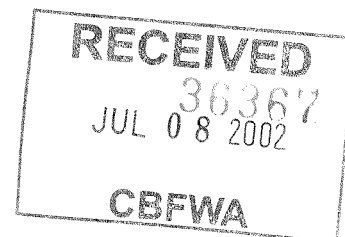


United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3704

July 1, 2002



Mr. Eric J. Bloch  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1020  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Mr. John Brogoitti  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
11 S.W. Byers Avenue  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Subject: Innovative Technology Grant Application—Project #34023 Laboratory, Prototype, and Field Evaluation of Undershot Horizontal Fish Screen in Hood River Basin proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Farmers Irrigation District

Dear Sirs:

Over the past few months I have become interested and intrigued by the a new fish screening methodology developed by the Farmers Irrigation District. This technology holds promise to solve many river diversion screening issues and works to the benefit of fish and farms. Members of my staff have closely watched the screen approval process required by the National Marine Fisheries Service and others for new technology. By invitation, my staff looked at the current so-called “overshot” screen project under construction on the Hood River, and also viewed the newly developed “undershot” screen technology, the study of which is proposed under your Innovative Technology grant program.

As you are perhaps aware, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Farmers Irrigation District are working closely together to solve major fish screen issues in the Hood River Basin. The “undershot” screen proposed for study under your program has the potential to address screening issues on streams and rivers with heavy sediment load. Solving these types of screening problems has positive implications for the health of fish in the Hood River and throughout the Columbia River Basin and beyond. Furthermore, and of equal importance, this innovative screening methodology holds the potential to assist agricultural and hydroelectric producers by managing debris and sediment such that production is optimized and operation and maintenance costs are greatly reduced. As well, assuming the screen research demonstrates, as anticipated, that fish can pass over the screen with no injuries of any kind, farmers and other water users will enjoy the protection of operating a diversion without assertions that their activities harm fish or other aquatic species.

Because of the nature of this innovative technology, the results of its full development will be economically, ecologically, and socially sound. Rather than resulting in a win-lose scenario, the full development of this screen holds the potential to reconcile differences and pave the way to allowing farms and fish to peacefully coexist at no detriment to one another. I encourage your full consideration and review of the grant request before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. H. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gordon H. Smith  
United States Senator

Cc: Mr. Neil Ward  
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority  
2501 SW First Ave., Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97201

Mr. Erik Merrill  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
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