

Background:

- The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2009 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program includes a section that describes activities for which Program Coordination should be focused (Council Document 2009-09, Section VIII(F)).
- The Program provisions relating to Program coordination funding indicate that the Council will recommend to Bonneville *the level and type of coordination* required to implement the Program.
- Bonneville's current process for allocating Program coordination funding does not explicitly encourage collaboration on issues important to Program success, and in some ways hinders collaboration.
- The ISRP review of Program coordination projects was not consistent with the 2009 Program and did not provide added value for the Council's decision process.
- It appears that the Council staff will recommend that Bonneville continue allocation of Program coordination funding without clear and accountable recommendations for the individual projects.

Appropriate Program Coordination:

- The Program recognizes the need to provide funding to support Program coordination activities by various committees, entities and organizations.
- The primary purpose of this provision is to provide guidance and standards for Program coordination activities and spending to ensure consistency and focus in what could otherwise be a disparate effort to coordinate individual agency and tribal priorities at the expense of Program-wide direction and efficiency.
- The coordination activities identified in the Program require individual entity *participation* in collaboration and coordination activities, as well as, *facilitation* services provided through coordination organizations to ensure the work is completed consistently across the appropriate landscape.
- There is currently no process to ensure consistency across and among Program coordination projects, nor is there explicit linkage to Program priorities.

Recommendation:

- The Council could establish an oversight board (similar to Fish Passage Center Oversight Board) to ensure that the Program coordination functions are implemented consistent with the 2009 Program.
- The Council, in collaboration with fish and wildlife co-managers, Bonneville, and others should conduct an annual review of the performance of the Program coordination projects and develop a product-oriented implementation plan to assure regional accountability and compatibility with the regional data management and information systems, as well as Program consistency; to replace the role that CBFWA Members and MAG have provided in past.
- The Council could recommend that the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) maintain a manager that will report to the oversight board on a regular basis.
- Funding would be provided to the Foundation to support technical and clerical staff necessary to maintain technical committees (anadromous fish, resident fish, and wildlife) that would facilitate implementation of an agreed to annual work plan for Program coordination.
- The Foundation would continue to provide the Status of the Resources website for use by the region, not just by fish and wildlife managers, and to support the Council HLIs.
- The Council could ensure that the data remains current and meets appropriate standards for data management, including review of the data base by an appropriate scientific or data review group.
- The Board would ensure integration of MERR Framework, monitoring strategies, HLIs, and associated data management and reporting projects (numerous) to support Program evaluation.