SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #99-14

The following State and Federal Salmon Managers have participated in the preparation of this SOR: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, National Marine Fisheries Service and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

TO:  Brigadier General Griffin  COE-NPD
      William Branch  COE-Water Management
      Cindy Henriksen  COE-RCC
      Bolyvong Tanovan  COE-RCC
      Doug Arndt  COE-P
      Col. R. Slusar  COE-Portland District
      Lieut. Col. W.E. Bulen, Jr.  COE-Walla Walla District
      Steve Clark  USBR-Boise Acting Regional Director
      Judith Johansen  BPA-Administrator
      Greg Delwiche  BPA-PG-5

FROM:  Marv Yoshinaka, Chairperson, Salmon Managers

DATE:   June 29, 1999

SUBJECT:  Summer Reservoir Operations

SPECIFICATIONS:
For the week ending July 11, 1999:
Brownlee Reservoir - Maintain reservoir at full and pass inflow.
Dworshak Reservoir – Maintain minimum outflow (1.3 Kcfs) to allow maximum refill of the project.

JUSTIFICATION:

Several operational constraints have been placed on summer flow augmentation in the Snake River including: limiting hydraulic capacity at the Hells Canyon Complex for turbine maintenance, and the failure to refill Dworshak Reservoir to elevation 1600 feet because of flood control operations. Consequently, flow augmentation in the Snake River will not achieve the Biological Opinion flow targets late July through August. Research conducted by the USFWS suggests that the wild fall chinook migration can be expected to arrive at Lower Granite Dam later than average this year. The state, federal and tribal fishery agencies are trying to maintain flexibility in the management of both flow and temperature for the fall chinook migration. The reservoir operations described above are necessary to achieve these goals. It is likely that the agencies will request similar operations for the week ending July 18th, dependent on fish movement and environmental parameters.