



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Idaho Fishery Resource Office

P.O. Box 18

Ahsahka, ID

Phone: (208) 476-7242 FAX: (208) 476-7228



March 20, 2012

Nicole Tancreto
PTAGIS
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Ms. Tancreto,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fishery Resource Office recently requested that FPAC consider a Sort-By-Code system action for 15,000 PIT-tagged spring Chinook salmon planned for release from Kooskia National Fish Hatchery (NFH) in 2012. We requested a 'Monitor Mode' (no action taken) designation for 93% of the PIT-tagged fish originating from Kooskia NFH. The remaining 7% will be returned to the river. FPAC found no conflicts with this request and granted concurrence (see attached email). We also coordinated this request with COE biologists at the Walla Walla District Office and at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and McNary dams; the Smolt Monitoring Plan biologists at the dams, and NOAA biologist at Lower Granite Dam. No concerns were raised about the implementation of this request.

A list of pre-assigned tag codes is provided as an attachment and we request that PTAGIS divert these codes as assigned. The anticipated release date for Kooskia NFH spring Chinook is April 1, 2012.

Below is our requested action and the corresponding facilities.

General Action Request: Place pre-assigned tags (100%) into "Monitor Mode", No action taken. Tag codes will be pre-assigned by the Idaho Fishery Resource Office and submitted to PTAGIS.

Action 1: Kooskia National Fish Hatchery spring Chinook salmon production smolts released at Kooskia NFH. Approximate number of PIT tags released = 15,000.

Location of Action: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and McNary juvenile fish facilities.

Duration and Start Date: Entire season SbyC is operational in 2012.

We appreciate your assistance in this operation. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Carrie Bretz or I at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Burge
Project Leader

Cc: Carrie Bretz, USFWS