

Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

Change Form # & Title: 25LWG001 – Spill Operations
Date Submitted: 11-DEC-2024
Project: LWG
Requester Name, Agency: Lisa Wright, Corps RCC
Final Action:

FPP SECTION: Chapter 9 (LWG), 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JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE: Removes outdated information regarding surface spill and points to the FOP for all spill operations, March 1-November 15 (spring spill, summer spill, and fall/winter surface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”.*

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)⁴. 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.~~

⁴ 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

2.3.2.6. Removable Spillway Weir (RSW).

i. Lower Granite Dam has one removable spillway weir (RSW) in spillbay 1 that 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:

| LWG Forebay Elevation (ft) | RSW Spill Rate (kcfs) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 733 | 5.6 |
| 733.5 | 6.1 |
| 734 | 6.6 |
| 734.5 | 7.1 |
| 735 | 7.6 |
| 735.5 | 8.2 |
| 736 | 8.8 |
| 736.5 | 9.4 |
| 737 | 10.0 |
| 737.5 | 10.7 |
| 738 | 11.4 |

iii. The RSW will be raised 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 (at least nine stops) and distribute spill according to patterns in **Table LWG-7**.
- During high flow, 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).
- If river flow is too low to maintain RSW spill and minimum generation requirements, close the RSW and spill the remaining outflow according to “No RSW” patterns in **Table LWG-8**. Re-open the RSW if flows increase sufficiently to support both RSW spill and minimum generation. The intent is to keep the RSW open to maintain PIT-tag detection to the extent possible as flows allow.

iv. When not spilling for fish passage, 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:

RECORD OF FINAL ACTION: