

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2000-22

- *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
William Branch	COE-Water Management
Cindy Henriksen	COE-RCC
Doug Arndt	COE-P
Col. Randall J. Butler	COE-Portland District
Lieut. Col. W.E. Bulen, Jr.	COE-Walla Walla District
J. William McDonald	USBR-Boise Regional Director
Judith Johansen	BPA-Administrator
Greg Delwiche	BPA-PG-5
Steve Hays	Chelan PUD
Bob Clubb	Douglas PUD
Doug Ancona	Grant PUD

James R. Nielsen

FROM: Jim Nielsen, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE: May 31, 2000

SUBJECT: Flow at McNary Dam

SPECIFICATIONS: Meet flows of at least 120 Kcfs at Priest Rapids
McNary Dam for the week ending June 11, 2000

JUSTIFICATION: Flows are presently receding during the spring fish migration due to the need to refill reservoirs to provide water for the summer migration. The aggressive refill of reservoirs is needed because of unnecessarily conservative drafting of the reservoirs this past spring for flood control. Unacceptably low flows have resulted for the majority of the fish migration. Recent collections of listed steelhead at the Rock Island project had increased to over 1000 fish per day by May 25. These same collections decreased substantially as flows decreased meaning that many of these fish are still in the mid-Columbia. Although we would prefer to have substantially higher flows, maintaining flows at Priest Rapids Dam as recommended would aid the passage of listed Mid Columbia River steelhead, prevent further reductions in fish passage, and provide protection to the remaining emergent fall chinook.