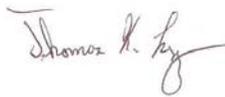


## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2007-4**

*The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Brigadier General Gregg F. Martin</b>	<b>COE-NWD</b>
	<b>James D. Barton</b>	<b>COE-Water Management</b>
	<b>Cathy Hlebechuk</b>	<b>COE-RCC</b>
	<b>Witt Anderson</b>	<b>COE-P</b>
	<b>Col. Thomas E. O'Donovan</b>	<b>COE-Portland District</b>
	<b>LTC Anthony Hofmann</b>	<b>COE-Walla Walla District</b>
	<b>J. William McDonald</b>	<b>USBR-Boise Regional Director</b>
	<b>Stephen J. Wright</b>	<b>BPA-Administrator</b>
	<b>Greg Delwiche</b>	<b>BPA-PG-5</b>



**FROM:** Tom Lorz, Vice Chairperson, Salmon Managers

**DATE:** March 21, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Early Spring Dworshak Operations

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

The Salmon Managers listed above urge the Action Agencies to approach the present operation of Dworshak Dam (increased outflows) with caution to assure that the April 10<sup>th</sup> shifted Flood Control elevation is met. Outflows may have to be altered to reach the April 10<sup>th</sup> URC.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

As stated in the 2000 Biological Opinion, by meeting the April 10<sup>th</sup> elevations, operator's help to assure a high probability of meeting both reservoir refill and river flow objectives. The Corps of Engineers March final forecast (April-July) at Dworshak Dam is 2192 Kaf, or 82% of average. With this forecast, the shifted end of March Flood Control elevation is 1560.3 feet and the April 15<sup>th</sup> shifted Flood Control elevation is 1571.6 feet. Interpolating between the COE's end of March and April 15<sup>th</sup> shifted flood control elevations results in an April 10<sup>th</sup> elevation of 1567.8 feet. The March 21<sup>st</sup> midnight elevation was 1556 feet.

The Salmon Managers recognize that inflows to Dworshak Dam have been somewhat high over the last week; however we are concerned that inflows have increased as a result of

melting lower level snowpack. From the NRCS website<sup>1</sup>, snowpack in the Clearwater and Salmon Basin has decreased from 86% of average on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to a current average of 75% of average on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Salmon Managers are concerned that if snowmelt ceases, inflows will not be sufficient to refill Dworshak Dam from an elevation of 1560.3 feet on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to its estimated April 10<sup>th</sup> elevation of 1567.8 feet. Additionally, diminished snowpack in the Clearwater and Salmon over March indicates that the Water Supply forecast at Dworshak Dam will likely decrease when the COE calculates its April Final Forecast. A decreased April Final forecast at Dworshak Dam will increase flood control elevations at Dworshak Dam. It is important that the COE consider these trends in the water supply forecast when they establish the Dworshak operation.

We recognize that the COE operates Dworshak Dam for multiple purposes which include flood control as well as flow augmentation for fish. Our review of the above information suggests that the COE might consider operating Dworshak Dam more conservatively during the end of March. This operation would not impose undue risk to flood control, while it would allow the COE to better meet the purpose of flow augmentation.

For all of these reasons, the Salmon Managers are requesting that the COE conduct the necessary risk assessments, and if appropriate, operate Dworshak Dam more conservatively to help assure that the current April 10<sup>th</sup> shifted Flood Control elevation (currently 1567.8 feet but that elevation may increase due to reasons explained above) is achieved at Dworshak Dam.

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<sup>1</sup> <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/snow/update/>.