

## MEMORANDUM

To: Trina Gerlack, CBFWA  
From: Travis Thornton, The Trust for Public Land  
Date: February 14, 2001  
Regarding: Project No. 23012; Arrowleaf /Methow River Conservation Project

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this information. In addition to the comments I provided to Tom Giese concerning a perceived error in the ISRP's review and ranking of Project No. 23012, we believe that the project warrants the "BiOp" designation in CBFWA's review document.

The Biological Opinion states at Section 9.6.2 that Federal agencies shall "focus immediate attention on priority subbasins. Further, Action 150 (Section 9.6.2.1) requires that "BPA shall fund protection of currently productive non-Federal habitat, especially if at risk of being degraded." The Arrowleaf property is comprised of such habitat.

On September 20, 2000, Bob Turner delivered a letter to then BPA Administrator, Judi Johansen, strongly supporting this project. He stated that the property contains superior habitat and is located within an priority subbasin as identified in the Basinwide Recovery Strategy referenced in the Biological Opinion. He states that "given the combination of...the property's extraordinary habitat, its high threat of being developed, and the brief opportunity to acquire it from a willing seller, NMFS supports the acquisition of the Arrowleaf property...Your assistance with this acquisition would be critical, and as a result, you would be sending a clear and convincing message about BPA's commitment to habitat preservation."

Given that this project falls squarely within the requirements of the Biological Opinion, that the habitat is under imminent threat of being lost to development if BPA does not provide the requested funding, and NMFS's already expressed strong support, the project should be designated with the "BiOp" label in CBFWA's revised report.

Please have Mr. Polinski call me as soon as possible to discuss this matter, and contact me immediately with any questions you may have. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.