

Idaho Department of Fish and Game is submitting these comments on the 2nd draft of the 2011 Water Management Plan. We appreciate and acknowledge that most of our edits to the first draft were accepted. There is only one edit that was not accepted that we believe is important enough that we would like to discuss further and have you reconsider. Our concern is that the sentences describing the purpose of operating the lower Snake River projects within 1 ft. of Minimum Operating Pool does not include the benefit of assisting the flow augmentation from Dworshak Reservoir in moderating summer temperatures in the lower Snake River. We note that the FCRPS Biological Assessment on page B.2.1-24 while discussing the use of Dworshak summer flow augmentation for temperature moderation includes this benefit: "Additionally, the Lower Snake River MOP operation reduces the reservoir cross-section and surface area, which is another tool to assist in moderating temperatures." We therefore still believe that the sentence in each lower Snake River Dam section (6.10.1, 6.11.1, 6.12.1, and 6.13.1) that describes the purpose of MOP operations should be: "The purpose of this action is to provide a smaller reservoir cross section to reduce juvenile salmon travel time, reduce flow fluctuations, and increase the effectiveness of Dworshak summer flow augmentation in cooling the lower Snake River."