



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

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March 22, 2002

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recommend reconsideration of funding for Project 25036, Impacts of Flow Regulations on Riparian Cottonwood Forests Along the Yakima River. This project was funded in the Innovative Category in 2000 for one year. This project was not funded in the Columbia Plateau Province because a final report had not been completed for the innovative work. That report has now been completed and all Innovative criteria have been met. The project sponsor has requested full funding for their project in FY 2002 (\$225,495), 2003 (\$134,421), and 2004 (\$70,150).

The CBFWA Members recommend consideration of this request by the NWPPC. The Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support NWPPC reconsidering funding for this project in the Columbia Plateau Province.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

For Robert Lohn, Vice Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members
Fish and Wildlife Managers
Sarah McNary and Bob Austin, BPA
Doug Marker, NWPPC
NWPPC Members and Staff

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CBFWA



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February 4, 2002

Mr. Tom Iverson
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
2501 SW First Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97201

Re: Funding Options for Columbia Plateau Province Proposal (BPA Project No # 25036);
The Impacts of Flow Regulation on Riparian Cottonwood Ecosystem in the Yakima Basin

Dear Mr. Iverson:

Last year, we submitted a research proposal as part of the Columbia Plateau Provincial Review Process. This proposal was based on the preliminary findings of our BPA Innovative Project to study the impacts of regulated flows on riparian cottonwoods in the Yakima and Kootenai River Basins. Despite excellent CBFWA/ISRP reviews and their high priority recommendations for funding (see attachments), our proposal was excluded from funding because all phases of our innovative project had not been completed prior to funding decisions by the Council for the Columbia Plateau Province.

At this time, we have completed and submitted all of the final reports for our innovative project (reports available online at <http://www.cfw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/cfw/FW/welcome.cgi>). The initial findings of our innovative project have clearly shown that current patterns of flow regulation in the Yakima Basin have a significant negative effect on the structure and function of riparian cottonwood forests. In the process, we also advanced our understanding of how these flow regimes can be modified to promote the recovery of these riparian forest communities. However, additional funding (as outlined in our recent proposal) is needed to complete the studies initiated under the Innovative Projects Program. Since our innovative project has been successfully completed, we would like to request that CBFWA and the Council reconsider our proposal for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey H. Braatne".

Jeffrey H. Braatne
Asst. Professor of Riparian Ecology

Robert Jamieson
BioQuest International Ltd.

CC: Mr. Doug Marker, NWPPC
Dr. Tom Morse, BPA