

Tim Connor

From: Imhof, Hugh [Hugh.Imhof@avistacorp.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2008 11:01 AM
To: Tim Connor
Subject: Latest Sierra club release
Attachments: AVISTA Monroe St Dam Permit.pdf

Just FYI, this is what WDFW had to say.

- Regarding redband spawning areas: Our permit (copy attached) was issued for the period of June 15 to Sept. 30, our typical work window for this portion of the Spokane River. Its boundaries are specifically established so as not to interfere with redband rainbow trout spawning activities and in-gravel incubation. Most if not all trout would be free-swimming at this time (matured past the in-gravel rearing stage).
- Regarding the placement of material directly below the dam: Our permit is specifically provisioned to retain this bedload material in the river. Dams typically interfere with the natural transportation of rocky material within the riverine system. This interruption in the natural processes of the river can cause downstream reaches to become "starved" of bedload material, particularly spawning size gravels. The periodic introduction of "new" rock material to stream reaches where spawning occurs is important to the continued successful natural reproduction of fish, in this case, redband rainbow trout. The placement directly below the dam of the material allows the river to eventually transport and disperse this material in the reach below the dam and potentially augment spawning material available to fish.
- Regarding potential toxics: This question is better answered by the Department of Ecology, which has water quality jurisdiction.
- This permit was issued for one year only to allow the ongoing re-licensing effort (which is coordinated for us by WDFW habitat biologist Doug Robison) to guide any future actions.
- Nothing came to our attention that would have caused us to deny this permit. RCW 77.55.021 (3)(a) states: "Protection of fish life is the only ground upon which a permit may be denied or conditioned." We saw no reason, related to the protection of fish life, to deny this permit. The condition that material be left in the river and deposited directly below the dam was the provision we determined needed to be applied in order to protect fish life.

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