

Project Number: 23054
Project Title: Forrest Ranch Acquisition
Sponsor: CTWSRO (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs)

ISRP Comment #1:

This exemplary and excellent proposal appears to capitalize on an excellent opportunity. This is one of the two or three best proposals in the solicitation. It is well prepared with maps, figures, and brief tables that support the main points of the proposal and help demonstrate its justification as a high priority project. The Forrest Ranch – John Day Middle Fork tract - has been identified as the highest priority restoration project in the entire John Day basin since 1971 and represents the highest density of spawning spring chinook salmon in the entire basin.

CTWSRO Response #1:

Thank you for your comments.

ISRP Comment #2:

This proposal meets the Council's criteria with the exception of proposed funding of future O&M and M&E.

CTWSRO Response #2:

While preparing our original proposal, staff reviewed the criteria for high priority projects as described in the NPPC's 2000 program. Those criteria, as well as the entire Program section discussing high priority projects, is completely silent regarding the topics of O&M and M&E funding. Further, none of the criteria detailed in the 13 November 2000 letter from Stephen Crow and Sarah McNary to the fish and wildlife managers, referred to O&M or M&E funding. The letter did, however, state that "[p]roposals should clearly identify any required *funding* for operation and maintenance of the project or for monitoring and evaluation" (emphasis added) although again, this requirement was not part of the criteria. Consequently, although we included O&M and M&E items in both the budget and the narrative, we incorporated them into other discussions pertinent to the actual review criteria. For example, property-specific monitoring items were included in the section that responded to the "collaborative efforts" review criteria, since this task is conducted in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

Within the budget, we refer the reviewer(s) to Objectives/Tasks 2, 3(a), and 4 for an itemized listing of O&M and M&E funding items. Within the narrative proposal, we refer the reviewer(s) to page 12 (paragraph 2 & 4; discussion of additional property actions), page 15 (paragraph 2; discussion of monitoring), and the Tasks and Methods section (detailed explanation of tasks identified for funding in the budget). We believe that the budget section meets the NPPC/BPA requirement to "clearly identify any required funding" for O&M and M&E and do not concur with the ISRP that O&M and M&E were review criteria for high priority projects. However, we admit that all tasks dealing with O&M and M&E should have been specifically referred to as being within

these categories, in order to further meet the NPPC/BPA direction and for ease in review.

ISRP Comment #3:

The proposal is to acquire a large ranch with over 12 miles of the upper mainstem and upper Middle Fork of the John Day River. It is high priority in that it is very likely time limited. The ISRP supports the proposal and suggests that the acquisition might be funded at a reduced level for earnest money or acquisition only while a proposal for long-term O&M and M&E is prepared and reviewed as part of the regular rolling review that is to take place in this Province in the Spring of 2001.

CTWSRO Response #2:

Again, we thank you for your support. However, we wish to urge the reviewer(s) to approach with caution, the idea of funding the project at the earnest money level only since there is no guarantee that the acquisition and/or O&M/M&E funding would be appropriated through the provincial review process. The John Day is clearly being recognized as one of the top priority subbasins in the Columbia River basin. We assert that this project should receive due consideration for full funding based upon its long-standing priority in the subbasin and the immediate risk to listed species if the acquisition is lost. Further, our experience with prior acquisitions through the BPA process leads us to conclude that splitting appropriations between programs and program years leads to excessive delays and escalating capital acquisition and management costs. We believe that appropriating earnest money only is not commensurate with the high priority nature of the property or the risks involved with delaying the acquisition.

As discussed in the narrative, the Tribes are completing much of the pre-acquisition planning and monitoring/evaluation using their own funds. We will continue these efforts regardless of the level of O&M/M&E support provided under the high priority or provincial reviews. It is difficult to justify preparing a complete and comprehensive O&M/M&E plan at the proposal stage since we have not secured the property and access for information gathering to support these plans has been limited in past years. Further, large Tribal expenditures to develop comprehensive plans prior to the acquisition may be premature as they may eventually become lost investments if acquisition funds are not appropriated. To-date, the Tribes have expended funds on tasks that supported the acquisition, since this was our first priority. As stated in the narrative proposal, following the acquisition, detailed O&M and M&E plans will be developed.

From: "Shaun W. Robertson" <ctwsjdbo@highdesertnet.com>
To: "Tom Giese" <tom@cbfwa.org>
Date: 2/12/01 2:46PM
Subject: Project Number:

Response to ISRP comments--Forrest Ranch Acquisition (Project Number 23054)
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

CC: "Patti O'Toole" <potoole@mail.wstribes.org>

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CTWSRO Response #1:

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ISRP Comment #2:

This proposal meets the Council's criteria with the exception of proposed funding of future O&M and M&E.

~~CTWSRO Response #2:~~

~~While preparing the original proposal, staff reviewed the criteria for high priority projects as described in the NPPC's 2000 program. Those criteria, as well as the entire Program section discussing high priority projects, is completely silent regarding the topics of O&M and M&E funding. Further, none of the criteria detailed in the 13 November 2000 letter from the NWPPC and BPA to the fish and wildlife managers, referred to O&M or M&E funding. The letter stated that "proposals should clearly identify any required *funding* for operation and maintenance of the project or for monitoring and evaluation" (emphasis added) although again, this requirement was not part of the criteria. Consequently, O&M and M&E items were included in both the budget and the narrative. Also, the O&M and M&E items were incorporated into other discussions pertinent to the actual review criteria. For example, property-specific monitoring items were included in the section that responded to the "collaborative efforts" review criteria, since this task is conducted in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.~~

~~Objectives/Tasks 2, 3(a), and 4 provide an itemized listing of O&M and M&E funding items. In addition, to page 12 (paragraph 2 & 4; discussion of additional property actions), page 15 (paragraph 2; discussion of monitoring), and the Tasks and Methods section (detailed explanation of tasks identified for funding in the budget) provide additional illustrations within the narrative. It is believed that the budget section meets the NPPC/BPA requirement to "clearly identify any required funding" for O&M and M&E and do not concur with the ISRP that O&M and M&E were review criteria for high priority projects. In hindsight, all tasks dealing with O&M and M&E should have been specifically referred to as being within these categories, in order to further meet the NPPC/BPA direction and for ease in review.~~

ISRP Comment #3:

The proposal is to acquire a large ranch with over 12 miles of the upper mainstem and upper Middle Fork of the John Day River. It is high priority in that it is very likely time limited. The ISRP supports the proposal and suggests that the acquisition might be funded at a reduced level for earnest money or acquisition only while a proposal for long-term O&M and M&E is prepared and reviewed as part of the regular rolling review that is to take place in this Province in the Spring of 2001.

CTWSRO Response #2:

The ISRP's support is appreciated. However, the reviewer(s) should approach with caution, the idea of funding the project at the earnest money level only since there is no guarantee that the acquisition and/or O&M/M&E funding would be appropriated through the provincial review process. The John Day is clearly being recognized as one of the top priority subbasins in the Columbia River basin. This project should receive due consideration for full funding based upon its long-standing priority in the subbasin and the immediate risk to listed species if the acquisition is lost. The splitting of appropriations between programs and program years can lead to excessive

delays and escalating capital acquisition and management costs. Thus, appropriating earnest money only is not commensurate with the high priority nature of the property or the risks involved with delaying the acquisition.

As discussed in the narrative, the Tribes are completing much of the pre-acquisition planning and monitoring/evaluation using their own funds and as a result will continue these efforts regardless of the level of O&M/M&E support provided under the high priority or provincial reviews. It is difficult to justify preparing a complete and comprehensive O&M/M&E plan at the proposal stage since the property has not been secured and access for information gathering to support these plans has been limited in past years. Further, large Tribal expenditures to develop comprehensive plans prior to the acquisition may be premature as they may eventually become lost investments if acquisition funds are not appropriated. To-date, the Tribes have expended funds on tasks that supported the acquisition, since this was our first priority. As stated in the narrative proposal, following the acquisition, detailed O&M and M&E plans will be developed.