

January 28, 2016

To: Chris Walker, Fish Biologist, Operations Division  
Portland District, US Army Corps of Engineers

From: Ann Gray, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

EC: Mike Hudson, Chris Allen, Rollie White, USFWS

RE: USFWS Comments on the Draft 2016 Willamette Fish Operation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides the following on the 2016 Willamette Fish Operation Plan (WFOP). The Service appreciates and thanks you for this opportunity for review.

In light of the delayed schedule for the production and approval of the WFOP, the Service does not want to cause further delay and is not submitting any additional change request forms for the WFOP. The Service supports the change requests submitted by NMFS and ODFW, and believe it more important at this time to complete the WFOP and meet with the Region on those changes.

In addition, prior to 2017, the Service would like to work with the Corps and ODFW to more fully integrate bull trout into the WFOP for future years. As identified in the WFOP, one element for inclusion identified by RPA 4.3 is:

- Identify protocols for optimal handling, sorting, and release conditions for ESA-listed fish collected at USACE-funded fish collection facilities, including but not limited to the Minto Fish Facility, Foster Dam Fish Facility, Fall Creek Fish Facility, Dexter Dam Fish Collection Facility, and at the Cougar Fish Facility.

Disposition of any juvenile and adult bull trout collected at USACE-funded fish collection facilities in the McKenzie River and Middle Fork Willamette River should be considered and addressed in the WFOP.

We apologize for the delay in providing this information. We look forward to working with you on this task in the coming year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ([ann\\_e\\_gray@fws.gov](mailto:ann_e_gray@fws.gov)) via email, or 503.231.6179.