



## University of Idaho

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July 9, 2002

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

**RE:** Project No# 35062 ~ Impacts of Flow Regulation on Riparian Cottonwood Ecosystems in the Columbia River Basin.

Dear Tom:

As was discussed in late June, I will not be able to attend the upcoming ISRP meeting (7/15-18/02; Portland, OR) for the review of mainstem/systemwide project proposals. At that time, I will be teaching my summer course on "Groundwater, Wetland and Riparian Ecology" at the UMT Flathead Lake Biological Station.

Our current mainstem/systemwide proposal, "Impacts of Flow Regulation on Riparian Cottonwood Ecosystems in the Columbia River Basin," represents an expansion of the research studies we originally proposed under the Columbia Plateau Province. The highly varied patterns of regulated flows along the Yakima River offer us a unique opportunity to capture the broad range of flow-related impacts experienced by these species throughout the Columbia Basin. In fact, these proposed studies will enable a more accurate calibration between fluvial geomorphic processes and the dynamics of seedling recruitment by native cottonwoods and willows. The application of this rigorous experimental design within both the Yakima and Flathead River Basins will thus greatly enhance our ability to model the recruitment and establishment of these critical riparian species in alluvial floodplains throughout the Columbia Basin. A critical factor noted in various letters from federal, state and tribal agencies supporting our research proposal.

If members of CBFWA, NWPPC, or the ISRP have any questions regarding our proposed research project, please contact either myself or Mark Lorang.

Thank you,

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cc: Erik Merrill, NWPPC