

DRAFT

October X, 2006

Mark Walker
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority would like to provide comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) draft recommendations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2009 funding for **Project Number 198906201, Annual Work Plan CFWA** . Below is a summary of the Council draft recommendation:

Original Proposal Amount \$2,253,787

Reduced MSRT Recommended Amount \$2,071,450

Draft NPCC Recommended Amount \$1,885,250 with the following comment:

“Interim funding pending further Council review of the appropriate coordination activities. Council draft recommendation is an interim budget level that represented the MSRT recommendation, minus the Kalispel and Spokane requests. Council requests a recommendation from staff in October 06 re tasks, deliverables.”

The fish and wildlife managers and tribes of CFWA recommend the Council restore the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team (MSRT) recommended budget of \$2,071,450 as the final recommended funding amount for project number 198906201, Annual Work Plan CFWA.

Background

The Northwest Power Act calls for fish and wildlife management coordination to be built into the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program (Program):

839b(h)(2). The Council shall request, in writing, promptly after the Council is established under either subsection (a) or (b) of this section and prior to the development or review of the plan, or any major revision thereto, from the Federal and the region's State fish and wildlife agencies and from the region's appropriate Indian tribes, recommendations for—

839b(h)(2)(C). fish and wildlife management coordination and research and development (including funding) which, among other things, will assist

protection, mitigation, and enhancement of anadromous fish at, and between, the region's hydroelectric dams. [Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(2)(C), 94 Stat. 2708.]

Over the course of the past 25 years the program has evolved a suite of projects that constitute the elements of the current model for fish and wildlife management coordination as it pertains to the ongoing adaptive management process for fish and wildlife mitigation under the Northwest Power Act. This suite of projects is as follows:

- Focus Watershed Coordinators provide for local development, coordination and implementation of sub-basin plans;
- Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP) provides for the development of coordinated monitoring design;
- Streamnet and Northwest Habitat Institute provides for coordination and communication of fish and wildlife management data; and,
- CBFWA provides Regional Coordination and development of regionally coordinated products.

A detailed discussion of the relationship of these projects was discussed in the CBFWA response to the Council's Regional Data Center proposal. Funding for individual fish and wildlife manager participation in each of these elements of management coordination has been provided under the guiding principle that dollars are provided to participate in processes that are pursuing a *coordinated* position. That is not to say that individual fish and wildlife managers do not provide their own sovereign positions when needed, they do; rather it is to say that the current program does not pay for this as part of the larger regional program.

Conclusion

Funding for project number 198906201, Annual Work Plan CBFWA, must be restored to the recommended amount from the MSRT. This represents the amount of funds recommended by the fish and wildlife managers through their participation in the selection process established by the NPCC. This funding level represents a significant reduction from the original requested funding level, due to the CBFWA members understanding that funds are limited under the upcoming rate period and all projects must be as efficient as possible.

If the NPCC recommends the funding of the individual Kalispell and Spokane Tribes proposals, it should not do so to the detriment of the remaining 17 fish and wildlife managers in the basin. The Kalispell and Spokane Tribes have been invited to continue to participate in these regional coordination activities (see attached letters of invitation). The program paying for manager participation in CBFWA buys the region a *coordinated* response from the fish and wildlife managers and tribes in various aspects of the adaptive fish and wildlife management plan (see attachment describing examples of coordinated projects from CBFWA).

The NPCC could recommend funding of the Kalispell and Spokane Tribes' proposal and stay consistent with the current model contained in the program by pursuing watershed coordinator projects for each of the Tribes. This would provide these Tribes with funding to accomplish local coordination (e.g., project number 199202601, Grand Ronde Model Watershed Program Habitat Restoration – Planning, Coordination and Implementation, work elements 01-03). Funding to participate in regional coordination is currently available to the all the fish and wildlife managers including the Kalispell and Spokane Tribes through the current suite of projects.

Funding pursued outside the context of the current program should not be considered for recommendation. If a programmatic change is warranted the Act establishes clear process for this which must be followed.

If you have questions please contact Brian Lipscomb at (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,

Ron Trahan, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Here are some examples of coordinated products from CBFWA:

Recent Past:

- Response & input to the NPCC's Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance Document
- Response & input to the NPCC's Research Plan
- Response to the NPCC's request for comment on the Data Center Proposal
- Development of the automated system for the FY07-09 Project Solicitation process
- Participation in the Budget Oversight Group
- Facilitation of the system-wide program review for projects in the FY2006 start of year budget
- Facilitation of the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team for the FY07-09 project selection process for the Basinwide and Multi-province budget categories
- Facilitation of the white sturgeon technical workshop (report pending)
- Facilitation of the resident fish workshop and 28th international Kokanee Workshop
- Facilitation of the bi-annual fish screening workshop recently held in the Tri-cities
- Facilitation of the project implementation workshop to review Mainstem and Systemwide projects
- Facilitation of the workshop to review the Data Management proposals in the 07-09 project selection process
- Development of the Status of the Resource Project reporting the collective response from the fish and wildlife managers on the status of the regions fish and wildlife resources
- Maintenance of the historical project proposal data base
- Maintenance of the with-in year budget and scope project modification process
- Maintenance of the CBFWA web-site
- Participation and coordination of the Lamprey Technical Workgroup
- Facilitation of the Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee
- Facilitation of the Resident Fish Advisory Committee
- Facilitation of the Wildlife Advisory Committee
- Development of basin-wide coordinated monitoring efforts (CSMEP project)

Near Future:

- Response to the proposed fish and wildlife program amendment process
- Response to the NPCC's Annual Report to Congress
- Facilitation of input into the regional hatchery review process
- Facilitation of the review of the program to develop long-term O&M standards
- Facilitation of the ISRP requested Kokanee Workshop

- Facilitation of a system-wide predation workshop (product of remand)
- Facilitation of the implementation of the output from CSMEP
- Facilitation of future data management workshops
- Fish and Wildlife Manager recommendations for program amendments
- Status of the Resource interactive website to provide ongoing evaluation of the program
- Facilitation of a bull trout workshop
- Facilitation of ISRP sub-basin reviews
- Development of regionally coordinated fish and wildlife management recommendations for amendments to the NPCC fish and wildlife program
- Continue to manage within-year budget modification process
- Track and monitor BPA spending

Comparing the proposals of the Kalispel Tribe and Spokane Tribe to that of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed proposal shows that the objectives are very similar.

Proposal 200710600: Spokane Tribe Fish and Wildlife Planning and Coordination & Proposal 200716200: Kalispel Tribe Fish and Wildlife Coordination

Coordination	Participation in Regional Fish and Wildlife Activities	Participate in regional mitigation activities to implement Fish and Wildlife Program. This will include coordinating HEP team schedule, work assignments, policy analysis, ect...
Outreach and Education	Information sharing with regional entities on Spokane Tribal Policies and Programs.	Provide for discussion and information sharing with regional fish and wildlife managers, BPA, NPCC on Spokane Tribal policies, Program, and projects
Produce Plan	Assist regional fish and wildlife managers with completion of regional reporting	Assist CBFWA with annual work plan and program wide implementation reporting
Provide Technical Review	Assist in regional fish and wildlife technical reviews of projects	Assist in providing a regional review of projects for funding consideration (Provincial Reviews), funding adjustments, and reallocation of Fish and Wildlife Program funding.

Proposal 199202601: Grand Ronde Model Watershed Program Habitat Restoration - Planning, Coordination and Implementation

01: Coordination	Coordinate habitat restoration activities in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Subbasins	Includes all GRMWP coordination with resource management agencies, regulatory agencies, potential funding sources and landowners
02: Coordination	Regional Coordination	Coordinate in-basin activities with agencies and entities outside the Grande Ronde Subbasin such as OWEB, regulatory agencies, state and federal representatives and NPCC
03: Outreach and Education	Coordinate community outreach activities related to habitat protection/enhancement/restoration	Includes publication of quarterly newsletter, organization of workshops, river cleanups, coordination with agency educational activities, newspaper articles and project tours
04: Identify and Select Projects	Plan, coordinate, develop and review restoration projects for BPA funding	Solicit habitat project proposals, conduct pre-proposal site reviews, coordinate technical site reviews, develop project proposals

CSMEP

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority would like to provide comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) draft recommendations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2009 funding for **Project Number 200303600, CBFWA Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Program**. Below is a summary of the Council draft recommendation:

Original Proposal Amount \$1,024,245

Reduced MSRT Recommended Amount \$997,500

Draft NPCC Recommended Amount \$984,500 with the following comment:

Council draft recommendation: Interim funding at reduced level pending further Council consideration of regional monitoring and evaluation framework. Fund for only 2 years (07-08); Council expects a report for Council and science review, delivered by the end of FY 08. ISRP fundable (qualified): address in programmatic issue in the decision document.

The fish and wildlife managers and tribes of CBFWA recommend the Council restore the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team (MSRT) recommended budget of \$997,500 for **three years** as the final recommended funding amount for project number 200303600, CBFWA Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Program. The MSRT employed a systematic process considering all data management projects and their recommendations should be given deference on this issue. The Council decision does not represent collaboration that occurred within the MSRT review to find agreement on these projects. The CSMEP received the strongest endorsement by ISRP. The Council has acknowledged that fixing M&E for the Program is a long term process, yet this recommendation does not provide the stability for the CSMEP project to complete its mission. The states and tribes implement most of M&E in the Columbia River Basin and they need a long term commitment of funding in order to retain qualified primary staff (biometrician and fishery scientists) necessary to be successful.

HEP

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority would like to provide comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) draft recommendations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2009 funding for **Project Number 200600600, Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP)**. Below is a summary of the Council draft recommendation:

Original Proposal Amount \$341,828

Reduced MSRT Recommended Amount \$222,000

Draft NPCC Recommended Amount \$222,000 with the following comment:

Council draft recommendation: Scope expansion not accepted. Budget at the FY 2006 level.

The fish and wildlife managers and tribes of CBFWA support the Council decision for this project. This recommendation is consistent with the MSRT.

Fish Passage Functions

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority would like to provide comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) draft recommendations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2009 funding for **Project Number 200732100, Data Management for System Operations**. Below is a summary of the

Original Proposal Amount \$1,531,414

Reduced MSRT Recommended Amount \$1,500,000

Draft NPCC Recommended Amount \$0 with the following comment

“A portion of the unallocated balance will be available for the Council to make final project funding recommendations for fish passage science and analysis”

The fish and wildlife managers and tribes of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) assert that this is the only project within the current suite of projects which meets the intent of the current program as it relates to providing funding for the fish and wildlife managers to coordinate their input into system operational decisions and therefore should be recommended for funding by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC).

Background

The Northwest Power Act calls for fish and wildlife management coordination to be built into the program:

839b(h)(2). The Council shall request, in writing, promptly after the Council is established under either subsection (a) or (b) of this section and prior to the development or review of the plan, or any major revision thereto, from the Federal and the region's State fish and wildlife agencies and from the region's appropriate Indian tribes, recommendations for—

839b(h)(2)(C). fish and wildlife management coordination and research and development (including funding) which, among other things, will assist protection, mitigation, and enhancement of anadromous fish at, and between, the region's hydroelectric dams. [Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(2)(C), 94 Stat. 2708.]

Recommendations have been provided and are built into the program for the coordination of mainstem operations through the Fish Passage Center.

Page 28 of the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program States: “This program continues the operation of the Fish Passage Center.”

Page 27 of the 2003 Mainstem Amendments to the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program dedicates an entire section to the functions of the Fish Passage Center.

Conclusion

Project number 200732100 Data Management for System Operations has been submitted by the fish and wildlife managers of CBFWA and satisfies the language in the program and the Act. The NPCC must follow its own program in making recommendations.

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