



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: March 3, 2017

Subject: Action Notes from March 3, 2017, FPAC special meeting

On March 3, 2017 at 2pm, FPAC met for a special conference call to discuss Dworshak Operations. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)	Sheri Sears (Colville Tribe)
Margaret Filardo (FPC)	Howard Schaller (USFWS)
Dave Benner (FPC)	Russ Kiefer (IDFG)
Erick Van Dyke (ODFW)	Becky Johnson (Nez Perce Tribe)
Dave Swank (USFWS)	Steve Rodgers (Hatchery)
Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe)	Mark Robertson (L. Snake Comp)
Dave Statler (Nez Perce Tribe)	Andy Goodwin (USFWS)
Charlie Morrill (WDFW)	Marilyn Blair (USFWS)

AGENDA ITEMS

- At this morning's TMT conference call, Dave Benner explained an analysis that the FPC had provided to FPAC for consideration. FPAC's preferred approach is illustrated in the fourth scenario and is based upon higher water inflow (year 1985), with an earlier runoff and aims to meet April 30th flood control targets instead of April 15th. This operation considers the flexibility present in the system from the significant space that is presently in Dworshak to address flood control. This operation would avoid the extreme drain and fill operation that would result from the COE's present flood control operation.

- After caucusing at TMT the COE rejected the FPAC preference AND put forth two options of immediately increasing outflow to reach the end of March and April 15th flood control elevations. These were: (1.) Start 17 Kcfs right away and hold or (2.) Increase 1 Kcfs per day up to a discharge of 22 Kcfs.
- The consensus of the Hatchery Group was Option #2, which would give them time to evaluate effectiveness of degassers, potential forecast changes, and to continue debating merits of early releases.
- Becky Johnson stated that will likely loose fish either way, the best thing now is to learn how well degassers work, etc. considering Unit #3 art Dworshak is expected to go out again in several years. Becky noted that past releases have shown that early released fish do not survive well in river, or to adulthood. Consequently, the early releases of non smolted fish are not preferred. Fish losses could not be measured if fish released in river since PIT-detectors not operational until 3/25/17. If there are losses at the hatchery the actual loss can be quantified.
- IDFGs initial reaction was to choose Option 1 and recommend the 17 Kcfs flat operation.
- Erick V.Dyke (ODFW) asked what monitoring in river will be going on. Nez Perce will work with COE to monitor TDG at multiple locations.
- Nez Perce will have beach seining after flows drop.
- Jay Hesse (N Perce) asked if ESA take is consider this year for flood control operation with no Unit #3.
- Jay Hesse (N Perce) also asked if this issue would be worth raising to RIOG. Paul Wagner stated RIOG would likely maintain current operation. No one will raise to RIOG.
- Most FPAC members preferred an operation like Plot #4 of FPC memo. Coe should still evaluate risks associated with Option #4.

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the Fish Passage Advisory Committee.