



# Nez Perce Tribe

## Department of Fisheries Resources Management

Administration • Enforcement • Habitat/Watershed • Harvest • Production • Research • Resident Fish  
P.O. Box 365 • Lapwai, Idaho 83540



### Memorandum

Date: August 25, 2025

To: Snake River Basin Adjudication Dworshak Board Members  
(Idaho – Ed Schriever, BPA – Tony Norris, COE – Doug Baus, NOAA – Trevor Condor)  
Cc: Joe Oatman; Technical Management Team  
From: Jay Hesse – Nez Perce Tribe Dworshak Board Chair

Re: Dworshak Board 2024 Plan Implementation Summary and 2025 Operational Plan

#### Background

The Dworshak Board has developed Annual Operational Plans for the use of the Nez Perce Tribe's 200,000 acre feet (200 KAF) of stored water in Dworshak Reservoir<sup>1</sup>. Dworshak Dam discharges outlined in these plans have been based on releasing water between elevation 1,535' and 1,520', with timing and elevation (but not volume) subject to change by the Dworshak Board. The Annual Operating Plans consider factors including a) Lower Granite Dam tailrace temperatures, b) juvenile fish rearing in the Clearwater River, c) migration status of juvenile fall Chinook, d) cultural resources, e) recreation, f) thermal refuge, and g) hatchery water supply.

The 2024 Operational Plan can serve as a background and baseline reference document and is posted at

[https://public.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2024/0828\\_Base\\_DWR\\_Operational\\_Plan\\_Aug\\_2024\\_Final\\_0829.pdf](https://public.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2024/0828_Base_DWR_Operational_Plan_Aug_2024_Final_0829.pdf). Operational strategies, typically begin on or about September 1 and gradually decrease outflows with incremental steps of no less than 2 days duration to achieve an elevation of 1,520 feet no later than September 30. Doble testing constrains flow ramp down in two out of three years, including 2025.

Release of the Agreement water in September has targeted:

- Lower Granite Dam tailwater temperatures not to exceed 68°F.
- Lower Granite Dam adult trap temperature not to exceed 70°F.
- Clearwater River at Spalding daily average water temperatures not to exceed 56°F.
- Clearwater River at Peck and Spalding daily average water temperature between day change of no more than 1°F.

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<sup>1</sup> Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 - Public Law 109-447 Title X - (Agreement) between the United States, through the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and the Tribe and that Agreement's underlying Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Tribe, Corps, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, Bonneville Power Administration and the State of Idaho (Parties).

## 2024 Implementation Summary

- Dworshak reservoir elevation reach 1,535' on September 1, 2024 (Figure 1, Table 1).
- Dworshak reservoir elevation reach 1,520' on September 23, 2024 (Figure 1, Table 1).
- Lower Granite Dam tailwater temperatures did not to exceed 68°F during Agreement water releases between September 1 and 23 and remained below 68°F through the remainder of 2024 (Figure 2, Table 1).
- Lower Granite Dam adult trap temperature did not to exceed 70°F during September 2024 (Figure 2, Table 1).
- Clearwater River at Spalding daily average water temperatures exceeded 56°F on 9 days in September. It should be noted that water temperatures at the Peck gauge reached but did not exceed 56°F (Figure 2, Table 1).
- Clearwater River at Peck and Spalding daily average water temperature between day change of no more than 1°F was exceeded 5 and 9 days, respectively (Figure 2, Table 1).

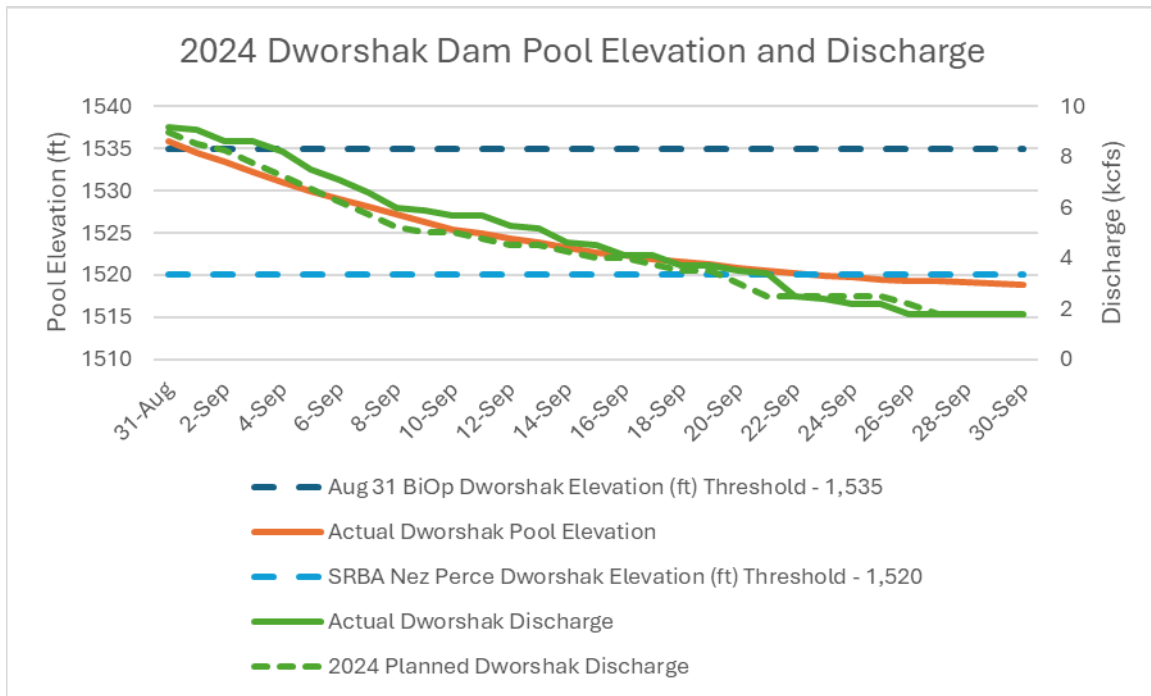


Figure 1. Dworshak Dam pool elevation and discharge associated with Dworshak Board Snake River Basin Agreement 2024 Operational Plan.

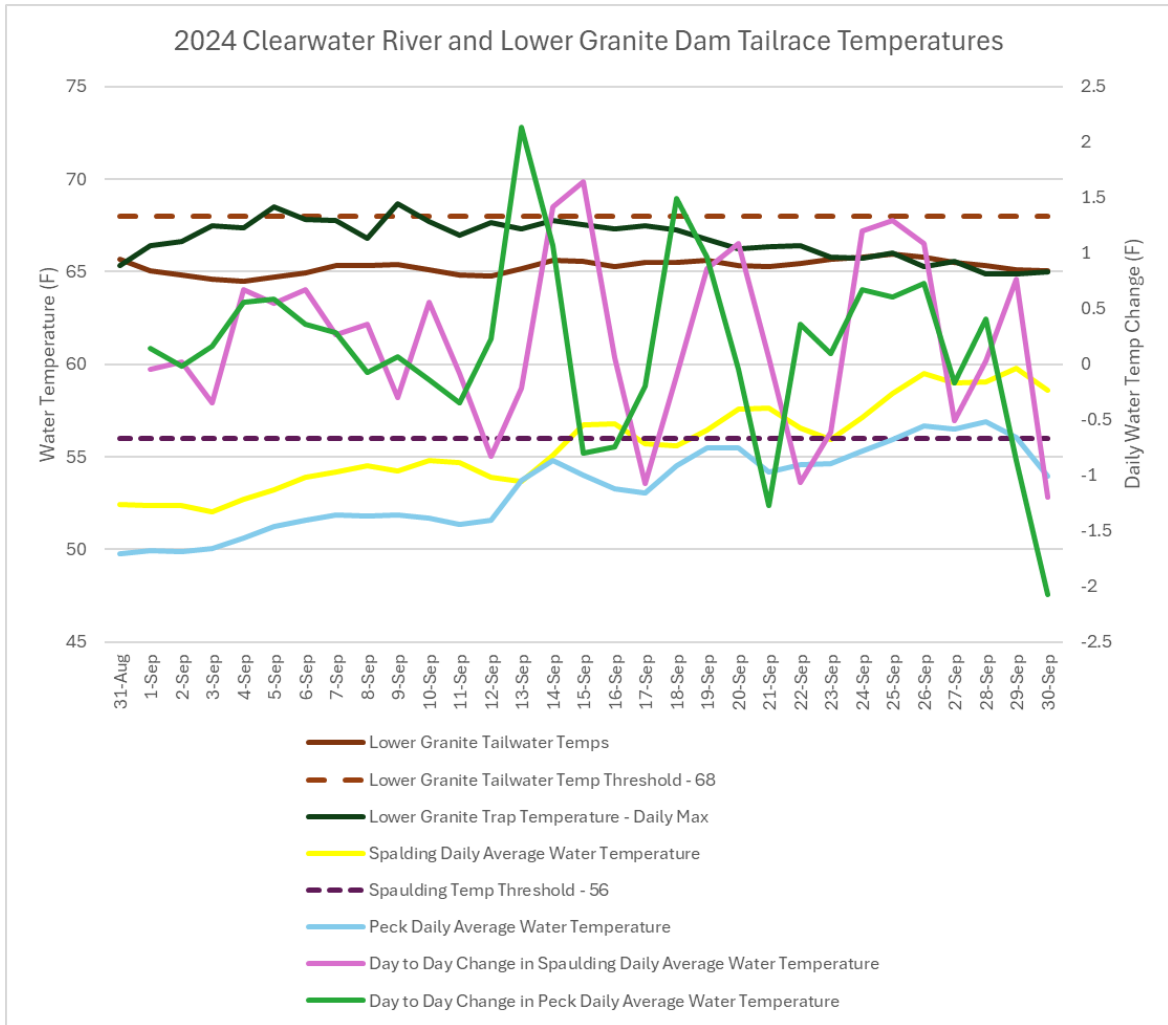


Figure 2. Water temperatures in the Clearwater River and Lower Granite Dam tailrace associated with Dworshak Board Snake River Basin Agreement 2024 Operational Plan.

## 2025 Release Alternatives

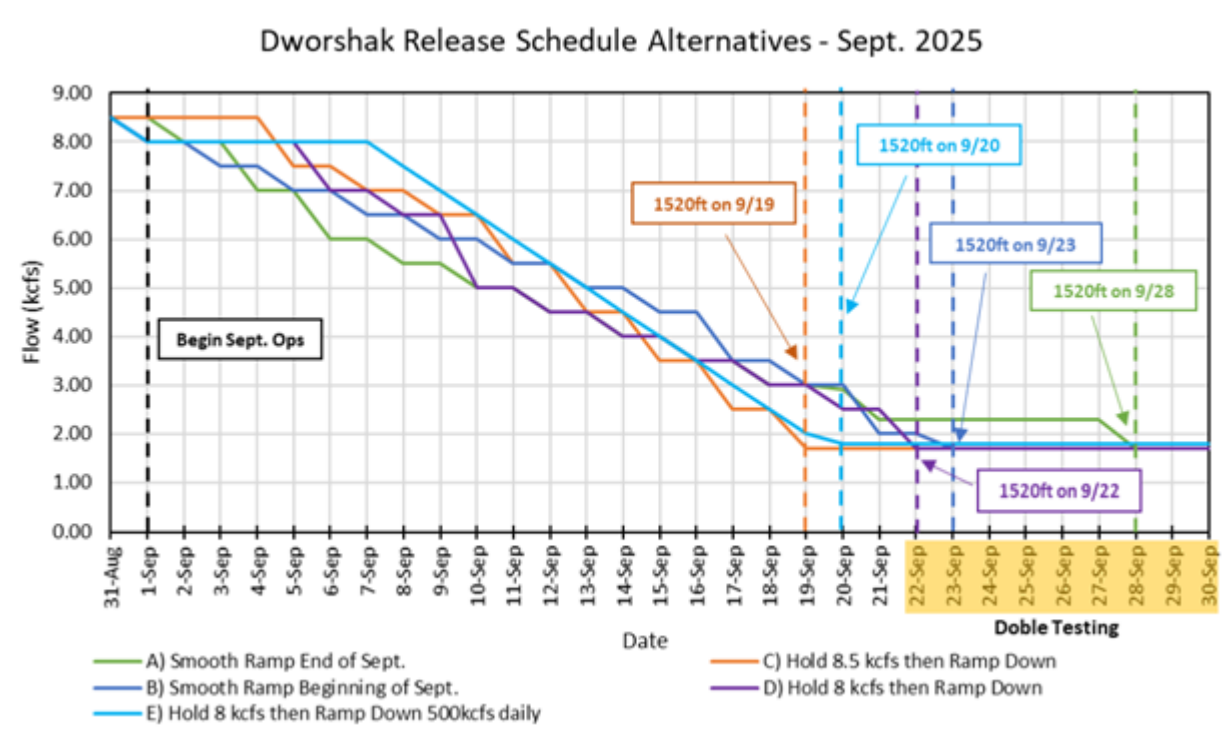


Figure 3. Range of Dworshak release strategy alternatives considered by Dworshak Board in 2025.

## 2025 Operational Plan

Assuming a Dworshak reservoir elevation of 1,535' August 31, 2025, the Dworshak Board directs Alternative B (smooth ramp)(Figure 4 – dark blue line) beginning September 1 or later when pool elevation reaches 1,535' be implemented. If a short duration heat wave (temperatures at or above 100°F for 3 days or less) weather condition is predicted during the first week of September, then implement Alternative D (hold 8 kcfs then ramp down) (Figure 4 – purple line). If a long duration heat wave (temperatures at or above 100°F for 4 days or more) weather condition is predicted, then implement Alternative E (hold 8 kcfs then ramp down 500cfs daily) (Figure 4 – light blue line).

During the late August timeframe, the Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District Water Management staff, in coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe, will evaluate and determine the most appropriate release alternative based on real-time forecasting and basin conditions. Walla Walla District staff will notify Bonneville Power Administration staff of the selected alternative no later than August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. If, during the planned release of the 200,000 acre-feet, real-time conditions or forecasting require minor changes to operations, coordination will take place between the Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District Water Management staff and Bonneville Power Administration real-time. If drastic deviations from the planned release schedule are required, or if the planned release becomes infeasible, the Dworshak Board will be convened for additional coordination and approval.

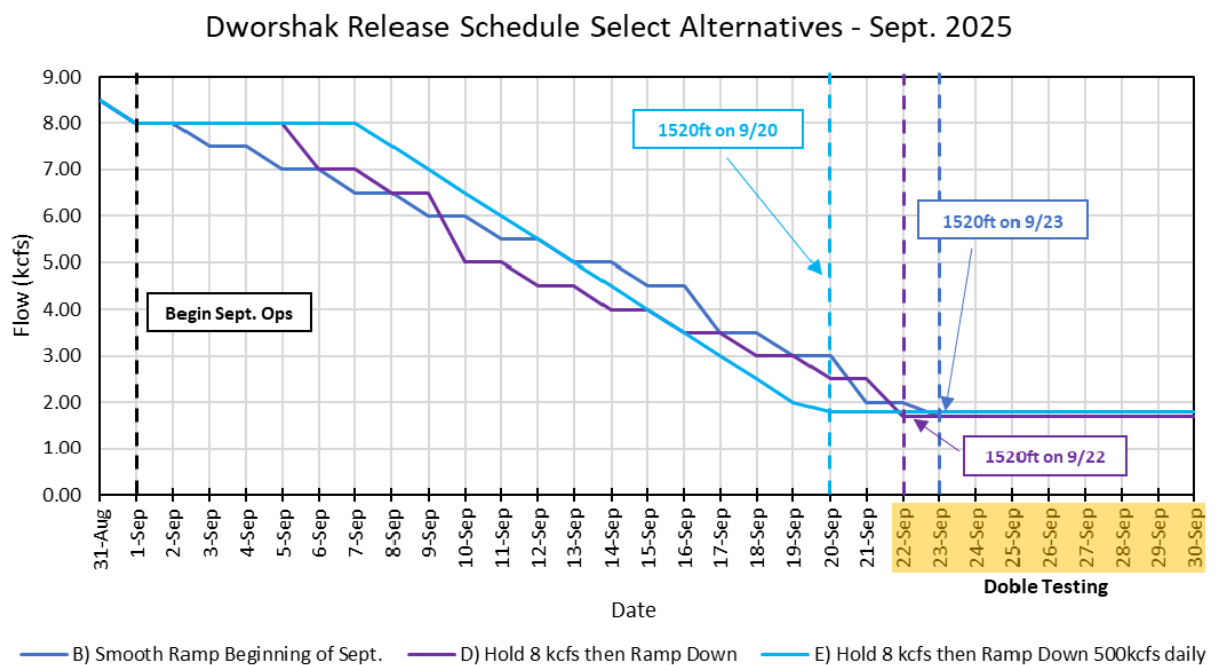


Figure 4. Dworshak Board approved water release strategy alternatives for 2025 implementation. Alternative B preferred, Alternative D if short heat wave, and Alternative E if long heat wave.

Table 1. 2024 daily data for actual water temperatures, flows, and pool elevations.

Date	Aug 31 BOp Dworshak Elevation (ft) Threshold - 1,535	Actual Dworshak Pool Elevation	SRBA Nez Perce Dworshak Elevation (ft) Threshold - 1,520	Actual Dworshak Discharge	2024 Planned Discharge	2024 Actual vs Planned Difference	Lower Granite Tailwater Temps	Lower Granite Tailwater Temp Threshold - 68	Lower Granite Trap Temperature - Daily Max	Spaulding Daily Average	Spaulding Temp Threshold - 56	Peck Daily Average Water Temperature	Spaulding Daily Max Water Temperature	Day to Day Change in Spaulding Daily Average Water Temperature	Day to Day Change in Peck Daily Average Water Temperature
Data Source		DWR Bv- Forebay Ave. ~1 Day. 1Day.CBT-REV [ft]		DWR Flow- Out Ave. ~1Day. 1 Day.CBT-REV [kcfs]			LVWG Temp- Water Inst. 1 Hour. 0.GOES REV [F]		IDFG	SPDI Temp-Water Ave. ~1Day. 1Day.USGS-COMPL			SPDI Temp-Water Max. ~1Day. 1 Day.GOES-COMPUTED-REV [F]		
31-Aug	1535	1535.81	1520	9.2	9	0.2	65.66	68	65.3162	52.406	56	49.78	53.6		
1-Sep	1535	1534.56	1520	9.1	8.5	0.6	65.04	68	66.4286	52.357	56	49.93	53.6	-0.049	0.14
2-Sep	1535	1533.36	1520	8.6	8.25	0.35	64.80	68	66.6428	52.379	56	49.91	53.6	0.022	-0.01
3-Sep	1535	1532.18	1520	8.6	7.75	0.85	64.58	68	67.4996	52.034	56	50.08	51.8	-0.345	0.16
4-Sep	1535	1531.05	1520	8.2	7.25	0.95	64.51	68	67.3718	52.702	56	50.63	53.6	0.668	0.56
5-Sep	1535	1529.98	1520	7.5	6.75	0.75	64.71	68	68.5274	53.249	56	51.22	55.4	0.547	0.58
6-Sep	1535	1528.99	1520	7.1	6.25	0.85	64.94	68	67.7984	53.922	56	51.58	55.4	0.673	0.36
7-Sep	1535	1528.06	1520	6.6	5.75	0.85	65.30	68	67.757	54.185	56	51.86	55.4	0.263	0.29
8-Sep	1535	1527.22	1520	6	5.25	0.75	65.34	68	66.8138	54.549	56	51.79	55.4	0.364	-0.08
9-Sep	1535	1526.24	1520	5.9	5	0.9	65.37	68	68.657	54.247	56	51.85	53.6	-0.302	0.07
10-Sep	1535	1525.39	1520	5.7	5	0.7	65.08	68	67.7138	54.804	56	51.71	55.4	0.557	-0.14
11-Sep	1535	1524.9	1520	5.7	4.75	0.95	64.83	68	66.9848	54.719	56	51.37	55.4	-0.085	-0.34
12-Sep	1535	1524.37	1520	5.3	4.5	0.8	64.75	68	67.6274	53.892	56	51.60	53.6	-0.827	0.23
13-Sep	1535	1523.89	1520	5.2	4.5	0.7	65.16	68	67.3286	53.675	56	53.73	53.6	-0.217	2.13
14-Sep	1535	1523.32	1520	4.6	4.25	0.35	65.61	68	67.757	55.089	56	54.79	57.2	1.414	1.07
15-Sep	1535	1522.69	1520	4.5	4	0.5	65.56	68	67.5428	56.729	56	54.00	57.2	1.64	-0.80
16-Sep	1535	1522.32	1520	4.1	4	0.1	65.25	68	67.2854	56.789	56	53.26	57.2	0.06	-0.74
17-Sep	1535	1521.9	1520	4.1	3.75	0.35	65.48	68	67.4996	55.713	56	53.06	55.4	-1.076	-0.20
18-Sep	1535	1521.53	1520	3.7	3.5	0.2	65.49	68	67.2422	55.61	56	54.55	55.4	-0.103	1.49
19-Sep	1535	1521.23	1520	3.7	3.5	0.2	65.60	68	66.7724	56.469	56	55.51	57.2	0.859	0.96
20-Sep	1535	1520.85	1520	3.5	3	0.5	65.33	68	66.2576	57.553	56	55.47	59	1.084	-0.04
21-Sep	1535	1520.46	1520	3.4	2.5	0.9	65.29	68	66.344	57.612	56	54.20	59	0.059	-1.27
22-Sep	1535	1520.17	1520	2.5	2.5	0	65.47	68	66.3854	56.546	56	54.56	57.2	-1.066	0.36
23-Sep	1535	1519.92	1520	2.4	2.5	-0.1	65.65	68	65.7878	55.936	56	54.66	57.2	-0.61	0.10
24-Sep	1535	1519.71	1520	2.2	2.5	-0.3	65.81	68	65.7014	57.134	56	55.33	59	1.198	0.67
25-Sep	1535	1519.5	1520	2.2	2.5	-0.3	65.94	68	66.0002	58.43	56	55.93	59	1.296	0.61
26-Sep	1535	1519.36	1520	1.8	2.2	-0.4	65.76	68	65.273	59.516	56	56.66	60.8	1.086	0.73
27-Sep	1535	1519.24	1520	1.8	1.8	0	65.48	68	65.5304	59.008	56	56.50	60.8	-0.508	-0.16
28-Sep	1535	1519.11	1520	1.8	1.8	0	65.35	68	64.8878	59.041	56	56.90	60.8	0.033	0.41
29-Sep	1535	1518.95	1520	1.8	1.8	0	65.08	68	64.8878	59.808	56	56.03	60.8	0.767	-0.87
30-Sep	1535	1518.8	1520	1.8	1.8	0	65.07	68	65.0174	58.612	56	53.96	59	-1.196	-2.07