

MEMORANDUM

November 22, 2004

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist
SUBJECT: Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 21, 2004

Discussion: On Sunday, November 21, 2004 a Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to determine the 2004 – 2005 Critical Flow Elevation. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). The NOAA Fisheries representative was unable to attend. Observers to the redd count included Rita Bjork (GCPUD), Dave Borkowski (CWU Graduate Student), David Child (GCPUD), Matt Collims (CWU Graduate Student), Dave Duvall (GCPUD), Joyce Edie (Mattawa Area News), Paul Erickson (Tri-City Herald), Gary Garnant (GCPUD), Lisa Leitz (South County Sun), and Lynn Miller (Tri-City Herald). Flows from Priest Rapids Dam at Vernita Bar were about 50 kcfs. Results of this survey are provided in the table below.

<u>Transect</u>	----- Redd Count by Flow Level (kcfs) -----						Total Number Of Redds
	<u>(36 – 50)</u>	<u>(50 – 55)</u>	<u>(55 – 60)</u>	<u>(60 – 65)</u>	<u>(65 – 70)</u>	<u>(Above 70)</u>	
Above A	--	25	14	4	0	0	43
A – AB	--	23	11	9	1	0	44
AB – B	--	28	21	14	6	3	72
Below B	--	16	13	4	1	0	34
C	--	7	8	1	1	0	17
Totals	--	99	67	32	9	3	210

No redd counts were taken below the 50 kcfs elevation.

Based on the above survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the Critical Flow Elevation would be set at the 65 flow elevation (If there are fewer than 15 redds above the 65 kcfs elevation, then the Critical Elevation will be the first 5 kcfs elevation above the elevation containing the 16th highest redd within the survey area on Vernita Bar). There are 12 redds counted above the 65 kcfs elevation. Because some spawning activity was still taking place, the monitoring team decided to conduct another redd count on November 28, 2004. Results of this redd count will confirm the 65 kcfs Critical Elevation or adjust the Critical Elevation to 70 kcfs.

Initiation of Spawning had been established earlier this spawning season to be October 20 for the zone between the 36 – 50 kcfs elevations and October 27 for the zone above the 50 kcfs elevation

During last year’s November 23 redd count, no redd counts were taken between the 36 – 50 kcfs elevations, 174 redds within 50-55 kcfs, 149 redds between 55-60 kcfs, 123 redds between 60-65 kcfs, 30 redds between 65-70 kcfs and 7 above the 70 kcfs elevation.

The next redd count will be on November 28, 2004 and require a USGS gauging station flow of 50 kcfs. This redd count will be used to determine the 2004 – 2005 Hanford Reach Critical Flow Elevation.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

c: Linda Jones
Jeff Atkinson
Scott Bettin
Steve Brown
Scott Carlon
Dennis Dauble
Mike Erho
Gary Garnant
Paul Hoffarth
Lance Elias
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