

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2006-5

The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

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Russell B. Kiefer

FROM: Russ Kiefer, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: April 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Snake River Transportation of Juvenile Salmonids

SPECIFICATIONS: According to the Court Order transportation is to begin at the Snake River transportation sites on April 20, 2006. Delay initiation of transportation of juvenile salmonids until April 24 at Little Goose Dam and April 28 at Lower Monumental Dam.

JUSTIFICATION: It would be appropriate to allow those fish bypassed back to the river at Lower Granite Dam to continue to travel in river through the Lower Snake River hydrosystem prior to initiating transportation at Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams. Implementing a staggered initiation of transportation at collection sites downriver of Lower Granite Dam is a reasonable approach for 2006. The present data is showing a median travel time between Lower Granite Dam and Lower Monumental Dam of approximately 8 days for hatchery and wild yearling spring/summer Chinook. This suggests that transport operations should be phased in after 4 days at Little Goose Dam and after 8 days at Lower Monumental Dam.