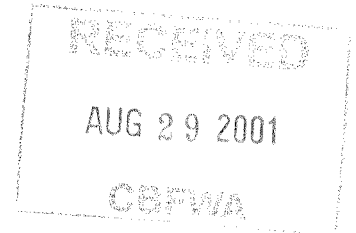




IN REPLY REFER TO:
AFR

33988
United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



AUG 28 2001

Dr. Brian Allee
Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
2501 SW First Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97201

RE: Out-year Budget for the Burbank Sloughs Project (#25060)

Dear Brian:

The "Burbank Sloughs and Mainstem Columbia River Shoreline/Side Channel/Wetland Habitat Restoration Project" (Burbank Sloughs Project, #25060) is intended to be a pilot project for determining if valuable rearing, resting, and predator avoidance habitats, which mimic the range and diversity of historic conditions along the Snake and Columbia Rivers, can actually be restored. The project proposal was crafted to include extensive monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management techniques to serve as a model for restoring complexity and function to backwater sloughs, shallow-water wetlands, high-flow side channels, and riparian corridors along the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The Burbank Sloughs Project was submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the Mainstem Columbia Subbasin in the Columbia Plateau Rolling Provincial Review process, and received a "Fundable" recommendation from the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and "High Priority" recommendation from the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) and "yes" rankings for all of the Technical and Management Criteria.

One concern expressed by both the ISRP and CBFWA was the presence of piscine predators in the area and the potential for creation of a predator sink for anadromous juvenile salmonids using the restored backwater habitats. The Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC) recommended that a feasibility study be conducted the first fiscal year (2002), with implementation of the Project during the next two fiscal years (2003 and 2004), pending the outcome of the study. The AFC recommended using the \$58,000 requested for Planning and Design and the \$58,000 projected for Monitoring and Evaluation in the project proposal be used for the feasibility study. Because neither a Statement of Work or working hypothesis for this study had been formulated at the time of project submittal, the adequacy of this amount has not as yet been determined and it may need to be modified at a later date.

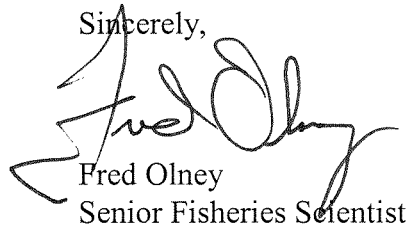
The Service agrees that a pre-implementation feasibility study is appropriate. The findings of the study could potentially be an invaluable resource in determining the effects of future actions to

restore off-channel habitats along the Columbia and Snake River mainstems. The Service understood and concurred that the feasibility study would be completed prior to Project implementation. What was unclear in both the AFC and Members Management Group (MMG) meetings was the deletion of outyear budgets for FY 2003 and 2004 relating to the Burbank Sloughs Project. To insure that sufficient funding is available to implement the project following completion of the feasibility study, the Service requests that the proposed implementation budgets be reinstated as place-holders for the out-years. The FY 2003 and 2004 costs should have footnotes that state that out-year costs are contingent on the outcome of the feasibility study findings, which would be presented to the AFC and MMG prior to obligating the proposed out-year funds.

The Service requests that the recommended CBFWA budget be as follows: FY 2002/\$116,000 (based on the AFC request of adding the feasibility study); FY 2003/\$488,000 (\$546,000 – \$58,000 P&D); and FY 2004/\$125,000. We request that these changes be forwarded to the Members by consent mail and then forwarded to the Northwest Power Planning Council as an addendum to the Draft Fiscal Rear 2002-2004 Province Work Plan for the Columbia Plateau Province.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if you have any questions at (503) 872-2763.

Sincerely,



Fred Olney
Senior Fisheries Scientist

cc:

David Linehan, Mid-Columbia NWR
Howard Schaller, CRFPO
Maureen Smith, CRFPO