbor Dam has one removable spillway weir (RSW) in spillbay 2 that, when open, provides a surface route for fish passage. The RSW can be opened and closed from the control room.

ii. The spill rate through the RSW is a function of the forebay elevation – as the pool elevation increases, more water is spilled over the RSW:

IHR Forebay Elevation (ft)	RSW Spill Rate (kcfs)
437	7.1
437.5	7.6
438	8.1
438.5	8.7
439	9.2
439.5	9.8
440	10.4

iii. The RSW will be in the raised position and operational during spill for fish passage ([spring spill, summer spill, and fall/winter surface spill](#)), as defined in the [FOP \(Appendix E\)](#):

- Raise the spill gate to where it does not touch flow passing down the RSW.
- During high flows, if the Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) inflow forecast for Ice Harbor is above 200 kcfs, coordinate with RCC and CENWW-OD-T to initiate aggressive forebay debris removal to avoid impeding RSW operation. 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).
- During summer spill (June 21-August 31), when daily average total project outflow is less than 30 kcfs and the inflow forecast remains below 30 kcfs for at least three days on a declining hydrograph, close the RSW and spill according to patterns with no RSW. If daily average project outflow subsequently increases above 30 kcfs and the inflow forecast remains above 30 kcfs for at least three days, re-open the RSW. Continue to open and close the RSW according to these criteria throughout summer spill.

**COMMENTS:**

**RECORD OF FINAL ACTION:**