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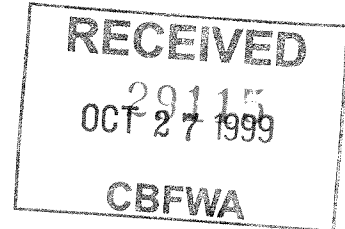
John Etchart
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Stan Grace
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October 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: FY 2000 project sponsors and interested parties
FROM: Bob Lohn, Director, Fish and Wildlife Division
SUBJECT: Criteria and process for review of policy issues for existing projects that do not receive a "fund" rating in the ISRP second review.



There are currently 100 projects that are being reevaluated by the ISRP. The Council expects to have the results of this review posted at its web site on or about October 29. The general rules that the Council intends to apply in making recommendations on these projects are:

- ◆ If the project (either new or existing) receives a rating of "fund," the Council will recommend it for funding.
- ◆ If the project is a *new* project, and it does not receive a rating of "fund," it will not be recommended for funding.
- ◆ If the project is an *existing* project, and it receives a rating of "fund" or "fund in part," it will be recommended for funding to the extent recommended by the ISRP. "Fund in part" projects must demonstrate that they can be implemented as quality, stand-alone projects at the level approved, or Bonneville will be advised by the Council that they should not be funded.
- ◆ If the project is an *existing* project, and it receives a rating of "do not fund," it will not be recommended for funding.
- ◆ As an exception to the above general rules, if there is some aspect of a project that presents an issue for the Council, it will defer a final recommendation on that project until that has been addressed (the same process used previously for captive propagation, lamprey, gas supersaturation, etc.).
- ◆ All of these recommendations are subject to the availability of funding.

The Council intends to link the scientific basis for its recommendations on these projects very closely to the ISRP's recommendations. This is particularly appropriate given the opportunity that project sponsors had to review the ISRP critique, and submit additional information in response. However, the Council does recognize that there are cases where considerations of policy may

warrant a recommendation to fund an existing project as proposed notwithstanding the ISRP's rating. The Council has committed to review such policy considerations, and will apply the following criteria and process in this "policy review."

By November 10th, proponents of *existing projects* that receive a "do not fund" rating in the ISRP second review and who believe that, because of overriding policy issues, their projects should be funded notwithstanding the ISRP rating, will have the opportunity to briefly present such concerns. In such cases, proponents should specify in two pages or less per project how one or more of the following criteria apply to their project:

- a) The ISRP's critical comments made in its original and second reviews of the project are not substantially related to any of the following issues: (1) evaluation of its scientific soundness; (2) its benefit (or lack thereof) to fish and wildlife; (3) its definition for outcomes and objectives or monitoring and evaluation provisions; or
- b) The ISRP's comments, though substantially related to one or more of items (1) through (3) above, are expressly critical of a strategy or objective that has been specifically approved in an adopted program measure (e.g. species substitution); or
- c) Not funding the project in FY 2000 would place the sponsor at immediate risk of not fulfilling obligations imposed by the Act, or otherwise required by law; or
- d) Not funding the project in FY 2000 would cause an immediate and direct loss of specifically identifiable fish and/or wildlife populations in calendar year 2000; or
- e) Not funding the project in FY 2000 would result in the loss of a unique funding efficiency opportunity (e.g. cost share, economy of scale) that will absolutely not be available in future years, or the loss of an opportunity to secure critical fish and/or wildlife benefits at a site-specific location that cannot be secured in future years (e.g. lost opportunity to purchase land on open market for wildlife mitigation).

These responses should be directed to Erik Merrill, with hard copy or electronic version received in the Council offices by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 1999. These responses will be reviewed by the Fish and Wildlife Committee in a late November meeting (TBA). The Committee meeting will not include sponsor oral presentations. The written responses submitted by November 10th will be a basis for the review by the Committee.

If a majority of the Committee concurs that a project sponsor has sufficiently explained how his or her project qualifies under one or more of the above criteria, it will be recommended to the full Council for consideration during the December Council meetings. The Council will post the recommendations of the Committee on its web site within 24 hours of the close of the Committee meeting. Depending upon the number of projects being considered, the Council may reserve time on its meeting agenda for short presentations from project sponsors at the December meetings.