

**MEMORANDUM**

November 29, 2004

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist  
**SUBJECT:** Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 28, 2004

**Discussion:** On Sunday, November 28, 2004 the last 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. 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) -----						<u>Total Number Of Redds</u>
	<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	--	--	--	9	0	0	9
A – AB	--	--	--	12	2	0	14
AB – B	--	--	--	22	10	4	36
Below B	--	--	--	8	5	2	15
C	--	--	--	4	1	0	5
Totals	--	--	--	55	18	6	79

Redd counts were not taken below the 50 kcfs elevation because hatching is estimated to have begun the day earlier, November 27. Redds were not counted between 50 – 60 kcfs for two reasons. First, the 65 kcfs Critical Elevation had already been identified the previous week and therefore could go no lower, and second, counting redds above 60 kcfs would be sufficient to document redd construction since last weekend.

Based on the above survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the Critical Flow Elevation will remain at the 65 flow elevation (If there are 15 to 30 redds above the 65 kcfs elevation, the Critical Elevation will be the 65 kcfs elevation). There are 24 redds counted above the 65 kcfs elevation. Since last week, 23 more redds were counted within the 60-65 kcfs elevations, 9 redds between 65-70 kcfs and 3 redds above the 70 kcfs elevation. No spawning activity was observed during this Sunday’s redd count.

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

There was no need to count redds last year at this time, but during last year’s November 23 redd count, 174 redds were counted within the 50-55 kcfs elevations, 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.

There will be no more redd counts this year. A separate memorandum will be sent to Grant County PUD Dispatch outlining this season’s flow protection plan for the Vernita Bar and Hanford Reach redds.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

c: Linda Jones  
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