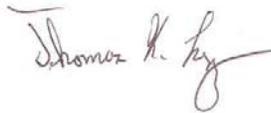


## **SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2011- 3**

*The following State, Federal, and Tribal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation and support this SOR: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.*

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Brigadier General McMahon</b>	<b>COE-NWD</b>
	<b>James D. Barton</b>	<b>COE-Water Management</b>
	<b>Steven Barton</b>	<b>COE-RCC</b>
	<b>David Poganis</b>	<b>COE-P</b>
	<b>Col. John W. Eisenhower</b>	<b>COE-Portland District</b>
	<b>LTC David Caldwell</b>	<b>COE-Walla Walla District</b>
	<b>Karl Wirkus</b>	<b>USBR-Boise Regional Director</b>
	<b>Stephen J. Wright</b>	<b>BPA-Administrator</b>
	<b>Lori Bodi</b>	<b>BPA-PG-5</b>



**FROM:** Tom Lorz\*, Vice-Chair, Salmon Managers

**DATE:** July 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Nighttime Spill to the gas cap at Little Goose Dam

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

During periods of Lower Granite pool operation above MOP for navigation safety issues according to SOR 2011-1; spill to the 115/120% gas cap at Little Goose Dam during nighttime hours beginning immediately, and continuing through the remainder of the 2011 juvenile fish passage season.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Reasonable and prudent alternative # 5 of the 2008 Biological Opinion specifies that the Lower Snake River reservoirs be operated at minimum operating pool during the juvenile fish spill passage season to minimize water travel time through the reservoir to improve juvenile survival. In early April, the Columbia River Towboat Association submitted SOR 2011-1 to TMT to allow the Lower Granite reservoir to operate at an elevation above MOP+1 to address navigation safety concerns. The concerns were raised relative to the lack of federal maintenance of the navigation channel, with no dredging occurring since 2006. This lack of maintenance has lead to shoaling in the federal navigation channel and navigation concerns.

Since the proposed operation of Lower Granite reservoir above the MOP elevation

\*In his capacity as vice-chair of FPAC.

identified in the 2008 Biological Opinion will result in a reduction in planned fish protection, we request that the Action Agencies adjust the operation of the FCRPS to provide similar protection levels as planned for in the 2008 Biological Opinion. Therefore, we are requesting that spill at Little Goose Dam be increased to gas cap levels during nighttime hours for the remainder of the summer spill season. This nighttime operation will help maintain juvenile survival at the level that would occur if Lower Granite was operated as planned in the 2008 Biological Opinion, by decreasing the migration rate in the lower Snake River that was increased by operating the Lower Granite Reservoir above MOP.