
Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Request Form

Change Form # & Title: 16AppB001 – Miscellaneous Changes
Date Submitted: January 8, 2016
Project: N/A
Requester Name, Agency: John Bailey, Walla Walla District, USACE
Final Action: **APPROVED – January 28, 2016**

FPP Section: Appendix B – Juvenile Fish Transportation Plan (multiple sections)

Justification for Change:

Introduction, 3rd paragraph: The BPA and Corps administer separate contracts that provide biological assistance and related services under this program.

Paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3: The initiation of juvenile fish transport at these 3 facilities have sometimes occurred simultaneously in recent years, particularly if the fish collection start date at Lower Granite has been set for May 1. This change reflects actual practice.

Paragraph 4.2.1: The Juvenile Fish Transportation Program (JFTP) no longer operates under a Section 10 permit. This activity is now covered under Section 7(a)(2) consultation with the FCRPS under the 2014 Supplemental BiOp (JFPT take is covered in section 8.1, page 551). The change also provides consistency with the permitting/consultation information outlined in the introduction of Appendix B.

Paragraph 4.2.3: This paragraph currently states that juvenile fish collection for transportation at Lower Monumental Dam commences at 1500 hours. Although that is very desirable from an operational standpoint, that hasn't been the actual practice. Appendix E (i.e.: Fish Operations Plan) has been superseding this section by specifying a 0700 hours start time at Lower Monumental Dam. This change allows flexibility and compliance with Appendix E.

Proposed Change:

See tracked changes noted in section description below.

Comments:

1/28/2016 FPP Meeting: revised to delete specific start time in paragraph 4.2.3. Lower Monumental may have different start time depending on alternating schedule. Baus will look into getting the 0700 hours start time deleted from the FOP.

Record of Final Action: APPROVED as revised at FPP meeting 1/28/2016.

Introduction, 3rd Paragraph:

1.1.3. On-site biological assistance is provided through contracts, procured through the BPA and the Corps of Engineers (Corps). The BPA arranges biological assistance provided by fishery agencies through a contract with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFSC). The PSMFC and sub-contracts with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). On-site biological assistance is provided by WDFW at Lower Granite and Lower Monumental dams and by while ODFW provides biological assistance at Little Goose Dam. The Corps contract provides additional services in direct support of the juvenile fish transportation program at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams.

Paragraphs 3.1.2 & 3.1.3. Starting Operations.

3.1.2. Planning dates to initiate juvenile transport at Lower Granite Dam will be April 21 to April 25, unless the Corps adopts a recommendation by TMT that proposes a later start date (no later than May 1) and accompanying alternative operation in their annual recommendation to achieve the goal of transporting approximately 50% of juvenile steelhead.

3.1.3. Transport at Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams may begin simultaneously with the start of juvenile transport at Lower Granite Dam, or may will begin up to 4 days and up to 7 days, respectively, after the Lower Granite start date.

Paragraph 4.2.1. & 4.2.3. Collection & Transportation.

~~4.2.1. Juvenile fish shall be transported in accordance with the ESA Section 10 permit, the Updated Proposed Action prepared under ESA Section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries, and transportation program criteria.~~ During transport operations, collected juvenile fish will be bypassed back to the river if the number of collected fish exceeds or is expected to exceed the facility and barge holding capacities. Holding for transportation will resume when adequate capacities are available to hold and transport fish according to transportation program criteria. Maximum holding time and loading criteria will not be exceeded without CENWW review and approval. Marked or PIT tagged fish will be released to the river if they are part of an approved research study or Smolt Monitoring Program (SMP) travel time evaluation. Specifics of the transportation program may be altered during the transportation season based on recommendations from the TMT.

Paragraph 4.2.3.

4.2.3. The collection of fish for transport will commence ~~at 0700 hours~~ on the agreed-to start dates at Lower Granite, ~~and~~ Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams. ~~The collection of fish at Lower Monumental Dam will may begin at 1500 hours on the agreed to start date if previously coordinated with fishery agencies and tribes through the appropriate regional forums.~~ Barging of fish will begin the following day and collected juvenile fish will be transported by barge from each facility on a daily or every-other-day basis (depending on the number of fish) throughout the migration season. Transportation operations will be carried out at each project in accordance with all relevant FPP operating criteria.