

UPPER SNAKE RIVER SUBBASIN

ProjectID: 33010

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fish Production Program

Sponsor: SBT

Province: Upper Snake

Subbasin: Upper Snake

FY03 Request: \$90,000

5YR Estimate: \$90,000

Short Description: Assess history, current status and future fish production needs of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in the Upper Snake Subbasin.

Response Needed? Yes

ISRP Preliminary Recommendation and Comments:

A response is needed for a number of reasons. This is the follow-up proposal to the now-terminated Joint Culture Facility project.

ISRP Comments:

The proposal is inadequate for technical review in its current state. The new proposal fails to provide any meaningful details on the specific tasks proposed for the for the Scientific Oversight Team's consideration, a timeline for the project, and criteria for membership on the Scientific Oversight Team. Responses provided during the project presentation indicated that these criteria had not yet been developed, nor had any steps been taken to establish a Technical Oversight Committee that would likely be charged to develop the criteria, tasks, and timeline for the Scientific Oversight Team. Similar information on the tasks, timeline, and criteria for membership on the Technical Oversight Committee is also lacking and needs to be provided.

Response:

The Scientific Oversight Team (SOT) will develop a production plan for the Shoshone Bannock Tribes (Tribes) based on the current status of fish populations in the subbasin, historic stocking practices and Tribal needs. The production plan will be developed for the Fort Hall Reservation and adjacent waters. The Tribes previous resident fish production program (SBT/SPT Joint Culture Facility 9500600) was based on plans (1992 Hatchery Feasibility Study CH²M Hill; 1996 Joint Culture Facility Master Plan) developed by consulting firms with expertise in fish production. Previous plans were developed based on SBT and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes needs. The new production plan will be developed cooperatively among all fish managers in the subbasin based on needs identified by the SOT. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes currently do not have the staff or resources to develop a production plan acceptable to the ISRP. Current fish stocking by the state of Idaho in the subbasin is based in some measure on political constraints and perceived needs of the constituency. Recent fish stocking for cultural and subsistence Tribal harvest has been guided by availability of surplus finespot cutthroat trout from the Jackson National Fish Hatchery. In short, production and stocking in the subbasin would benefit from a production plan developed by experts unconstrained by political or financial limitations.

The Scientific Oversight Team will be selected by a Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) comprised of biologists from the Tribes and local state and federal agencies (IDFG, USFS, BLM, USFWS) with jurisdiction on waters adjacent to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The TOC will develop criteria for selection of the SOT. Criteria for SOT selections will be sent to the APR and ISAB. The TOC individuals will be responsible for providing information (sociological and biological data) necessary for the Scientific Oversight Team to develop a production plan for the Tribes consistent with overall subbasin needs. Primary waterbodies of concern for this plan include, American falls Reservoir, Chesterfield Reservoir, Blackfoot Reservoir, Snake River, Portneuf River, Blackfoot River, Ross Fork Creek and Bannock Creek.

The following is a breakdown of FY2003 tasks related to formation of the TOC, the SOT and delivery of a production plan.

Proposed schedule for project 33010:

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Solicit TOC membership												
TOC to gather existing data			X			X						
TOC develops criteria and selects SOT												
SOT to evaluate information						O			O			
Plan from SOT												

X = Meeting of TOC O = Meeting of TOC and SOT

Note: Startup month may be different than January.

During the first two months of the project the Tribes will invite interested parties to take part in the TOC. One meeting will be held in March wherein requests for data salient to developing the plan will be made. The Tribes will compile data collected from March through June. In April, the TOC will decide how many individuals and who will make up the SOT. The SOT will be contracted in June and will use data compiled to develop a production plan during July to November 2003. The production plan will: (1) Summarize historic and current fish stocking in the subbasin (2) Identify Tribes production needs commensurate with subbasin needs. (3) Provide a suite of alternatives to address the needs. If the SOT requires additional biological data the Tribes will collect it during the summer months. A production plan will be delivered in December of 2003. Implementation of recommendations contained in the plan will begin in 2004 or 2005.