

**FINAL Transcript – Bill McDonald, Reclamation Regional Director****How does the Upper Snake BA tie into the FCRPS BA?**

The Upper Snake BA covers actions that are separate from the FCRPS. Consistent with the instructions from the Court, the combined effects of Reclamation's Upper Snake actions are added to the effects of the FCRPS. So we do a comprehensive analysis of both sets of actions.

**What are you proposing to do?**

We're proposing the continued operation of our projects for their authorized purposes, which include irrigation, and power, and recreation. And we're also proposing to adjust the timing of the flow augmentation releases that were made to improve benefits to listed fish.

**What are the benefits of flow augmentation?**

Flow augmentation may contribute to improved juvenile migration, especially during dry years like this year. The biological benefits, according to NOAA Fisheries, include additional velocity and volume during juvenile fish out-migration. Reclamation's augmentation flows are most important in the Snake River reach that is below Hells Canyon Dam down to the confluence of the Clearwater River.

**If the lower Snake River dams were removed, would you still do flow augmentation?**

This is a very complicated issue and I don't think we can say today whether calls for flow augmentation from the upper Snake would be eliminated, or persist if dam removal were ever chosen as a course of action to be undertaken.

**What does the Nez Perce settlement do for fish?**

The Nez Perce water rights settlement provides many benefits to fish. For example, instream flows will be protected in the Salmon and Clearwater river basins. And the Nez Perce tribe will undertake stream restoration and habitat improvement projects with monies that will be provided through the settlement. We also anticipate streamflow improvements in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi rivers via cooperative agreements with local water users.