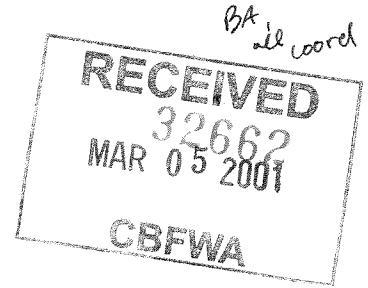




## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621



ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

February 27, 2001

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Mr. D. Robert Lohn  
Fish and Wildlife Director  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Lohn: *Bob*

This is in response to your letter of February 8, 2001, describing the Northwest Power Planning Council's (Council) recommendations for Bonneville funding of the Innovative Project Budget Category. We appreciate the Council's review of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) science evaluation, the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) management recommendations and the comments received from the public during the review process. We agree with the Council's comments/conditions for further elaboration on the technical aspects of the work for proposal number 22033, "Evaluation of New Tag Methodologies," and have some questions and concerns about two of the projects recommended for funding and two others that were evaluated, but were not recommended by the Council.

We have some additional technical questions on proposal number 22022, "Using Induced Turbulence to Assist Downstream-Migrating Juvenile Salmonids," before proceeding with contracting for this work. We are seeking clarification of the project objectives: Decreasing travel time versus guidance. No reference is made in the proposal concerning juvenile survival objectives in relation to turbulence. We will continue to work with the proposer for this proposal to clarify these technical concerns.

Although the ISRP ranked proposal number 22010, "Echo Meadow project - Winter Artificial recharge to Cool Rivers," as 18<sup>th</sup> and within their B category for funding, and the CBFWA ranked it as *Do Not Fund*, this project was among those recommended for Bonneville funding by the Council in Table 1 (below). We would like to take this opportunity to ask for the rationale underlying the Council's funding recommendation prior to making a determination to proceed with contracting for this project.

We also note two projects considered as addressing Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPA's) in the 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BO) that were evaluated but not recommended for Bonneville funding within this innovative category. The first proposal is number 22047, "Salmonid response to fertilization: An experimental evaluation of alternative methods of fertilization." Proposal was ranked as "8. A" by the ISRP and as a High Priority for funding by the CBFWA managers. Proposal number 22064, "Reintroduction success of steelhead from captive propagation and release strategies," received an ISRP rank of "12. A" and a high priority for funding from the CBFWA managers. This project would answer basic questions about captive approaches and implement RPA 184 and would also provide valuable scientific information for development of safety-net programs for ESA listed anadromous fish, RPA's 175-177.

We recognize that a total of \$2 million was apportioned from the direct Fish & Wildlife Program for this Innovative category of projects and suggest that in the event the proposals where we have raised implementation or justification questions are not acceptable to proceed for funding, that the two projects addressing RPA's be substituted for those proposals. We also suggest that, if needed, an additional amount above the \$2 million available for this category be transferred from the anadromous fish unallocated placeholder. Along with their high ranking by the ISRP and CBFWA, we fully expect to receive additional information and justification for funding of these two proposals at the quarterly budget review meeting.

**TABLE 1. Council funding recommendation for innovative projects in Fiscal Year 2001.**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Sponsor Request</b>	<b>Council Recomm</b>	<b>Council comments</b>
22001	A Feasibility Study for Pacific Ocean Salmon Tracking (POST)	Kintama Research Corporation	\$228,600	\$228,600	
22013	Genetic sex of chinook salmon in the Columbia River Basin	University of Idaho	\$99,736	\$99,736	
22002	Influences of stocking salmon carcass analogs on salmonids in Columbia River tributaries	WDFW, Bio-Oregon, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, NMFS, Yakama Nation, Weyerhaeuser Co.	\$399,829	\$399,829	Funding should be forfeited if Clean Water Act permits are not secured within 6 months of Council decision.
22022	Using Induced Turbulence to Assist Downstream-Migrating Juvenile Salmonids	Washington State University	\$219,923	\$219,923	
22050	Habitat Diversity in Alluvial Rivers	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	\$319,860	\$319,860	
22033	Evaluate new methodologies for monitoring Pacific salmon and steelhead: methods for evaluating the effectiveness of restoration and recovery programs	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$353,376	\$197,155	Establish placeholder until sponsor clarifies, together with NMFS and BPA, issue of tag size and fish size, and if they can be read by current detection devices at dams. Forfeit funding if issue not resolved within 90 days after Council decision.
22042	Evaluate the effects of nutrient supplementation on benthic periphyton, macroinvertebrates, and juvenile sturgeon in the Kootenai River	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	\$170,635	\$170,635	
22057	Waterbody and Aquatic Habitat Characterization Utilizing High Resolution Satellite Imagery and Aerial Imagery	Teasdale Environmental Associates	\$126,371	\$126,371	
22010	Echo Meadow Project - Winter Artificial Recharge to Cool Rivers	IRZ Consulting	\$660,714	\$232,000	Sponsor broke down lumped budget into annual costs. Fund for one year only. After that, sponsor should secure funds through provincial review cycle.
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,298,586</b>	<b>\$1,994,109</b>	

We look forward to working with the Council to finalize the selection of projects to be implemented in the innovative projects category.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "A".

Robert Austin  
Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Dr. Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority  
Ms. Elizabeth Garr, National Marine Fisheries Service