



DRAFT

October 3, 2006

TO: MAG

FROM: CBFWA staff

SUBJECT: Draft bullets for developing a response to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Draft FY2007-2009 project funding recommendations

1. There has been inadequate time to develop comprehensive comments on the Council's draft recommendations.
2. The poor status of Columbia River fish and wildlife resources demands immediate attention. The Council's Program set goals to reverse the decline of anadromous fish populations by 2005 and to increase runs to 5 million by 2025. At the current level of funding we will be unable to fully implement the subbasin plans as envisioned when they were written and achieve the Program's goals. Equally important, stakeholder relationships are at risk due to competition for inadequate funds.
3. The basis of many of the decisions reflected in the draft recommendations is unclear and undocumented, and many decisions are inconsistent with or contrary to priorities of the fish and wildlife managers and/or of the groups asked by the Council to evaluate proposals within specific geographic or topic areas.
4. The Council has not identified how the current project recommendations meet the 70:15:15 allocations between anadromous fish, resident fish, and wildlife projects.
5. Several projects that are essential and of high priority to the management of fish populations negatively affected by the federal hydro-power system were either significantly compromised by reductions in funding or were eliminated. The result is a significant weakening of our ability to manage, conserve and enhance these resources.
6. The CBFWA members encourage the Council to follow closely the recommendations of the province level review groups and to seek additional funding from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to fully implement the Fish and Wildlife Program.
7. The creation of the placeholders at the end of the process essentially undermined the significant work of the MSRT and the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP), project budgets have been reduced based on a financial algorithm with little attention to the work that will be completed.

8. There are sufficient innovative ideas within the new and ongoing work proposed for this funding cycle and CBFWA does not support a separate innovative category during 2007-2009.
9. The CBFWA members would like greater clarification on the purpose of the \$2 million undefined placeholder.
10. The CBFWA members do not support using an ESA “reserve” as a mechanism for redistributing funds from the Basinwide funding category to other provinces, against the initial agreed upon funding allocations identified in the project solicitation announcement.
11. It is now clear that the funding level established by BPA is insufficient to fully implement the subbasin plans adopted into the Program. It is also apparent that there will be additional needs, on top of the current funding, to fully meet BPA’s obligations under the biological opinion remand process.
12. CBFWA recommends fully allocating the available expense budget, working with BPA to estimate and make available unspent dollars from FY 2006 and earlier years, and working with BPA to aggressively identify opportunities to capitalize costs currently defined as expenses. Toward this end, the Council should immediately schedule a meeting with the fish and wildlife managers to go through the draft list of recommended projects and work together to correct critical omissions and errors in funding levels.

Table 1. Funding shortfalls by province of essential projects and tasks identified by CBFWA Members not currently in the Council’s FY2007-2009 draft funding recommendation (not a comprehensive summary).

Budget Category	Additional Funds
Basinwide	\$ 6,259,446
Blue Mountain	\$ 2,503,195
Columbia Cascade	\$ 3,500,945
Columbia Gorge	\$ 559,671
Columbia Plateau	\$ 7,812,179
Lower Columbia	\$ 188,350
Mountain Columbia	\$ 35,000
Multi-province	\$ 1,083,463
Total	\$ 21,942,250