

MEMORANDUM

October 29, 2006

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist
SUBJECT: Vernita Bar Redd Survey, October 29, 2006

Discussion: On Sunday, October 29, 2006 the third Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to determine the Initiation of Spawning for the zones below and above the 50 kcfs elevation. 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) -----						<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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A – AB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AB – B	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Below B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	0	0	0	0	0	4

Based on the above survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the initiation of spawning has not occurred for either zone below or above the 50 kcfs elevation. Five or more redds are required to determine the initiation of spawning for a zone.

During last year’s October 30 redd count; 57 redds were counted between the 36–50 kcfs flow elevations, 8 redds between 50-55 kcfs, 3 between 55-60 kcfs, 0 between 60-65 kcfs, 1 between 65-70 and 1 redd above the 70 kcfs elevation.

The next redd count will occur on November 5, 2006 and will require a USGS gauging station flow of about 36 kcfs.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

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