

Purpose

## Annual Libby Dam Operations

This site provides details on annual operations at Libby Dam that are related to the 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion.

2008 Libby Operations

For 2008, the Corps will continue to implement strict VARQ flood control operation at Libby Dam. Similar to 2007, the Corps will operate Libby Dam to provide additional water releases in the spring for sturgeon, and in the summer for Columbia River salmon and steelhead. Also similar to 2007, the Corps would vary from VARQ operating procedures only on a short-term basis to protect human life and safety, avoid river stages higher than the 1,764-foot flood stage at Bonners Ferry, and comply with requirements of an International Joint Commission order addressing Libby Dam effects on Kootenay Lake in Canada.

For more details, see the link below.

[Determination and Finding for 2008 Libby Dam Operations](#)

2007 Libby Operations

For 2007, the Corps will implement strict VARQ flood control operation at Libby Dam. Along with strict VARQ flood control, an alternative to standard flood control, the Corps will operate Libby Dam to provide additional water releases in the spring for sturgeon, and in the summer for Columbia River salmon and steelhead. The Corps would vary from VARQ operating procedures only on a short-term basis to protect human life and

safety, avoid river stages higher than the 1,764-foot flood stage at Bonners Ferry, and comply with requirements of an International Joint Commission order addressing Libby Dam effects on Kootenay Lake in Canada.

For more details, see the links below.

### [Determination and Finding for 2007 Libby Dam Operations](#)

#### 2006 Libby Operations

For 2006, the Corps plans to implement a "stacked flow" operation at Libby Dam and will operate to full powerhouse (approximately 25,000 cfs) for up to two weeks with the objective of timing releases to coincide with a local runoff freshet below Libby Dam. This will be followed by releases of up to 20,000 cfs optimizing temperature until the sturgeon volume of 1 million acre-feet is exhausted. With this operation, the Corps will not intentionally exceed elevation 1764 feet at Bonners Ferry, the flood stage designated by the National Weather Service. Ramp up to full powerhouse capacity began on May 15, 2006.

See these links for more details.

[2006 Libby Operations - Letter from Corps to USFWS dated May 4, 2006](#)

[2006 Libby Operations - Response Letter from USFWS to Corps dated May 5, 2006](#)

[Kootenai River Basin 2006 Spring Flood Event - After Action Report](#)

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