

MEMORANDUM

November 26, 2006

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist
SUBJECT: Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 26, 2006

Discussion: On Sunday, November 26, 2006 the seventh Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to document additional spawning after the usual end of spawning date (the weekend before Thanksgiving) and confirm the 70 kcfs Critical Flow Elevation for the Hanford Reach. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). Observing the ground count was Bill Twit (WDFW). 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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A – AB	--	--	16	8	6	--	30
AB – B	--	--	24	13	7	--	44
Below B	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
C	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Totals	--	--	40	21	13	--	74

No redd counts were taken within the 36-55 kcfs elevations and transects Above A, Below B and C. Redd counts above 70 kcfs were not possible due to snow accumulation.

The redd count data above indicates there was significant spawning activity from the previous week’s survey (74 vs. 52 redds, respectively). The Monitoring Team observed no significant spawning activity during the survey. Based on the information above and in accordance with the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the monitoring team agreed that November 26, 2006 will be used as the end of fish spawning and the Critical Flow Elevation will remain at the 70 kcfs flow elevation .

A supplemental redd survey was not required last year and no other surveys are required for this year.

Set previously was the Initiation of Spawning date for the zone below 36 kcfs as October 25, and for the zones between 36 – 50 kcfs and above 50 kcfs to be 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 Twit | Paul Wagner | Dawn Woodward |

Power Dispatch
WAN Operators

FWWQ Team
NR Records

PRD Operators