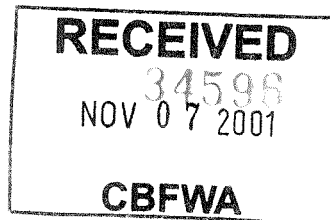




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 525 NE Oregon Street
 PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

F/NWR5

November 6, 2001



Doug Marker
 Acting Director, Fish & Wildlife Division
 Northwest Power Planning Council
 851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
 Portland, OR 97204-1348

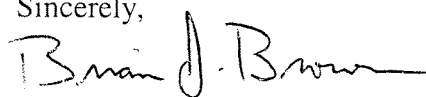
Re: Correction to NMFS' Review of Fish and Wildlife Program Proposals For the
 Columbia Plateau Province - Project 25062

Dear Mr. ^{Doug}Marker:

In an October 1, 2001, letter to you, I transmitted the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) assessment of the relationship between each Columbia Plateau proposal and the requirements of the December 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System biological opinion (2000 FCRPS Opinion).

We recently became aware of an error in our determination for Project 25062 (Growth Rate Modulation in Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation). This project was incorrectly described as being required by a previous NMFS Endangered Species Act (ESA) determination and therefore was not given a "BIOP" rating. This project is not required by another ESA document, the results are expected to be applicable to evolutionarily significant units identified in the 2000 FCRPS Opinion's reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA), and this research implements in part RPA action 184. An updated page 11 of our table, which identifies Project 25062 as a "BIOP" project, is attached.

We regret bringing this information to your attention at this late stage in the Council's deliberations, but want to be sure that, to the extent that the "BIOP" classification influences the Council's and the Bonneville Power Administration's funding recommendations, the correct classification is being considered. If you have any questions regarding this clarification, please contact Dr. Chris Toole of my staff (Chris.Toole@noaa.gov, 503-230-5410).

Sincerely,

 Brian J. Brown
 Assistant Regional Administrator
 Hydro Program

Enclosure

cc: Sarah McNary, BPA; Brian Allee, CBFWA; Doug Arndt, COE;
 Dr. Ron McKown, BOR; Fred Olney, USFWS



Enclosure 1. Corrected page 11 of the October 1, 2001, table describing the relationship of proposed Columbia Plateau Province projects to the reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) of NMFS' 2000 FCRPS Opinion.

COLUMBIA PLATEAU PROVINCIAL REVIEW PROJECTS
 NMFS' Assessment With Respect to 2000 FCRRS Biological Opinion

Project Number	Project Title	RPA Action Item(s)	ESU(s) Affected	Statement of Potential Biological Benefit to ESU	Already ESA Required?	Biop?	Comments
25059	Develop Progeny Marker for Salmonids to Evaluate Supplementation	184	MCR SH	If successful, project would allow determination of hatchery fish spawning rates in the Umatilla subbasin, by marking hatchery fish with a chemical marker. This would provide a method to assess wild population status more robustly (resolving an important uncertainty.) See comments.	no	yes	IF this works (see ISRP comments), this has the potential to be a useful tool, if two conditions are met: 1) there should be some benefit to this method over molecular methods -- molecular data can provide more information than this method, and those techniques are already developed. Unless this proposed method is cheaper, easier, etc., it would be better to focus on those molecular techniques. Priority should not be given to this project until some benefit is demonstrated. 2) ALL hatchery fish must be marked, or this method will not produce useful results.
25060	Burbank Sloughs and Mainstem Columbia River Shoreline/Side Channel/Wetland Habitat Restoration	400	MULTIPLE, FCH-U	By restoring slough/off-channel habitat, breach road, berms, & replacing culverts, this project could serve as a pilot project to restore wintering/rearing habitat for chinook, & secondarily steelhead, in seven sloughs.	no	yes	Proposal allies itself with a number of RPA actions and is certainly consistent with the BiOp objectives, however the intended action is a collection of restoration actions which are not developed to implement specific RPAs. The effort will be of most benefit if anadromous fish rearing habitat is currently in short supply, and if the new habitat does not increase predation (especially piscine). Is this habitat limiting to these ESUs? At a minimum, would affect UCR SCH, UCR SH, MCR SH, SR SH.
25061	John Day Fish Passage Barrier Inventory	154	MCR SH, MCR SCH	This project provides staff to conduct a basin-wide inventory of potential barriers to fish passage.	no	yes	John Day is one of the best studied subbasins in this region. There is little or no detail in the proposal about how it would be carried out or why it does not duplicate similar inventories in the basin. Does it propose to fill gaps in existing database? This is a BoR priority subbasin, wouldn't this task fall under their obligation?
25062	Growth Rate Modulation in Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation	184	MCR SCH, but should be applicable to listed ESUs that are the subject of the RPA	Project will investigate potential negative impacts of hatchery practices/releases on wild populations of chinook in the Yakima subbasin by conducting a rigorous experimental evaluation of growth rate modulation. Reducing uncertainty surrounding the effects of hatchery practices on wild populations will allow more effective recovery planning. Results from this study should be applicable to other ESUs as well.	no	yes	Well-designed research project, already underway; providing important information that will be applicable to listed ESUs