

**Wells HCP Coordinating Committee**  
**Statement of Agreement to Adjust the Timing of the Annual Termination of Bypass**  
**Operations at Wells Dam**

**Date of Approval: January 26, 2021**

**Statement**

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee (CC) accepts Douglas PUD's recommendation to adjust the dates of annual bypass operations at Wells Dam as follows: bypass operations will commence at 00:00 hours on April 9 and continue until termination at 24:00 hours on August 9. These dates of bypass operations will commence in 2021 and remain in effect annually unless modified as a result of future investigation that demonstrates that these dates are not providing bypass passage for at least 95% of either spring- or summer-migrating Plan Species at Wells Dam. The CC will continue to govern the specifics of bypass operations within the period defined by these dates via approval of a Bypass Operations Plan prepared annually by Douglas PUD.

**Background**

Annual operation of the bypass system at Wells Dam follows the criteria contained within the Wells Dam Juvenile Dam Passage Survival Plan found in Section 4.3 of the Wells HCP. A primary goal of that plan is to provide bypass operations for at least 95% of both the spring and summer migration of juvenile plan species.

Section 4.3.2 of the HCP directs Douglas PUD to verify at 10-year intervals whether or not operations established by the CC are adequately protecting 95% of the spring and summer migrations of juvenile Plan Species. Each year, Douglas PUD's contractor, Columbia Basin Research, analyzes passage timing of juvenile spring- and summer-migrating Plan Species at Rocky Reach Dam as a surrogate for the timing of passage through the bypass at Wells Dam. Their analysis was last used to adjust bypass initiation and termination dates to April 9 through August 19, beginning with the 2012 bypass season. Douglas PUD provided the results of the 2020 analysis (Skalski and Townsend 2020) to the CC at their December 2020 meeting. That analysis demonstrated that the timing of bypass operations at Wells Dam provided bypass passage for  $\geq 95\%$  of spring- and summer-migrating Plan Species in each of the last 9 years (2012-2020). The analysis further demonstrated that the start date for spring migrants was sufficient, but in all years the bypass ran at least 10 days (range 10-35 days) longer than necessary to provide  $>95\%$  passage for summer migrating subyearling Chinook Salmon

**Reference:**

Skalski, J.R., and R. L. Townsend. 2020. Analysis of Proportion of Outmigration Affected by Bypass Operations at Wells Dam in 2020. *Prepared by Columbia Basin Research, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA. Prepare for Douglas County Public Utility District, East Wenatchee, WA.*