

Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

Change Form # & Title: 25MCN001 – Spill Operations
Date Submitted: 11-DEC-2024
Project: MCN
Requester Name, Agency: Lisa Wright, Corps RCC
Final Action:

FPP SECTION: Chapter 5 (MCN), sections 2.2. Spill Management and 2.3.2.6 TSWs.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE: Removes outdated information regarding surface spill and points to the FOP for all spill operations, March 1-November 15 (spring spill, summer spill, and fall/winter surface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 surface spill dates 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**. Spill at McNary Dam will be distributed in interim modified spill patterns as defined below in **section 2.2.54**.

~~**2.2.3. 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.~~

~~**2.2.3.1.** 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: Bay 20 TSW for 4 hours in the morning, 7 days/week.~~
- ~~• March 21–April 9: Bay 20 TSW 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.~~
- ~~• September 1–November 15: Bay 20 TSW 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. Temporary Spillway Weirs (TSW).

- i. McNary Dam has two temporary, or top, spillway weirs (TSWs) in spillbays 19 and 20 that provide surface routes for fish passage.
- ii. The TSWs can be opened and closed from the control room (unless they are attached to a crane, then a crane operator is required).
- iii. The spill rate through each TSW is approximately 9.6 kcfs (19.2 kcfs total).
- iv. The process to remove the TSWs and re-install standard spill gate sections in bays 19, 20 may take up to 5 workdays.
- v. Spring and summer spill for fish passage will occur with both TSWs open per spill patterns in **Table MCN-7**, or the relevant Manual/Auto spill patterns in **Table MCN-11** (see **section 2.2.4**).
- vi. Both TSWs will be in service [during spring and summer spill for fish passage](#), April 10 through August 31. ~~The One~~ TSW in spillbay 20 will be operated ~~for adult steelhead during fall/winter surface spill from~~ March 1 through April 9 and September 1 through November 15, ~~as defined above in section 2.2.2, per All spill operations for fish passage are defined in~~ the FOP (**Appendix E**).

COMMENTS:

RECORD OF FINAL ACTION: