

2014 Water Management Plan

Seasonal Update

February 28, 2014

1. Introduction

The annual Water Management Plan (WMP) is developed prior to the implementation of operational measures identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOp), the NMFS 2010 Supplemental BiOp, and the NMFS 2014 Supplemental BiOp (collectively referred to as NMFS FCRPS BiOp), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2000 and 2006 BiOps. The WMP is also developed prior to the receipt of any seasonal information that may determine how many of the operation measures are implemented. The Seasonal Update is intended to supplement the WMP with more detailed information on operations as the water year progresses. Each section of the Seasonal Update will be updated when information is available and finalized when no further information is available. The first update for the primary elements of Fall and Winter will be posted on November 1st of each year. The first update for the primary elements of Spring and Summer will be posted by March 1st of each year.

The elements and operations included in the Seasonal Update are generally the same as have been previously presented in the Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer Updates to the WMP. The change to update in this manner is intended to present better continuity for tracking operations as they change throughout and across each season. The elements and operations described in the Seasonal Update and the approximate schedule for updates and finalization are as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Schedule for update and finalization of Seasonal Update elements and operations.

Section	Element	Begins	Finalized	Last Updated
	Current Conditions (e.g., WSF, Streamflows)	October	July	March 1, 2014
	Seasonal Flow Objectives	April	August	
	Flood Control	January	June	March 1, 2014
	Storage Project Operations	September	September	
	Water Quality (Spill Priority Lists)	January	December	March 1, 2014
	Specific Operations	Start Date	End Date	Last Updated
	Chum Flows (Bonneville Dam)	November 1	April 10	March 1, 2014
	Spring Creek Hatchery Releases (Bonneville Dam)	April	May	
	Burbot Flows (Libby Dam)	November	December 30	November 10, 2010
	Upper Snake Flow Augmentation	April 1	August 31	
	Lake Pend Oreille Kokanee (Albeni Falls Dam)	September 1	December 30	November 26, 2013
	Transportation	May 1	September 30	
	Spill Operations	April 3	August 31	

	Fish Passage Research	March	October	March 1, 2014
	Snake River Zero Generation	December	February	March 1, 2014
	Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection	November	June	November 26, 2013

2. Seasonal Update Elements and Specific Operations

2.1. Current Conditions

Water Supply Forecasts – NWRFC

The final water supply forecast (WSF) is defined as the forecast posted on NOAA’s Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) website at 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time on the 5th business day of the month (except April 8, as per the official WSF calendar). NWRFC water supply forecasts are available on the following website: <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/ws/>

Table 2. The Dalles Dam Final Water Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	January-July 2014		April-August 2014	
	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (101.4 maf)	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (87.5 maf)
January	96.1	95	84.9	97
February	80.0	79	72.5	83
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				

Table 3. Grand Coulee Dam Final Water Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	January-July 2014		April-August 2014	
	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (59.6 maf)	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (56.8 maf)
January	56.9	95	54.6	96
February	48.8	82	48.2	85
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				

Table 4. Lower Granite Dam Final Water Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	January-July 2014		April-August 2014	
	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (27.4 maf)	Volume (maf)	% of 30-year Average (21.1 maf)
January	25.2	92	20.6	98
February	23.1	84	18.7	88
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				

Water Supply Forecasts - Corps

Water supply forecasts for Libby and Dworshak dams are produced by the Corps' Seattle and Portland Districts, respectively. Corps forecasts are available on the following website:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/colriverflood.htm>

Table 5. Libby Dam Water Final Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	April-August 2014	
	Volume (kaf)	% of 78-year (1929-2008) Average (6,282 kaf)
November	5,125	82
December	5,446	87
January	5,432	86
February	5,192	83
March		
April		
May		
June		

Table 6. Dworshak Dam Final Water Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	April-July 2014	
	Volume (kaf)	% of 81-year (1929-2010) Average (2,663 kaf)
December	2,470	92
January	2,296	86
February	2,274	85
March		
April		
May		
June		

Water Supply Forecasts – Bureau of Reclamation

Water supply forecasts for Hungry Horse Dam are produced by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Table 7. Hungry Horse Dam Final Water Supply Forecasts.

Forecast Issue Date	April-August 2014		January-July 2014		May-September 2014	
	Volume (kaf)	% of 30-year Average (2,070 kaf)	Volume (kaf)	% of 30-year Average (2,224 kaf)	Volume (kaf)	% of 30-year Average (1,835 kaf)
January	2,045	106	2,216	106	1,787	106
February	2,081	107	2,223	106	1,819	107
March						
April						
May						
June						

Weekly Weather and Precipitation Retrospectives

Week	Weekly Weather / Precipitation Retrospective
October 7, 2013	Temperatures: Below average US basins; slightly above average in BC Precipitation: Well below average. Streamflows: Flat or receding.
October 14, 2013	Temperatures: Near average. Precipitation: Virtually none. Streamflows: Slowly receding. Baseflows are still higher than usual due to the record September rainfall.
October 21, 2013	Temperatures: Above average. Precipitation: Virtually none through Saturday, followed by light precip northwest half on Sunday. Streamflows: Slowly receding, although base flows remain a little higher than usual.
October 28, 2013	Temperatures: Below average initially, rose to above average Thu-Fri, then fell back below average by Sunday. Precipitation: Slightly above average. Streamflows: Very modest flow increases on the lower Columbia and Willamette, otherwise generally flat.
November 4, 2013	Temperatures: Near average. Precipitation: Above average BC; below average in US. Streamflows: Small rises on the lower Columbia, Willamette, and Snake basins. Flat elsewhere.
November 11, 2013	Temperatures: Above average. Precipitation: Above average in BC and western MT; below average elsewhere. Streamflows: Mostly flat.
November 18, 2013	Temperatures: Below average. Precipitation: Near to slightly above average east of the Cascades; below average west. Streamflows: Generally flat, except for brief flow increases into the Willamette, lower Columbia, and Spokane/Clearwater basins early in the week.
November 25, 2013	Temperatures: Rose slowly to slightly above average. Precipitation: Dry through Friday; then well above average basinwide, especially western Washington. Streamflows: Brief but rather sharp flow increases into the Willamette, lower Columbia, and Spokane/Clearwater basins are beginning this morning
December 2, 2013	Temperatures: Very cold temperatures, basin-wide. Precipitation: Very wet at beginning of week with drying trend towards end of week.. Streamflows: After brief rise due to precipitation, flat flows or recessions, coupled with some freezing gauges.
December 9, 2013	Temperatures: Seven-day cold snap (the longest since 2007) ended Thursday, with near average temperatures on the weekend. Coldest days were 12/7 and 12/8, with load center temps 18.5°F below average Precipitation: Well below average basinwide.

	Streamflows: Generally receding flows with some ice noted in headwater streams
December 16, 2013	Temperatures: Slight above average, except Wednesday-Thursday when temps were briefly below average Precipitation: Below average basinwide. A brief, low elevation snow event on 12/20 quickly melted. Streamflows: Generally flat.
December 23, 2013	Temperatures: Near average in valleys; well above average in mountains. Precipitation: Above average BC, western MT, and northwest WA; below average elsewhere. Streamflows: Flat or slowly receding
December 30, 2013	Temperatures: Slightly above average. Precipitation: Above average BC and western MT; little or no precip elsewhere. Streamflows: Flat or slowly receding.
January 6, 2014	Temperatures: Rose to above average. Precipitation: Well above average basinwide, especially in the northern 2/3 rd . Streamflows: Temporary flow spikes began on the lower Columbia, Willamette, Clearwater/Spokane, and mid-Cs over the weekend
January 13, 2014	Temperatures: Load centers and valleys slightly above average. Higher elevations well above average. Precipitation: Heavy precipitation ended BC/MT/northern ID last Tuesday; mostly dry since then. Streamflows: Crests on the lower elevation streams early in the week receded back to baseflows
January 20, 2014	Temperatures: Near average in the valleys; well above average in the mountains. Precipitation: Virtually none. This is normally one of the wettest times of the year in the basin. Streamflows: Flat or receding
January 27, 2014	Temperatures: Below average, with low snow levels. Precipitation: Near average most US basins; well below average in BC. Streamflows: Flat or receding
February 3, 2014	Temperatures: Cold snap. Load center temps bottoming out at 22.5°F below average (16.8°F absolute temp) on Thursday, with 6 days of temps 10°F below average. Slow recovery began on Friday. Precipitation: Well above average with low elevation snow and ice south half. Little precip north half. Streamflows: Flat
February 10, 2014	Temperatures: Rose to above average. Snow levels well above average US basins. Precipitation: Well above average, especially in US basins (200-400% of normal). Several daily rainfall records broken. Largest snowpack gains in a single week since early January. Streamflows: Significant rises on the Lower Columbia, Clearwater/Spokane, Snake and Willamette. Basins farther north rose only slightly with most precipitation falling as snow
February 17, 2014	Temperatures: Fell to below average. Precipitation: Above average with significant snowpack gains. This is the first time snowpack has been near average since the start of the season. Streamflows: Receded after crests on Tuesday/Wednesday in the Lower Columbia, Clearwater/Spokane, Snake and Willamette Basins. Flat elsewhere
February 24, 2014	
March 3, 2014	
March 10, 2014	
March 17, 2014	
March 24, 2014	
March 31, 2014	

April 7, 2014
April 14, 2014
April 21, 2014
April 28, 2014
May 5, 2014
May 12, 2014
May 19, 2014
May 26, 2014
June 2, 2014
June 9, 2014
June 16, 2014
June 23, 2014
June 30, 2014
July 7, 2014
July 14, 2014
July 21, 2014
July 28, 2014
August 4, 2014
August 11, 2014
August 18, 2014
August 25, 2014
September 1, 2014
September 8, 2014
September 15, 2014
September 22, 2014
September 29, 2014

2.2. Seasonal Flow Objectives

Project	Planning Dates	BiOp Season Average Flow Objective – (kcfs)	Season Average Flow to date (kcfs)
Priest Rapids	Spring 4/10–6/30	135 kcfs	
McNary	Spring 4/10–6/30	220-260 kcfs ⁱ	
	Summer 7/1–8/31	200 kcfs	
Lower Granite	Spring 4/3–6/20	85-100 kcfs ⁱ	
	Summer 6/21–8/31	50-55 kcfs ⁱⁱ	

- i. Varies according to NWRFC April forecast.
- ii. Varies according to NWRFC June forecast.

2.3. Flood Control

Flood Control Elevations and April 10 Objective Elevations per each forecast period are listed in the table below. Forecasted flood control elevations will be calculated beginning in December after the Libby and Dworshak water supply forecasts are available. Subsequent forecasted flood controls will be updated after the final water supply forecasts are available January-April.

Grand Coulee and all Canadian projects will be operated for standard flood control. Hungry Horse and Libby will be operated for Variable Q (VARQ) Flood Control. Beginning in January,

the Corps calculates Upper Rule Curve elevations based on the monthly official final forecasts. Projects are operated using these elevations as an upper limit, with the objective of reaching their spring refill elevations. Detailed flood control operations are available at the following website: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/colsum>.

The April 10 elevations shown in the table below are calculated by linear interpolation between the March 31 and April 15 forecasted flood control elevations.

Project	Elevation Date Objective	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Libby	Jan 31	2426.6	2426.7			
	Feb 28		2,436.4	2436.4		
	March 31		2441.6	2443.3		
	April 10		2441.8	2444.2		
	April 15		2441.9	2444.7		
	April 30		2442.2	2446.1		
Hungry Horse	Jan 31		3544.4			
	Feb 28		3540.0	3539.0		
	March 31		3535.0	3533.4		
	April 10		3533.3	3531.6		
	April 15		3532.5	3530.7		
	April 30		3530.0	3527.9		
Grand Coulee	Jan 31		1290.0			
	Feb 28		1290.0	1290.0		
	March 31		1276.8	1283.3		
	April 10		1265.6	1283.3		
	April 15		1260.0	1283.3		
	April 30		1243.2	1282.7		
Brownlee	Jan 31		2077.0			
	Feb 28		2057.3	2073.6		
	March 31		2058.6	2075.3		
	April 15		2062.7	2076.2		
	April 30		2063.8	2077.0		
	Dworshak	Jan 31		1546.5		
Feb 28			1542.4	1543.5		
March 31			1553.7	1555.2		
April 10			1561.0	1562.5		
April 15			1564.6	1566.2		
April 30						

2.4. Storage Project Operations

Libby Dam

Bull Trout Flows: Bull trout minimum flows are specified in the 2006 Libby Sturgeon Biological Opinion (2006 BiOp) and may be found in Table 9 on page 34 of the Water Management Plan on the following website:

http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/wmp/2014/Final/20131231_WMP_Revised_20131230.pdf

April 10 and Refill Objectives: According to the Corps’ Libby February Runoff Forecast the most probable runoff volume for April – August was 5,192 kaf (88% of average from 1981-2010). This forecasted runoff volume resulted in an April 10 elevation objective of 2444.2 ft. This section will be updated throughout the season as new forecast information becomes available.

Summer Draft Limit: From August through October in 2014-2017, the AAs will be operating Libby Dam in coordination with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho in order to provide conditions for construction of a suite of Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Projects (KRHRP). In order to accommodate this operation, the AAs will coordinate with TMT on the actual operation to reach the NMFS FCRPS BiOp September 30 elevation of either 2,439 or 2,449 ft.

Hungry Horse Dam

Water Supply Forecast and Minimum Flows: The minimum flow requirements are measured at two locations the South Fork Flathead River below Hungry Horse Dam and the Flathead River at Columbia Falls. The minimum flows will be determined monthly, beginning in January, with the Bureau of Reclamation’s WSF forecast for Hungry Horse Reservoir for the period of April 1 to August 31. The final flow levels, for the remainder of the calendar year, are based on the March Final forecast. The Bureau of Reclamation’s February 2014 Final WSF for April–August was 2,081 kaf (107% of average) which set the minimum flow requirements below Hungry Horse and at Columbia Falls at 900 cfs and 3,500 cfs, respectively. The minimum flow requirements will be updated and set for the rest of the year based on the March Final WSF.

April 10 and June 30 Refill Objectives: This section will be updated throughout the season as new forecast information becomes available.

Summer Draft Limit: The summer reservoir draft limit at Hungry Horse is 3,550 ft. (10 ft. from full) by September 30, except in the lowest 20th percentile of water years (The Dalles April-August <72.2 maf) when the draft limit is elevation 3,540 ft. (20 ft. from full) by September 30. The RFC’s May Final April-August forecast is used to set the official draft limit.

Grand Coulee Dam

April 10 and June 30 refill Objective: This section will be updated throughout the season as new forecast information becomes available.

The Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Program

This section will be updated throughout the season as new information becomes available.

Table 8. Lake Roosevelt releases requested for 2014.

“Bucket”	2014 Releases (acre-feet)	Total Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Program (acre-feet)
Odessa		
M&I		

Instream Flow		
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Dworshak Dam

The Corps will update in June or as soon as information becomes available.

2.5. Water Quality

The AAs have coordinated the following spill priority lists with the TMT to date:

- **September 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013:** Winter spill priority list coordinated during the August 21, 2013 TMT meeting may be found on the following website:
<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2013/>
- **January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014:** Winter spill priority list coordinated during the August 21, 2013 TMT meeting may be found on the following website:
<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2013/>

2.6. Burbot Spawning Flows (Libby Dam)

Under the terms of an MOU prepared in 2005 by the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) and signed by the Corps, the selective withdrawal gate system at Libby Dam has been set to release cool water in November and December, before temperature stratification limits the temperature control capability. The purpose of this operation is to provide cooler river temperatures downstream Libby Dam (closer to normative thermal conditions). This operation will likely result in November and December temperatures being slightly cooler than the existing selective withdrawal temperature rule curve. Corps staff at Libby Dam removed selective withdrawal gates incrementally during late October to assure that daily temperature change remains within 2° F per day; gates were removed systematically to slowly lower river temperature by early November (a span of about 8° F). Temperature will not be minimized this fall until isothermal conditions develop due to constraints and precautions that will be observed related to selective withdrawal crane rehabilitation that will occur over the winter, necessitating a more conservative gate removal pattern. Rather than removing all gates (resulting in withdrawal elevation of 2,222 ft.), the Corps removed all but 3 rows of gates (resulting in withdrawal elevation of 2,253 ft.).

2.7. Lake Pend Oreille Kokanee Spawning Flows (Albeni Falls Dam)

This section will be updated pending an SOR for this operation that could occur in September of 2014.

2.8. Upper Snake Flow Augmentation

This section will be updated throughout the season as new information becomes available.

2.9. Chum Operation

Date	TMT Discussion/Chum Operation
October 30, 2013	TMT Meeting - WDFW reported that five Chum have passed Bonneville and Chum are expected to arrive in the Ives area this weekend with the forecasted rain. The Action Agencies will plan to implement Chum operations on November 7th, pending the TMT check-in scheduled for November 6th. The operation will target a tailwater elevation of 11.5ft with a band of 11.3 to 11.7ft. The Corps reported that due to construction efficiencies, the lamprey flume work is ahead of schedule and is not expected to conflict with the Chum operation. CRITFC assured the TMT that CRITFC enforcement will monitor Hamilton Springs for gill net use in the area.
November 6, 2013	TMT Meeting - WDFW reported that Chum have passed Bonneville and were noted in the Ives, Horseshoe, Multnomah, Hamilton Creek, and Hamilton Springs areas. The TMT coordinated the start of the Bonneville Dam Chum operation for 0600 hours on November 7 th .
November 20, 2013	TMT Meeting - WDFW reported that flow conditions have not been favorable for surveying Chum, however, the run is underway and at this point, it appears that numbers are average to below average. Survey data for this week (11/19) was not yet available. There are 112 Chum reported to have passed Bonneville as of 11/19 and recent BPA observations indicate approximately 25 pairs were spawning in the Hamilton Springs and Hamilton Creek area. The Corps reported that the Bonneville tailwater operation is underway, targeting 11.5ft, with a range of 11.3-11.7ft. Currently, the Bonneville tailwater elevation is at 11.6ft.
December 4, 2013	TMT December 4, 2013 As of November 26, 42 live chum have been observed spawning in the Ives Island area, with 5 dead and 6 redds noted at 6 feet of visibility, Baus reported. On November 7 the Action Agencies initiated the chum operation as a range of 11.3-11.7 feet elevation in the Bonneville tailwater, targeting 11.5 feet elevation. On November 29, the Action Agencies increased the operating range to 11.6-12 feet elevation, targeting 11.8 feet. The higher operating range has remained in effect since.

Date	TMT Discussion/Chum Operation
December 5, 2013	<p>In response to cold weather, Bonneville has been moving as much water as possible within the current chum operating instructions to generate power during the daytime when people need it. This has resulted in high nighttime tailwater elevations as high as 18.5 feet, BPA, explained. The operational change will alleviate some of the effects of current operation: the high nighttime tailwater elevations are known to be less than ideal conditions for spawning chum; debris accumulation at the Bonneville 2nd powerhouse has limited the capacity of the 2nd powerhouse limiting the ability to manage the discharge in the river without spill; and the high nighttime tailwater elevations have also affected the repair work on the Bradford Island fish ladder.</p> <p>The Action Agencies have proposed adjusting the daytime tailwater operating range upward (to 12.7 to 13.1 feet targeting 12.9 feet) to facilitate more power generation during the day with the benefit of alleviating the likelihood of high nighttime tailwater elevations and the associated impacts. It is the intention of the Action Agencies that the operating range will return to the current operation range (11.6 to 12.0 feet targeting 11.8 feet) as the proposed higher range will inundate a band of habitat that chum typically do not choose for spawning thus minimizing the likelihood of setting a higher protection level moving forward. It is expected that TMT would discuss the return to the current operating range after field observations have been made.</p> <p>WDFW will be on the lookout for signs of spawning at higher elevations and report its findings to TMT. The details of the Action Agencies' proposal is for a temporary change to the daytime operating range in the Bonneville tailwater elevation of 12.7-13.1 feet, targeting elevation 12.9 feet, to be implemented effective immediately today through 3 pm on Friday, December 13. Once this temporary operation was complete the Action Agencies would revert back to the previous tailwater range of 11.6 to 12.0 feet targeting 11.8 feet.</p>
December 11, 2013	<p>NOAA reported on December 10, WDFW surveyors observed that spawning was still occurring but nearing its end. They found no indications of redds established at higher elevations. Returning to the 11.6 ft. to 12.0 ft. range targeting 11.8 ft. in the Bonneville tailwater should therefore be protective of spawning this year.</p> <p>Given that information, BPA would like to revert to the previous chum operation effective tomorrow morning, December 12. The COE indicated the project will revert from its current daytime operation of 12.7to 13.1 ft. targeting 12.9 ft. in the Bonneville tailwater, as coordinated in a TMT call December 5, to the previous operation of 11.6-12.0 ft. elevation, targeting 11.8 ft. during daytime. At night, there is still the option of allowing the Bonneville tailwater elevation to rise to 18.5 ft. However, such an elevation is unlikely given current projections, BPA said. NOAA noted that 18 feet elevation apparently cleared the area of chum. NOAA and BPA will confer further regarding the chum operation. TMT will revisit chum in its next regular meeting December 18.</p>

Date	TMT Discussion/Chum Operation
December 18, 2013	Spawning activity is well past its peak, with maybe a few hundred redds at the I-205 site, WDFW, said. There currently only a handful of fish in the Ives Island area. The current chum operation calls for an elevation band of 11.6-12 feet, targeting 11.8 feet in the Bonneville tailwater. The plan moving forward is to maintain this daytime tailwater requirement until December 24 at 1800 hours. The COE indicated at that time the new requirement will be to maintain an 11.5 minimum tailwater on all hours. There is also a need to remove the fish trap on Duncan creek. WDFW is planning on removing it December 24. The Action Agencies and the state of Washington are coordinating this effort. If the trap cannot be removed on that date or at the tailwater occurring on the 24th it will occur at a later date. If necessary the tailwater may temporarily drop below the hard constraint of 11.5 feet for trap removal.
January 15, 2014	WDFW reported that flows are being managed to maintain 11.5 feet elevation in the Bonneville tailwater for chum protection. In terms of maintaining that elevation through emergence, BPA, said Grand Coulee is expected to meet its April 10 flood control elevation, which is currently projected to be 1264-1265 feet.
February 5, 2014	<p>Yesterday's FPAC call elicited a consensus recommendation to continue the current chum operation, NOAA, reported. The salmon managers will keep an eye on precipitation and inflow forecasts and adjust future recommendations accordingly.</p> <p>Hearing that recommendation, the Action Agencies will continue the current chum operation: maintain during all hours an 11.5-foot minimum tailwater elevation at Bonneville Dam. The COE noted that at 0800 hours today, the tailwater elevation was 11.8 feet, due to challenges in predicting lower Columbia flows and wind conditions to not go below the 11.5 feet minimum. The COE is currently implementing the chum operation as agreed upon in December and plan to continue that operation until TMT meets next on February 19. Any changes in this plan will be communicated to TMT members via email.</p>
February 19, 2014	There has been adequate water supply to maintain an 11.5 foot tailwater elevation at Bonneville for chum, WDFW reported. There are no expectations of a shortage through the end of emergence. The Salmon Managers will continue to track emergence-related data and keep the Action Agencies informed.

Chum survey data gathered at the Ives/Pierce Island Complex are summarized in the table below. Data from all Chum survey areas, including the Ives/Pierce Island Complex, are provided by the Fish Passage Center and available on the following website:

http://www.fpc.org/spawning/spawning_surveys/ODFW_reports/2013spawning.htm

Table 9. Chum Data from Surveys of the Ives/Pierce Island Complex

Date	Lives	Dead ⁱ	Redds ⁱⁱ	Visibility (ft)
24-Sep	0	0	0	12.5
3-Oct	0	0	0	5
8-Oct	0	0	0	5
10-Oct	0	0	0	10
15-Oct	0	0	0	10
17-Oct	0	0	0	10
22-Oct	0	0	0	6

Date	Lives	Dead ⁱ	Redds ⁱⁱ	Visibility (ft)
24-Oct	0	0	0	6
29-Oct	0	0	0	12
31-Oct	2	0	0	11
5-Nov	7	0	0	8
12-Nov	13	0	2	10
19-Nov	27	0	4	7
26-Nov	42	5	6	6
3-Dec	49	4	1	1.5
10-Dec	59	3	0	6
17-Dec	31	9	0	4
24-Dec	10	1	0	5
31-Dec	1	1	0	8.5
7-Jan	0	0	0	10
14-Jan	0	0	0	12

i. Dead are newly samplly fish only.

ii. Redds are an instantaneous count for the day, not cumulative.

2.10. Vernita Bar/Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Operations (Non-BiOp Action)

Date	Summary
November 24, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 24, 2013, the third Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to determine the 2013-2014 Hanford Reach Critical Flow Elevation. Based on the survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the 2013-2014 Critical Flow Elevation was set at the 65 kcfs elevation. The Monitoring Team agreed that the fish spawning season had ended and that November 24, 2013 be identified as the end of spawning date.
February 19, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant PUD, reported that 800 temperature units have accumulated since initiation of spawning. Emergence is expected to occur in the third week of March. At present there are operational constraints based on protection flows needed to meet USGS gage requirements. Due to a discrepancy between the USGS gage and actual discharges at Priest Rapids, the dam is now releasing 68 kcfs to meet the USGS gage requirement of 65 kcfs. The equipment has been recalibrated to bring the two readings closer together.
February, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow downstream of Priest Rapids exceeded 68 kcfs on a few days as a result of draft Wannapum for dam safety considerations.

2.11. Snake River Zero Generation (Non-BiOp Action)

According to the Lower Snake projects' operating manuals, from December 1 through February 28, "zero" minimum project discharge is permitted on a limited basis. Under an agreement between

the Corps of Engineers and the fishery agencies, zero river flow is allowed for water storage during low power demand periods (at night and on weekends) when there are few, if any, actively migrating anadromous fish present in the Snake River. Water stored under zero river flow conditions may maximize power production from the Columbia River Basin system, but zero river flow operations are not recommended at Lower Snake projects when fish are actively migrating in the Snake River.”

Salmon Managers submitted System Operations Request (SOR) 2005-22 Snake River Zero Nighttime and Weekend Flow, to the Action Agencies (AA) on December 6, 2005. The SOR may be found on the following website:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/sor/2005/2005-22.pdf>

In the SOR the Salmon Managers provided the AAs with the following table to clarify the criteria of “... few, if any ...” prior to the implementation of the Zero Generation Operation.

The few migrating adult criterion trigger will be defined on a sliding scale outlined in the following table. The table applies to both “wild” and “total” categories of returning adult steelhead.

Run to date>#	Run to date< #	Few criteria< #
0	30,000	10
30,000	60,000	20
60,000	100,000	35
100,000	150,000	50
150,000	200,000	65
200,000	250,000	80
250,000		100

The TMT coordinated the Snake River Zero Nighttime Generation Operation during the December 4, 2013, meeting. The operation was implemented between the dates of December 6, 2013, and February 28, 2014. As identified in SOR 2005-22 the criteria for implementing the 2013/2014 operation was a three day moving average of less than 35 total and 10 wild steelhead at Lower Granite Dam. On December 6, 2013, these criteria were achieved as the 3 day average steelhead passage was 26 total and 7 wild.

2.12. Minimum Operating Pool (MOP)

Surveys conducted in 2011 demonstrated impairment of the federal navigation channel in the Lower Granite pool. In accordance with the RPA, until maintenance activities are conducted to provide adequate channel depths for safe navigation, the Corps supports adopting the variable minimum operation pool (MOP) operation used during the 2013 season (Table 9) and coordinated this operation with TMT in 2011/2012/2013. Snake River MOP ranges (Table 10) as well as the variable MOP operation inflow dependent ranges are included below.

Table 9. Variable MOP Ranges for Lower Granite Dam

Lower Granite Inflows	Operation	Minimum Operating Pool Elevation (ft)	Upper Limit of 1-foot Operating Range (ft)
≥ 120 kcfs	MOP	733.0	734.0
80 kcfs - 119 kcfs	MOP +1	734.0	735.0
50 kcfs - 79 kcfs	MOP +1.5	734.5	735.5
≤ 49 kcfs	MOP +2	735.0	736.0

Table 10. MOP Elevation Ranges for Lower Snake River Projects

Project	Minimum Operating Pool Elevation (ft)	Upper Limit of 1-foot Operating Range (ft)
Ice Harbor	437.0	438.0
Lower Monumental	537.0	538.0
Little Goose	633.0	634.0
Lower Granite*	733.0	734.0

*See table above for LWG variable MOP operation

At John Day Dam from April 10 to September 30, the forebay is operated within a 1.5 ft range of the minimum elevation that provides irrigation pumping. The initial range is 262.5 to 264.0 feet. The minimum elevation will be adjusted upward as necessary to facilitate irrigation pumping.

2.13. Spill and Transportation in 2014

This section will be updated once the 2014 Fish Operations Plan is available by April of 2014.

2.14. Fish Passage Research in 2014

The following information is included in the 2014 Fish Passage Plan in Appendix A that may be found on the following website:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/fpp/2014/index.html>

- **Bonneville Dam Studies.**

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon and Steelhead Migration and Passage Behavior in the Lower Columbia River. This is the second year of a study to address two primary objectives: 1) assess passage behavior of adult salmonids in relation to modifications at BON, TDA, and JDA; and 2) estimate passage success (i.e., conversion rates) from BON to MCN. The study will include evaluation of late-run (October) summer steelhead passage and overwintering behavior at BON, TDA, JDA and MCN. At BON, the primary focus of this study will be on adult passage behavior at the modified Washington Shore Fish Ladder north downstream entrance and Cascades Island entrance.

Installation of new antennas and repairs to existing antennas will be made during the 2013/14 winter maintenance period and completed prior to commencement of tagging in spring of 2014. From late March through October, access will be needed to the BON Adult Fish Facility (AFF)

and USACE tagging trailers to collect spring-summer Chinook salmon (up to 600 adult/400 jack), sockeye salmon (400 adult), and steelhead (up to 800 adults), tag with radio and PIT-tags, and release ~8 km below BON. Lower Columbia River projects will monitor for adult salmonids from March through October, then for late-run (overwintering) steelhead from October through March. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from March 2014 through the 2014/15 winter maintenance period.

May–June 2014: FGE Program PH2 Gatewell Velocity Testing. The USACE Portland District is planning to collect water velocity data at PH2 in late May and early June 2014. A test frame will be in the A-slot of Unit 14 for each test. Unit 14 would be held to a specific range of the 1% for each test day. All testing is scheduled to occur during daylight hours only, 0600-1700. A test frame will be in the A-slot for Unit 15 testing. Unit 15 would be held to a specific range of the 1% for each test day. All testing will occur daylight hours only, 0600-1700. A schedule will be provided to Bonneville Dam Operations. See Memorandum of Coordination (MOC) 14BON02 for further information.

- **The Dalles Dam Studies.**

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon and Steelhead Migration and Passage Behavior in the Lower Columbia River. This is the second year of a study to address two primary objectives: 1) assess passage behavior of adult salmonids in relation to modifications at BON, TDA, and JDA; and 2) estimate passage success (i.e., conversion rates) from BON to MCN. The study will include evaluation of late-run (October) summer steelhead passage and overwintering behavior at BON, TDA, JDA and MCN. At TDA, the primary focus will be on impacts of the 8/9 extended spill wall and associated spill pattern on passage behavior of adult salmonids. Installation of new antennas and repairs to existing antennas will be made during the 2013/14 winter maintenance period and completed prior to commencement of tagging in spring of 2014. From late March through October, adult salmon and steelhead will be collected and tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility and released below BON (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Lower Columbia River projects will monitor for adult salmonids from March through October, then for late-run (overwintering) steelhead from October through March. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from March 2014 through the 2014/15 winter maintenance period.

- **John Day Dam Studies.**

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon and Steelhead Migration and Passage Behavior in the Lower Columbia River. This is the second year of a study to address two primary objectives: 1) assess passage behavior of adult salmonids in relation to modifications at BON, TDA, and JDA; and 2) estimate passage success (i.e., conversion rates) from BON to MCN. The study will include evaluation of late-run (October) summer steelhead passage and overwintering behavior at BON, TDA, JDA and MCN. At JDA, the primary focus will be on the efficacy of improvements to the North Fish Ladder entrance and transition pool area.

Installation of new antennas and repairs to existing antennas will be made during the 2013/14 winter maintenance period and completed prior to commencement of tagging in spring of 2014.

From late March through October, adult salmon and steelhead will be collected and tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility and released below BON (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Lower Columbia River projects will monitor for adult salmonids from March through October, then for late-run (overwintering) steelhead from October through March. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from March 2014 through the 2014/15 winter maintenance period.

June–July 2014: BiOp Performance Standard Compliance Test at John Day Dam during Summer Spill Operations. In 2014, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) will conduct the second year of a two year study to assess compliance with the BiOp Juvenile Salmon Performance Standard. This test will utilize acoustic telemetry to estimate dam passage survival for subyearling Chinook salmon. Hydrophones will be deployed on the upstream face of the dam to monitor all major routes of passage available to juvenile salmon. In addition, hydrophones will be deployed in the forebay of the spillway and powerhouse and autonomous receivers will be deployed in both the forebay and tailrace each approximately two kilometers from the dam.

- **McNary Dam Studies.**

March 2014: Direct Injury and Survival of Adult Steelhead Passing Turbines and Temporary Spillway Weirs (TSW). Turbine unit 12 intake A will be used for the study and turbine operations have been identified as peak turbine efficiency and best geometry (approximately 14 kcfs if sample size allows). Turbines operate within $\pm 1\%$ of peak turbine efficiency (1% range) as a soft constraint from November 1 through March 31; however, operation at the best geometry point (approximately 14 kcfs) will be coordinated through FPOM. Turbine testing is expected to require approximately 7 days for completion. A scintillation frame with fish release pipe will be lowered into the unit 12A head gate slot and will require McNary Project assistance. Turbine outages may be required to install direct release pipes in unit 12A. Appropriate coordination with McNary Project personnel will occur for the installation and removal of the unit 12A head gate, and mobilization and install of the fish release pipe structure. This will require the use of the gantry crane.

A TSW will be installed in spillbay 19 or 20 (at the discretion of McNary Project) to conduct the study. The TSW will operate at 10 kcfs assuming a forebay elevation of approximately 339-340 feet mean sea level. The 10 kcfs spill requirement for this study is expected for approximately 4-7 days, 10 hours per day. This operation has previously been accepted by BPA and the Region for the FY14 study. The installation of the TSW will be coordinated through FPOM and will include a request to leave the TSW installed (not spilling) through the fish passage season. The Contractor will be self-sufficient for installation of the fish release pipes at the TSW.

Previous attempts to conduct this study have been unsuccessful due to low adult steelhead returns in 2013. If the full sample size cannot be obtained in 2014, we will only test the turbine operated at peak efficiency and the TSW. Final study dates, turbine outages and operations, and TSW spill will be coordinated appropriately through FPOM. Spill requirements for the study will require further coordination and cooperation with BPA. Equipment removal will occur prior

to the beginning of the fish passage season and is expected to occur prior to the last week of March.

Depending upon sample size for the March 2014 study it may be necessary to repeat the study as described above between October 2014 and February 2015. Regional discussion of the 2014 study results will determine the need for a second year of study. Coordination for a follow-on study will occur immediately upon a Regional decision to conduct such a study.

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon and Steelhead Migration and Passage Behavior in the Lower Columbia River. This is the second year of a study to address two primary objectives: 1) assess passage behavior of adult salmonids in relation to modifications at BON, TDA, and JDA; and 2) estimate passage success (i.e., conversion rates) from BON to MCN. The study will include evaluation of late-run (October) summer steelhead passage and overwintering behavior at BON, TDA, JDA and MCN. At MCN, the primary focus will be on the effects of a prototype lamprey entrance installed in the winter of 2013/14 at the south fishway entrance on passage behavior and success of adult salmonids.

Installation of new antennas and repairs to existing antennas will be made during the 2013/14 winter maintenance period and completed prior to commencement of tagging in spring of 2014. From late March through October, adult salmon and steelhead will be collected and tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility and released below BON (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Lower Columbia River projects will monitor for adult salmonids from March through October, then for late-run (overwintering) steelhead from October through March. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from March 2014 through the 2014/15 winter maintenance period.

April–July 2014: BiOp Performance Standard Compliance Test at McNary Dam during Spring and Summer Spill Operations. In 2014, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) will conduct the second year of a two year study to assess compliance with the BiOp Juvenile Salmon Performance Standard. This test will utilize acoustic telemetry to estimate dam passage survival for juvenile steelhead, and yearling and subyearling Chinook salmon. Hydrophones will be deployed on the upstream face of the dam to monitor all major routes of passage available to juvenile salmon. In addition, hydrophones will be deployed in the forebays of the spillway and powerhouse and autonomous receivers will be deployed in both the forebay and tailrace each approximately two kilometers from the dam.

June–October 2014: Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage Success. This study will use half-duplex (HD) PIT-tag systems to evaluate passage success of adult Pacific lamprey at McNary Dam, the four Lower Snake River projects and associated river segments. This study will require Project support to provide power for electronics and access to download data from the PIT-tag detection equipment. Maintenance of equipment will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

June–October 2014: Underwater Video Monitoring of Adult Fish Ladder Modifications to Improve Pacific Lamprey Passage. The purpose of this study is to use underwater video, acoustic imaging, and/or other non-invasive technologies to count and observe adult salmonids

and Pacific lamprey in the fish ladders at McNary Dam. The primary goal of this work is to estimate the number of adult lamprey passing behind the picketed lead gates at count stations and to develop escapement estimates of the total number of lamprey passing McNary Dam. This study will require Project support to provide power for electronics equipment in the fishways, access for the installation, repair, and testing of electronic equipment and access to download data from video camera equipment.

June–October 2014: Adult Lamprey Study. Installation of a prototype adult lamprey passage structure at the McNary Dam South (Oregon) Fish Ladder (SFE2) is expected to be completed in February 2014. This passage structure will provide a lower velocity passage route into the adult fish ladder. Optical video and DIDSON acoustic cameras will be used to evaluate fine-scale passage behavior of Pacific lamprey at the entrance and exit of the passage structure. As with other lamprey study objectives, operation of the DIDSON and conventional video cameras will occur throughout the adult lamprey passage season (early June–October). Additionally, two half-duplex PIT-tag detectors (4 loops) will be installed into the passage structure to determine the preferred passage route through the varied-velocity baffle box section. The passage structure includes a knife gate which will be opened in early June and closed at the end of October as the adult lamprey migration winds down.

September 2014–March 2015: Adult Steelhead Temporary Spillway Weir (TSW) Passage Efficiency. Hydroacoustic transducers will be installed from outside of the trashrack in a single turbine unit intake on up to 10 turbine units. Turbine unit intakes will be randomly selected and rolling unit outages of 3 units at a time is expected for installation of the transducers. A dive will be required to install and remove transducers and the installation dive is expected to require 5-7 days. Scheduled turbine unit outages will dictate which and how many turbine units will be used for the study and will be coordinated with the McNary Project. No specific turbine unit operation will be tested. Hydroacoustic transducers will also be installed on a TSW in either spillbay 19 or 20 and will be coordinated with the McNary Project. This study is to be conducted in conjunction with the adult steelhead direct injury and survival study (section 5.2.1. above) and will require 10 kcfs spill over the TSW 24 hours per day in a block design (to be determined) of X number of days “on” and X number of days “off” for the duration of the study to equate to spilling during 50% of the study period. Final study dates, turbine unit outages, installation and removal of equipment and TSW, and spill through the TSW will be appropriately coordinated through FPOM, RCC, BPA and the McNary Project.

- **Ice Harbor Dam Studies.**

February–August 2014: Ice Harbor Turbine Characterization Study. In support of the Ice Harbor turbine replacement program, baseline Sensor Fish data will be collected in one or two of turbine units 1-3. Specific study units may vary depending on scheduled outages and will be coordinated with the Ice Harbor Project. It is expected that 3 or 4 specific turbine operations will be required for testing with 2 release elevations. This study will implement the new generation of Sensor Fish as well as a new release mechanism; therefore, data collection may occur in multiple timeframes as equipment optimization may be intermittently required. Ice Harbor Project support beyond adjusting turbine operations is not expected for this study. Study dates

and specific turbine units and operations will be appropriately coordinated with the Ice Harbor Project and/or FPOM once finalized.

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon Study. A study of adult salmon passage in the Lower Columbia River is planned for the 2014 adult passage season using salmon tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF) and includes passage and fate through the Lower Snake River. Salmon and steelhead will be collected, tagged with radio-telemetry transmitters and/or PIT-tags, and released below Bonneville Dam (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Installation and maintenance of any new radio-telemetry antennas or receivers will be completed in March–April 2014 for detecting adult fish tagged at the Bonneville AFF and adult lamprey tagged for the Lower Snake River radio-tracking study. There is no Lower Snake River adult spring Chinook salmon study from Ice Harbor Dam planned for 2014.

May–October 2014: Adult Lamprey Study. A study of Snake River adult lamprey passage is planned for the 2014 adult passage season. The primary goals of the research are to determine fish ladder entrance preferences, migration timing through the ladders, turn-around points in the ladders, fallback rates, and conversion rates between the Lower Snake River dams. Lamprey will be captured and tagged with radio tags and half-duplex PIT-tags at John Day Dam, transported for release below Ice Harbor Dam, and monitored at the four Lower Snake River projects. Radio-telemetry equipment is in place from the adult salmon passage studies and some additional arrays will be installed in the adult fish ladders in the vicinity of transition or turn pools. Installation and maintenance of radio-telemetry equipment will be completed in May–June prior to the adult lamprey migration season. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from May through October.

June–October 2014: Underwater Video Monitoring of Adult Fish Ladder Modifications to Improve Pacific Lamprey Passage. The purpose of this study is to use underwater video, acoustic imaging, and/or other non-invasive technologies to count and observe adult salmonids and Pacific lampreys, *Entosphenus tridentatus*, in the fish ladders at Ice Harbor Dam. The goal of this work is to estimate the number of adult lamprey passing behind the picketed lead gates at count stations and to develop escapement estimates of the total number of lamprey passing Ice Harbor Dam. This study will require Ice Harbor to provide power for electronics equipment in the fishways, access for the installation, repair, and testing of electronic equipment and access for the downloading of data from video camera equipment. Maintenance and installation of camera equipment and will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

June–October 2014: Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage Success. This study will evaluate passage success for adult Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus*, at McNary Dam, Ice Harbor Dam and the remaining Lower Snake River dams, and associated river segments using half-duplex (HD) PIT-tag systems. This study will require Project support provide power for electronics and access for the downloading of data from the PIT-tag detection equipment. Maintenance of equipment will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

- **Lower Monumental Dam Studies.**

May–October 2014: Adult Lamprey Study. A study of Snake River adult lamprey passage is planned for the 2014 adult passage season. The primary goals of the research are to determine fish ladder entrance preferences, migration timing through the ladders, turn-around points in the ladders, fallback rates, and conversion rates between the Lower Snake River dams. Lamprey will be captured and tagged with radio tags and half-duplex PIT-tags at John Day Dam, transported for release below Ice Harbor Dam, and monitored at the four Lower Snake River projects. Radio-telemetry equipment is in place from the adult salmon passage studies and some additional arrays will be installed in the adult fish ladders in the vicinity of transition or turn pools. Installation and maintenance of radio-telemetry equipment will be completed in May–June prior to the adult lamprey migration season. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from May through October.

June–October 2014: Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage Success. This study will evaluate passage success of adult Pacific lamprey *Entosphenus tridentatus* at McNary Dam, the four lower Snake River dams, and associated river segments using half-duplex (HD) PIT-tag systems. This study will require Project support to provide power for electronics, and access for downloading data from the PIT-tag detection equipment. Maintenance of equipment will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

- **Little Goose Dam Studies.**

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon Study. A study of adult salmon passage in the Lower Columbia River is planned for the 2014 adult passage season using salmon tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF) and includes passage and fate through the Lower Snake River. Salmon and steelhead will be collected, tagged with radio-telemetry transmitters and/or PIT-tags, and released below Bonneville Dam (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Installation and maintenance of any new radio-telemetry antennas or receivers will be completed in March–April 2014 for detecting adult fish tagged at the Bonneville AFF and adult lamprey tagged for the Lower Snake River radio-tracking study. There is no Lower Snake River adult spring Chinook salmon study from Ice Harbor Dam planned for 2014. During the 2013/14 winter maintenance period, the LGS adult ladder count window slot will be modified to a minimum slot opening of 18’ in preparation of temporary PIT-tag antennae in January 2014.

May–October 2014: Adult Lamprey Study. A study of Snake River adult lamprey passage is planned for the 2014 adult passage season. The primary goals of the research are to determine fish ladder entrance preferences, migration timing through the ladders, turn-around points in the ladders, fallback rates, and conversion rates between the Lower Snake River dams. Lamprey will be captured and tagged with radio tags and half-duplex PIT-tags at John Day Dam, transported for release below Ice Harbor Dam, and monitored at the four Lower Snake River projects. Radio-telemetry equipment is in place from the adult salmon passage studies and some additional arrays will be needed in the adult fish ladders in the vicinity of transition or turn pools. Installation and maintenance of radio-telemetry equipment will be completed in May–June prior to the adult lamprey migration season. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from May through October.

June–October 2014: Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage Success. This study will evaluate passage success for adult Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus*, at McNary Dam, the four Lower Snake River dams, and associated river segments using half-duplex (HD) PIT-tag systems. This study will require Project support to provide power for electronics and access for downloading data from the PIT-tag detection equipment. Maintenance of equipment will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

- **Lower Granite Dam Studies.**

March 2014–March 2015: Adult Salmon Study. A study of adult salmon passage in the Lower Columbia River is planned for the 2014 adult passage season using salmon tagged at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF) and includes passage and fate through the Lower Snake River. Salmon and steelhead will be collected, tagged with radio-telemetry transmitters and/or PIT-tags, and released below Bonneville Dam (see BON section 2.2.1. above). Installation and maintenance of any new radio-telemetry antennas or receivers will be completed in March–April 2014 for detecting adult fish tagged at the Bonneville AFF and adult lamprey tagged for the Lower Snake River radio-tracking study. There is no Lower Snake River adult spring Chinook salmon study from Ice Harbor Dam planned for 2014. From July through September, adult steelhead will be collected from the Lower Granite adult trap by a contractor for radio-tagging.

April–June 2014: Evaluation of Prototype Overflow Weir and 14-inch Orifice for the Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass System Upgrade. The prototype overflow weir and enlarged 14” orifice that were installed into intake gatewell 5A in the winter 2012/13 will be evaluated for a variety of metrics including survival and travel time during April-June 2014. The following modifications will be made in winter 2013/14, prior to initiation of the 2014 study:

- (a) the broad-crested overflow weir that was installed in winter 2012/13 will be modified into a sharp-crested overflow weir;
- (b) the 14” orifice that was installed in winter 2012/13 will have a gatewell-side light ring installed;
- (c) a temporary in-channel PIT-tag detection system will be installed within the juvenile collection channel.

The 2014 biological testing period, approximately April 15 to June 20, is intended to coincide with peak fish out-migration periods, debris passage and water passage for juvenile spring and fall Chinook salmon, juvenile and adult steelhead and juvenile Pacific lamprey. Preliminary plans for a new Juvenile Fish Facility (JFF) at Lower Granite Dam include the use of the larger 14” orifices with the gatewell-side light ring for fish to pass from gatewells to the collection channel. Results of this study will be used to inform management decisions on final structural modifications and operational changes at Lower Granite Dam to optimize salmonid survival and passage, including determining whether installation of additional overflow weirs is warranted.

Final study plans during the test period will principally mimic the 2013 study plan, as coordinated with RCC and Lower Granite project staff for implementation. In order to conduct the necessary biological testing, deviations from the standard turbine operating priority order

defined in the Fish Passage Plan, Lower Granite Dam Table LWG-5, will be necessary in order to operate unit 5 during testing periods (see Table LWG-5 below with testing priority order). Unit 2 will remain the first priority unit during the test period to provide fish ladder attraction flow. If low inflow occurs, Unit 1 will be prioritized to provide fish ladder attraction flow. There will be no changes to spill or spill patterns for this study. From April 15–June 30, 2014, unit 5 will be operated at the upper end of the 1% range, or at an alternative fixed discharge if possible, during each test block to provide consistent testing conditions. Based on historical river flow, it is likely that sufficient inflow will permit operation of unit 5 for this test through June 30. Final unit operations will be dictated by final study plans (i.e., days per week) and will be coordinated with RCC and Lower Granite Dam project staff.

Table LWG-1. Lower Granite Dam Turbine Unit Operating Priority Order.

Season	Duration	Unit Priority
March 1 – December 15 Fish Passage Season	Start Units	2, 3, then 4-6 any order, then 1 ^a
	Stop Units ^b	4-6 any order, then 3, 2, 1 ^b
April 15 – June 30 Study of Unit 5 Prototype Bypass Structures ^c	Start Units	2, 5, 3, then 4 or 6 any order, then 1 ^a
	Stop Units ^b	4 or 6 any order, then 3, 5, 2, 1 ^b
December 16 – February 28 Winter Maintenance Season	Stop/Start Units	Any Order

- a.** Unit 1 has fixed Kaplan blades (non-adjustable) and can only operate in the upper 1% range. The priority order minimizes Unit 1 starts/stops and allows for the longest runtime once Unit 1 is started.
- b.** Stop units in reverse Start order, except run Unit 1 as long as BPA load request and required spill rate can be met.
- c.** From April 15–June 30, 2014, unit 5 will be operated at the upper end of the 1% range, or at an alternative fixed discharge if possible, during each test block to provide consistent testing conditions.

1.1.2. Kelt Reconditioning, Transport and In-River Survival. Provide assistance to Nez Perce Tribe for collection of post-spawn steelhead (kelt) off the Lower Granite separator for their reconditioning program. Depending on flow conditions, separator technicians will collect a similar number of A-run and B-run kelt for transfer to CRITFC/NPT researchers at Dworshak Dam reconditioning facilities (about 400 kelt) with remaining kelt PIT-tagged for direct release into the tailwaters (about 1,200-1,400 kelt) and limited release into gatewell 5A as part of the evaluation of prototype overflow weirs and enlarged 14” orifice (see section 9.2.2. above).

May–October 2014: Adult Lamprey Study. A study of Snake River adult lamprey passage is planned for the 2014 adult passage season. The primary goals of the research are to determine fish ladder entrance preferences, migration timing through the ladders, turn-around points in the

ladders, fallback rates, and conversion rates between the Lower Snake River dams. Lamprey will be captured and tagged with radio tags and half-duplex PIT-tags at John Day Dam, transported for release below Ice Harbor Dam, and monitored at the four Lower Snake River projects. Radio-telemetry equipment is in place from the adult salmon passage studies and some additional arrays will be needed in the adult fish ladders in the vicinity of transition or turn pools. Installation and maintenance of radio-telemetry equipment will be completed in May–June prior to the adult lamprey migration season. Access to antennas and receivers for downloading and maintenance will be needed from May through October.

June–October 2014: Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage Success. This study will evaluate passage success for adult Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus*, at McNary Dam, the four Lower Snake River dams, and associated river segments using half-duplex (HD) PIT-tag systems. This study will require Project support to provide power for electronics and access for downloading data from the PIT-tag detection equipment. Maintenance of equipment will occur during the winter maintenance period when adult fishways are dewatered.

July 2014 – January 2015: Juvenile Fish Bypass System Upgrade Construction. Starting in July 2014, construction activities associated with the Lower Granite Dam fish bypass system upgrade will include the plugging of the fish screen slots and Wagner Horns. The construction project will occur during scheduled turbine unit outages for annual maintenance. Following placement of the plugs, the slots will be dipped to remove all fish prior to the placement of Tremie concrete. Fish removed from the slots will be transported below the dam and released. Fish salvage operations will be coordinated with Project Fisheries and SMP staff. This operation has been coordinated with the region via FPOM as described in Memorandum of Coordination (MOC) 13 LWG 22. The fish screen slot and Wagner Horn plugs are anticipated to be completed by January 2015.