

**MEMORANDUM**

November 5, 2006

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist  
**SUBJECT:** Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 5, 2006

**Discussion:** On Sunday, November 5, 2006 the fourth Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to determine the Initiation of Spawning for the zones below and above the 50 kcfs elevation at Vernita Bar. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). Flows from Priest Rapids Dam at Vernita Bar were about 38 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	16	5	3	1	0	0	25
A – AB	11	3	2	1	2	0	19
AB – B	22	4	8	0	1	0	35
Below B	12	7	5	1	0	0	25
C	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Totals	65	19	18	3	3	0	108

Based on the above survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the initiation of spawning within the Vernita Bar index area has been set to be November 1, 2006 for both zones, 36 kcfs - 50 kcfs and the zone above the 50 kcfs elevation. Five or more redds are required to determine the initiation of spawning for a zone.

During last year’s November 6 redd count; no redd count occurred between the 36–50 kcfs flow elevations, 58 redds were counted between 50-55 kcfs, 39 between 55-60 kcfs, 22 between 60-65 kcfs, 10 between 65-70 and 21 redd above the 70 kcfs elevation.

WDFW and Grant County PUD agreed that the initiation of spawning in water deeper than 36 kcfs would be set to be on October 25, 2006. This was based on significantly on more than 5 redds observed in deep water off Vernita Bar during the October 29 ground count.

The next redd count will occur on November 12, 2006 and will require a USGS gauging station flow of about 45 kcfs.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

c: Don Anglin  
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