

State of Idaho

Priorities for Operational Objectives – Dworshak Dam

9/2/2016

Idaho understands the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting work on the large turbine at Dworshak Dam during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. During that work period the large turbine will be out of service which will limit turbine discharge to the two smaller units (approximately 4.8 Kcfs total for the two units). With the large unit out of service, it may be necessary to spill more water than otherwise would be spilled to maintain flood protection.

After careful consideration of the operational alternatives and risks associated with the alternatives during this planned work on the large turbine at Dworshak Dam, Idaho prioritizes the operational objectives for Dworshak Dam as follows:

- 1) Maintain the Biological Opinion's 95% probability of refilling the project for cold water flow augmentation in summer 2017. Having the full amount of cold water flow augmentation available from Dworshak is critical to meeting the 68 degree F criteria in the Lower Granite Dam tailrace and providing flow augmentation during summer 2017 for the benefit of both adult and juvenile listed anadromous fish (especially adult endangered Sockeye Salmon).
- 2) Avoid exceeding the Idaho water quality standard total concentration of dissolved gas; 110% of saturation at atmospheric pressure at the point of sample collection (IDAPA 58.01.02.250.01.b). The applicability of the gas supersaturation standard shall be in accordance with Section 300 of the Idaho water quality standards (IDAPA 58.01.02.300).
- 3) Operate to the early April flood control elevation with the large turbine out of service.

Idaho recognizes the challenges The Corps of Engineers faces in meeting these priorities while the large turbine is being overhauled this winter and will work with The Corps of Engineers and other regional partners to achieve these operational objectives. As part of this effort, the State of Idaho plans to work with The Nez Perce Tribe and the US Fish & Wildlife Service to develop contingency plans for the hatcheries downstream of Dworshak Dam in the event that unanticipated weather conditions combined with the large turbine rehab results in high total dissolved gas levels below the project.