

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: 2015-02

TO:

BG John S. Kem **COE-NWD Commander**
COL John G. Buck **COE-NWS Commander**
David Combs **COE-NWD-PDD Chief**
Steven Barton **COE-NWD-PDW Chief**
Rock Peters **COE-NWD-PDD**
William Proctor **COE-NWD-PDW-RC**
Doug Baus **COE-NWD-PDW-RC**
Karl Kanbergs **COE-NWD-PDW-RC**
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John Roache **USBR-PN-6208**
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Robyn MacKay **BPA-PGB**
Tony Norris **BPA-PGPO-5**
Scott Bettin **BPA-KEWR-4**

FROM: Kootenai Tribe of Idaho; Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Department Director

DATE: May 6, 2015

SUBJECT: September / October 2015 Libby Dam Outflow for Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project, Bonners Ferry Island Project

SPECIFICATIONS:

Release 6,000 cfs or less from Libby Dam during September and October, 2015.

Provide gradually declining discharge to the target flow following ramping rate guidelines in the 2006 USFWS BiOp for bull trout and white sturgeon.

JUSTIFICATION:

Low flows in the Kootenai River in September and October are requested to allow the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's contractor to implement in-water work associated with the Bonners Ferry Island Project during September and October, 2015. The project objectives include construction of two islands on existing mid-channel bars (increased elevation of 5-8 feet, ~18 total acres), excavation of three deep pools (20-30 feet deep, ~5 total acres), construction of two large and two smaller pool-

forming structures, and bank grading and revegetation (~3,400 feet on south bank and ~2,500 feet on north bank). This project will be implemented over two construction seasons in 2015 and 2016. The 2015 work will include the island construction, excavation of two pools, and bank grading and revegetation on the north bank of the river.

The proposed operation will ensure Action Agency compliance with the USFWS Biological Opinion regarding the Effects of Libby Dam Operations on the Kootenai River White Sturgeon, Bull Trout, and Kootenai Sturgeon Critical Habitat (1901F0279R) as clarified (2008). Action 2.1 under RPA Component 2 (Management of Sturgeon Habitat) calls for Action Agency cooperation in implementing the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's Kootenai River Restoration Project Master Plan.