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Just a few comments on the water management plan.

Page 30

5.4.4.1 Spawning Phase

During the spawning phase of the Bonneville/Ives Island chum salmon life cycle, the tailwater elevation will be held at minimum of 11.5 – 11.7 feet during the daylight hours and 15.1 feet (~175 – 182) during night time hours. A steady tailwater elevation is preferred to support spawning, but a higher nighttime tailwater elevation is used to try to limit spawning to the 11.5 – 11.7 elevation during daylight hours. It is believed chum spawn more actively during daylight hours. This operation is generally requested (per the 2004 UPA and BiOp) to begin by TMT when a significant number of chum salmon present are spawning. Normally this occurs in the first week of November but can occur in Late October

Page 47.

12.6 Vernita Bar Protection Flows

Flow management occurs from Priest Rapids Dam in the fall to ensure that fall Chinook salmon establish redds (spawn) at an elevation that enables the redds to have a high likelihood of not being dewatered prior to emergence of fry. Normally daytime flows are regulated to a range between 50 and 70 kcfs during October and November when redds are being established. However the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Plan Agreement allowed for alternative flow programs to be evaluated during 2005 and 2006. The flow program evaluated this year allowed for two flow spikes during the morning and late afternoon hours. Flows were regulated below 70 kcfs between these periods but the daytime flow peaks reached as high as 160 kcfs. Flow fluctuations are limited from the time of fish emergence in early April through early June.

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