



June 28, 2002

Mr. Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

I am pleased to submit the Draft FY 2002 Innovative Projects Work Plan summarizing the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) review of innovative projects. During the past few months, CBFWA performed an expedited review of these proposals to determine their management relevance. We relied heavily on the Independent Science Review Panel's (ISRP) report "Review of Fiscal Year 2002 Innovative Proposals for the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program" for the technical merit of these projects. Our final recommendation provides a list of 12 projects that merit funding for a total of \$2.3 million. Although the High Priority projects total more than the \$2 million allocated for innovative projects, CBFWA does not support increasing this placeholder amount for this purpose. The existing Fish and Wildlife Program provides ample opportunity for innovative ideas to be tested and funded. To fund additional research from the Fish and Wildlife Program may jeopardize funding for other more effective opportunities for protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia Basin that are identified through the Rolling Province Review process.

It is our hope that after completing the thorough and comprehensive process of reviewing these 37 projects, the NWPPC will seriously consider our recommendations for High Priority projects identified in the report.

If you have questions, please call Rod Sando or Tom Iverson at 503 229-0191.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

for

Bob Lohn, Vice-Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: Doug Marker, Members, and Staff, NWPPC
Sarah McNary, Bob Austin, and Staff, BPA
Independent Scientific Review Panel
Members and Fish & Wildlife Managers, CBFWA

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