

Summary of Northwest Power Planning Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations

1. Agree with staff to use “consensus priorities” as base list for recommendations (the “urgent/high priorities” of the fish and wildlife managers and the “fundable” projects of the Independent Scientific Review Panel. The Fish and Wildlife Committee focused discussion on additions to and deletions from the consensus priorities.
2. The Committee discussed assumptions for Bonneville’s budget to fund these projects from 2001 to 2003. Bob Austin, Bonneville’s deputy manager of fish and wildlife said that Bonneville is not prepared to commit additional funds for these recommendations above the amounts remaining unallocated in the 2001 fish and wildlife budget. Bonneville estimates that \$17 million remains unallocated to projects in the 2001 budget.

Bob Austin said that Bonneville intends to fund its fish and wildlife obligations in 2002 and 2003 consistent with the previously proposed range assumed in Bonneville’s rate case but needs to see more definition of Endangered Species Act requirements and other mitigation needs developed in additional provincial reviews.

The Council staff described an assumption for the Council to use in adopting three-year work plans for the Columbia Gorge and Intermountain provinces:

- a. The Council adopts a presumptive work plan for 2001
 - b. Bonneville has not committed additional funds for 2001, yet
 - c. The Council’s work plans in the Gorge and Intermountain provinces are adopted as the presumed funding need for 2002 and 2003 and will be refined as additional provincial reviews are completed.
 - d. Bonneville will respond to the Council’s recommendations on a project-specific basis in developing final budgets in 2002 and 2003.
3. The Fish and Wildlife Committee agreed generally with staff that specific concerns and deficiencies noted in the ISRP review would be referred to Bonneville to be addressed in project contracting. The staff were directed to place specific emphasis on conditions and reporting requirements noted by the Washington Council members.

Revisions to the staff recommendations

1. Added clearer guidance to the approval of funding for the Hood River Production Project in response to the ISRP review. These include reporting after the scheduled 2002 program evaluation and reporting of project data to Streamnet.
2. Restored \$33,704 to the monitoring project in Fifteenmile Creek as a placeholder pending resubmittal of the monitoring design.

3. Agreed with staff recommendation to fund demonstration project for integrated pesticide application in Fifteenmile Creek.
4. Clarified requirement for the sequence of “Three-Step” review to ensure that NEPA and master planning will be completed before Council consideration of project construction.
5. Clarified contract requirements for Columbia Gorge bull trout study (199405400) to respond to ISRP concerns.
6. Reserved placeholder for Moses Lake fisheries evaluation pending resubmittal of project.
7. Clarified process for approval of specific wildlife acquisitions (through the existing CBFWA wildlife caucus process) and requirement to provide project data to Streamnet.