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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Ref: DO041-12
February 7, 2012

Lorri Bodi, Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife
Bonneville Power Administration - KE
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Lorri:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) appreciates Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) support for regional coordination activities that allow us to engage in the development and implementation of the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program as directed by the Northwest Power Act. In 2012, FWP plans shift our emphasis for regional coordination to support specific forums and efficient processes that facilitate implementation of tangible benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat.

I am writing to inform you of our decision regarding the allocation of the \$132,711 that has been dedicated to FWP for Fiscal Year 2012. We look forward to contracting with BPA (BPA Project Number 2012-008-00) for the amount of \$82,711 to facilitate implementation of the Flathead and Kootenai Subbasin Plans. The travel funding associated with this project will allow project personnel to participate in the TMT (system hydro operations), Kootenai White Sturgeon Recovery Team (BiOp operations at Libby Dam and habitat modifications needed to restore natural sturgeon reproduction), bull trout recovery (coordinate transboundary restoration actions), Columbia River Treaty review (Sovereign's Review Team and Technical Team will provide report to US State Department in preparation for extension, modification or termination of treaty with Canada), resident fish focus groups (share technical information to facilitate resident fish mitigation), and Columbia Basin Trust (trans-boundary collaboration with Canadians).

We request the remaining \$50,000 be directed to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation (CBFWF, BPA Project Number 1989-062-001) to support basin-wide technical committees and provide regional travel for FWP employees as we done in the past. The expectation is that the funding provided through the CBFWF will provide accountability to FWP through quarterly reports consistent with their reporting requirements in PISCES. The FWP regional coordination funds will support the following tasks:

- a. Continue to facilitate technical committees that support collaboration and coordination among fish and wildlife managers, BPA staff, and Northwest Power and Conservation Council staff:
 - i. Resident Fish Focus Workgroup – continue the effort to develop monitoring strategies for bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and white sturgeon; provide a

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forum for professional collaboration among fisheries biologists; and provide an opportunity to keep our staff informed of activities that affect resident fish within the Columbia River Basin. The CBFWF will report the number of meetings held, participation levels, and products that were generated to benefit resident fish.

- ii. Fish Screen Oversight Committee - continue the effort to facilitate collaboration among fish screening professionals for sharing and learning that has been so valuable in the past. The CBFWF will report the number of meetings held, participation levels, and products that were generated to benefit fish.
 - iii. Wildlife Focus Workgroup – continue the effort to develop a Columbia River Basin scale monitoring strategy to support high level decision making, and provide the opportunity for our wildlife staff to collaborate with other agencies and tribes on mitigation and land management issues. The CBFWF will report the number of meetings held, participation levels, and products that were generated to benefit wildlife.
- b. The CBFWF will also contract directly with FWP to provide travel reimbursement for participation in regional activities that impact fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia River Basin.
 - c. In addition, CBFWF staff will provide monthly reports to FWP staff to keep them informed of events occurring in the Columbia River Basin that may affect fish and wildlife resources in the State of Montana.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have questions, please contact Brian Marotz at (406) 751-4546.

Sincerely,



Art Noonan

- c: Jann Eckman
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue Ste 300
Portland, OR 97204
Brian Marotz