

**MEMORANDUM**

November 19, 2006

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist  
**SUBJECT:** Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 19, 2006

**Discussion:** On Sunday, November 19, 2006 the sixth Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to determine the 2006-2007 Critical Flow Elevation for the Hanford Reach. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). 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	--	19	19	10	0	0	48
A – AB	--	15	12	6	6	4	43
AB – B	--	21	15	5	8	6	55
Below B	--	19	17	9	8	9	62
C	--	5	3	5	2	0	15
Totals	--	79	66	35	24	19	223

No redd counts were taken within the 36-50 kcfs elevations.

Based on the survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the 2006–2007 Critical Flow Elevation is set at the 70 kcfs flow elevation (the agreement states in C6b, “If 31 or more redds are located above the 65 kcfs elevation, the Critical Flow Elevation will be the 70 kcfs elevation”). There were 43 redds identified above the 65 kcfs elevation.

During last year’s November 20 redd count; no redd count occurred between the 36–60 kcfs flow elevations, 74 between 60-65 kcfs, 38 between 65-70 and 60 redd above the 70 kcfs elevation.

During this year’s survey the monitoring team observed that fish spawning had not concluded and agreed that a supplemental redd survey was in order for the following Sunday (November 26 starting at 10 a.m.) to identify the end of spawning. Requested USGS gauging station flow will be 50 kcfs. Grant County PUD will continue pulsed flows until November 27.

The Initiation of spawning date for the zone below 36 kcfs is October 25, for the zones between 36 – 50 kcfs and above 50 kcfs that date was previously set as November 1, 2006.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

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|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| c: Don Anglin | Jeff Atkinson      | Bill Berry      |
| Scott Bettin  | Shane Bickford     | Steve Brown     |
| Bob Clubb     | Dennis Dauble      | Gary Donabauer  |
| Gary Garnant  | Russ George        | Chuck Goligoski |
| Kelly Harlan  | Bob Heinith        | Cathy Hlebechuk |
| Leon Hoepner  | Paul Hoffarth      | Rick Klinge     |
| Joe Lukas     | Geoffrey McMichael | Robert Mueller  |
| Greg Patton   | Shane Scott        | Rudd Turner     |

Bill Tweit  
Power Dispatch  
WAN Operators

Paul Wagner  
FWWQ Team  
NR Records

Dawn Woodward  
PRD Operators