THE JOHN DAY CONFIGURATION STUDY

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ABSTRACT

John Day Dam (JDA) currently has among the lowest dam passage survival rates for ESA-listed juvenile salmonids among the eight federal Columbia River power system (FCRPS) dams. The targeted goal for fish survival improvements at FCRPS projects is to achieve 96% and 93% survival rates for spring and summer migrants, respectively. The achievement of such survival rates are being attempted under a least cost approach, with the caveat of not negatively affecting other salmonid life histories, other aquatic species, water quality, or recreation activities.

The John Day Configuration and Operation Plan (COP) provide the strategic plan for carrying out fish passage improvements at JDA. Specific COP objectives include: (1) define the baseline condition for fish passage, (2) identify and prioritize fish passage alternatives to be evaluated, (3) develop a decision analysis framework from which alternatives will be evaluated, (4) identify critical information gaps needed to make decisions, and (5) define the schedule and alternative implementation process for reaching targeted survival goals. An overview of physical & numeric modeling techniques used and rationale for FY08 testing - to fill a critical information gap - towards developing alternative(s) to ultimately reach targeted survival rates will be presented at the review. This review will include an overview of both potential Phase I & Phase II alternatives, as outlined in the strategic plan and BiOp. Beyond the strategic plan results from Direct Injury and Survival testing – from released 'Balloon Tagged' and 'Sensor' Fish – will be also be presented as part of the Configuration Study.