



The Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon
Migration Feasibility Report/
Environmental Impact Statement



Relevant Agreements

Information on relevant agreements

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) continues to study ways to improve juvenile salmon passage through the hydropower system on the Snake River. As part of this effort the Corps released the Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) in December 1999. These information sheets discuss specific topics covered in the FR/EIS. The entire FR/EIS can be found on line at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil>. For more information contact Dave Dankel, Walla Walla District Corps, at (509) 527-7288, dave.a.dankel@nww01.usace.army.mil.

The Drawdown Regional Economic Workgroup (DREW) was established to develop a comprehensive social and economic analysis (which includes relevant agreements) for this Feasibility Study. The DREW includes economists from Federal agencies, the Northwest Power Planning Council, states, tribes, contractors, and other regional stakeholders.

The Relevant Agreement workgroup, a DREW subgroup, has completed a draft report that formed the basis of Section 9.13, Relevant Agreements, in the FR/EIS.

The purpose of the Relevant Agreement Analysis is to provide information for policy makers regarding how the proposed alternatives either affect or are affected by selected relevant agreements. It is important to note that this analysis is still preliminary data, and is subject to review and revision, based on comments received as part of the reviews of the DREW team and the Independent Economic Analysis Board (IEAB).

Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement (PNCA)

The PNCA has as its primary goal the coordination of resources to maximize the efficiency and flexibility of power system operations to meet unusual or severe conditions (such as may occur in severe cold weather conditions). If the power resource remains substantially unchanged under the preferred alternative, there will typically be little effect on the PNCA. However, flow augmentation occurrences in previous years (e.g., at 427,000-acre feet) have occasionally affected the PNCA by reducing the flexibility of response. This would be the case with Existing Conditions, Maximum Transport, and Major System Improvements alternatives.

Under the Dam Breaching Alternative, the hydro-power resource base would be reduced and is assumed to be replaced by combined turbine gas generators. If 1,550 megawatts of power were developed, there would be no significant affect on the PNCA. If this level of power were not developed, then the effectiveness of the PNCA could be negatively affected.

Canadian Entitlement Allocation Agreement (CEAA)

The CEAA required Canada to construct and operate storage on the Columbia River and a tributary in Canada for optimum power generation and flood control downstream in Canada and in the U.S. Regulation of stream flows by the three Canadian Treaty reservoirs enables dams downstream in the U.S. to generate more usable electricity. Canada's portion of the downstream power benefits is known as the Canadian Entitlement.



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The Canadian entitlement is guaranteed by law through at least 2024 and will continue to be provided, regardless of the power system in place. There is a clause in the CEEA which decreases the Canadian entitlement if the Pacific Northwest region buys more thermal power. As a result, the current level of entitlement will not be affected by alternatives that leave the dams in place. Under the Dam Breaching Alternative, the Canadian entitlement could decrease, because there would be a greater reliance on thermal power resources.

MOA on the BPA's Financial Commitment for Fish and Wildlife Costs

The MOA placed a cap on BPA's expenditures for these programs at \$252 million per year plus an estimated effect due to operational changes (e.g., lost revenue and/or power purchases). This MOA does not limit the fish and wildlife obligations of the various agencies involved under any of the alternatives under consideration. In addition, the MOA runs only through the year 2001, which is before any of the study alternatives are scheduled for implementation. If the budget for fish and wildlife programs needs to be increased under any of the alternatives, the increase could be reflected in a modification of the budget. As a result, the MOA could remain in its present form with a modified budget or be eliminated.

MOA on Direct Funding of Power Operation and Maintenance Costs at Corps Projects

This MOA established the framework and administrative details for BPA direct funding. The MOA could continue to operate under any of the alternatives under consideration. However, if construction costs increase significantly, the budget would need to be modified. This would be the case under the Maximum Transport, Major System Improvements, and Dam Breaching alternatives. In addition, a modification to the cost allocation process may be necessary under Dam Breaching.

Tribal Treaties

The Federal government's coordination and consultation process with Native American Indian Tribes has evolved over the years. The basis of this ongoing process can be found in treaties, statutes, executive orders, agency policies, and court decisions.

The tribal effects of the alternatives under consideration are being evaluated. Discussions of these effects as well as the coordination and consultation process are discussed in *Technical Appendix N – Cultural Resources*, *Technical Appendix Q – Tribal Consultation/Coordination*, Section 5, Tribal Circumstances, of *Technical Appendix I – Economics*, and the DREW Tribal Circumstances Report. Other consultation efforts, including public comments received, will be incorporated into the *FR/EIS*. The Corps is committed to carrying out its activities in a manner that fulfills its Treaty and Trust obligations.

Water Rights Agreements

Under the Existing Conditions, Maximum Transport, and Major System Improvements alternatives, there are no major effects to water rights agreements. Under the Dam Breaching Alternative, there would be effects to irrigators on the Ice Harbor reservoir.

U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty

The two principles on which the Treaty rests are conservation and equity. Presently the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) estimates that “nearly two-thirds of the ocean harvest impacts on Snake River fall chinook occurred in Canadian fisheries during the base period, although this is a very small fraction of the harvest.” The alternatives under consideration that meet NMFS' jeopardy standards are considered the best options to enhance the U.S. obligations with respect to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

