

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-31

- *The following State and Federal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish & Game.*

TO: Brigadier General Strock COE-NPD
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James V. Nielsen

FROM: Jim Nielsen, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: September 5, 2000

SUBJECT: Lower Snake Refill Operations

SPECIFICATIONS:

The refill of the Lower Snake River Reservoirs may commence immediately. Refill the reservoirs in the following sequence starting with Ice Harbor, continuing with Lower Monumental, then Little Goose and finishing with Lower Granite. Refill is to be accomplished by decreasing total flow through the project during nighttime hours to the amount required to operate one unit. The fishery agencies **do not recommend** that flows be reduced to zero during nighttime hours to accomplish refill. The projects should be operated within a one foot operating range during the refill operation and should continue to operate within one foot of full when refill is completed. Maintain this operating restriction until a small number of juveniles are passing Lower Granite Dam.

JUSTIFICATION:

The refill of the Lower Snake River Reservoirs is requested at this time based on the increasing adult passage numbers. The increase in reservoir elevations is expected to allow the operation of the adult fish facilities within current design criteria. The requested operation is designed to minimize reductions in flow in the lower Snake River resulting from refill.

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