

Lower Snake River Objectives

Paul Wagner NMFS February 7, 2000

Manage reservoirs to be as full as possible by the start of the migration season.

Determine available water supply for the migration year.

Assure contracts are in place to provide 427 kaf from upper Snake River storage.

Shift flood control releases to the maximum extent possible to benefit Snake River flows and shape flood control and spring runoff to the maximum extent possible into the juvenile migration season which begins early to mid April.

Maintain flows of at least 85 kcfs at Lower Granite throughout the spring passage season emphasizing the period mid April through mid June.

Manage reservoir refill in the spring to achieve a 95% probability of refilling Brownlee and Dworshak reservoirs by July 4. Utilize reservoir storage as required to maintain spring flows in the 85 to 100 kcfs range.

Provide juvenile spillway passage at lower Snake River dams by spilling to allowable State standards during schedules defined by the BiOp.

Operate turbines within 1% of peak efficiency March 15 through November 30.

Maintain minimum operating pool elevations at all reservoirs on the lower Snake River from April 1 until juvenile numbers decrease to low numbers in the fall.

Utilize a "spread the risk" transportation strategy based on annual pre-season projections of in-river migration conditions. Transport all fish collected from Snake River projects with the exception of PIT tagged fish.

Control temperature and augment flow to the extent practicable during the fall chinook migration season.

Utilize Brownlee reservoir to augment summer flow and shape BOR's upper Snake River water to the maximum extent possible early in the summer season when Brownlee water temperatures are still cool.

Utilize Dworshak as a source of augmentation water during the summer migration season to provide both temperature and flow benefits.

Apply modeling techniques to determine the temperature benefits achieved by using Dworshak

and Brownlee reservoirs at defined outflows on defined dates and use these results to plan release schedules.

Use results of temperature modeling and adult behavioral information to decide whether releases from Dworshak should occur during September to improve adult migration conditions.