

Attachment 1. Draft objectives and elements for upcoming project selection process and Program amendment process.**DRAFT Objectives**

- To create a decision pathway and schedule that allows the Northwest Power and Planning Council (NPCC) the opportunity to select projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 based on an Integrated Regional Management Plan that identifies clearly articulated objectives (or strategies addressing prioritized limiting factors) and provides performance measures for achieving them while protecting, mitigating and enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin
- That integrates Subbasin Plans, ESA recovery plans, and other existing Federal, State and Tribal plans into a single unified plan for the basin
- Which supports a project selection process that puts projects on the ground for Fiscal Year 2007 with adequate ISRP review and local prioritization
- And results in a regional research plan, a Program-wide monitoring and evaluation framework, and a Program-wide coordination plan

Critical Elements**Project Selection Process Development**

The NPCC will fully develop the project selection process which will provide a complete description of the solicitation process, the review process and the decision making process for each compartment within the Program culminating in a Project Selection Guidance Document. This document would be complete, with budget allocation by compartment and province, prior to project solicitation. NPCC staff will present a draft guidance document to full council for approval at their September meeting in Spokane, WA. It is anticipated that additional modifications will be made to the draft document following the September meeting.

Duration: 2 months

NPCC/BPA Solicitation of Proposals

The NPCC and BPA will jointly solicit proposals based upon the mutually agreed upon Project Selection Guidance Document allowing up to 90 days for proposal development and submission. It is anticipated that the solicitation will occur on November 15, 2005; although, if the guidance document is complete prior to that date the NPCC and BPA may choose to solicit projects sooner.

Duration: 2 months

ISRP Review

The ISRP review may not include province visits and proposal presentations. At this time, the assumption is that all projects will receive comprehensive reviews; if the reviews were scaled in some way (e.g., O+M projects and Art. Prod), projects may require a less intensive review. Due to the shortened schedule of the solicitation process, it is expected that the ISRP review will be slightly abbreviated in order to cover the full complement of projects within one fiscal year. A fix-it-loop process is unlikely except in exceptional circumstances that result in conditional recommendations by the ISRP. The details of the review process need to be developed to better understand the time requirement. A focus for the ISRP review is to realign the Program with the strategies and priorities within the newly adopted subbasin plans. NPCC staff expects to begin a new rolling province review process as early as FY 2008, in order to return to the slower, more deliberate and comprehensive reviews that include site visits, project presentations, and greater project sponsor/ISRP interaction.

Duration: 6 months

Project Prioritization

Local prioritization will occur within the provinces/subbasins and within various “programs” for the systemwide proposals. It is anticipated that CBFWA members will play an important role in the prioritization process as individual entities. CBFWA as an entity has not determined if it will engage in project prioritization at this time. The project prioritization will occur simultaneous to the ISRP review.

Duration: 3-4 months

Recommendations to NPCC

Recommendations from the province level workgroups and the regional workgroups for M&E, Research, and Coordination will be forwarded to Council by mid-July 2006.

Public Review of Recommendations

Once the ISRP reviews and local prioritization efforts are complete, the NPCC staff will combine the reviews and produce a draft budget recommendation. The draft recommendation will be released for public review and presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee for review.

Duration: 3 months

NPCC Recommendation

The current goal is to provide a NPCC recommendation prior to the end of the fiscal year.

BPA contracting

Once recommendations are provided by NPCC, BPA will issue a decision document and contract for the proposed work. In the past, BPA has requested 90 days to establish or renew contracts.

Duration: 3 months

Province Planning Workshops

Using the recent NPCC AHA effort and CBFWA resident fish status review as a base, province level workgroups would develop biological objectives and action plans for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife **populations** in the Columbia River Basin. CBFWA would facilitate workshops to develop regionally consistent population based plans based on existing subbasin plans, ESA recovery plans and other Federal, State, and Tribal fish and wildlife management plans. CBFWA facilitated workgroups would also be established to develop systemwide program plans: Research Plan, Basinwide Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and a Program Information Management and Coordination Plan. These plans should be completed prior to project prioritization.

Duration: 3 months

Integrate Province Plans to create Integrated Regional Management Plan

CBFWA would facilitate the integration of the province level action plans, combined with systemwide program plans to form the Integrated Regional Management Plan. The intent of integration would be to submit a Program amendment recommendation in response to the NPCC call for recommendations. The Integrated Regional Management Plan may also be used as a basis to submit CBFWA project recommendations into the project selection process.

Duration: 3-4 months

Recovery Plans

NOAA has requested recovery plans for all salmon and steelhead ESUs in the basin by December 31, 2005. Existing recovery plans for bull trout and sturgeon have been incorporated into subbasin plans.

NPCC All-H Analyzer Project

The NPCC staff is currently working on a project to build a web based model for the development of biological objectives for salmon and steelhead. The project is building a common database that accumulates subbasin plan habitat data, HGMP data, US v Or harvest data, and NOAA Biological Opinion smolt survival data. This data will be input into the All-H Analyzer model developed by Mobrand Biometrics. A test run will be complete for salmon and steelhead populations by September 30, 2005. It is anticipated that NPCC staff will use the draft outputs from this project as a basis for the initial Draft Program amendment.

Duration: 1 months

Develop Guidance Document for Program Amendment

NPCC staff will develop a guidance document that explains the purpose and scope of the upcoming program amendment process. The document would 1) explain what function and purpose the province level biological objectives will serve, 2) explain how subbasin plans and other information have been or should be used to develop province level objectives, 3) establish a common vocabulary for the amendment process, 4) describe what assumptions have been made for habitat, hydro, harvest and hatchery interactions, and then 5) present derived or example objectives for anadromous and resident fish.

Duration: 3 months

Issue Request for Recommendations

The NPCC will issue a request for program amendment recommendations as required by Section 4h of the Power Act. It is currently anticipated that the NPCC will begin the amendment process in January 2006.

Duration: 3 months

Public Review of Recommendations

The Power Act requires public review of and comment on program amendment recommendations before proceeding to amendments. This is the period where the NPCC staff begins to formulate the Draft Program Amendment. If CBFWA submits a Program amendment recommendation, it is likely that that would be used as a base for developing the NPCC Draft Program Amendment.

Duration: 2 months

Public Review of Draft Program Amendment

The NPCC releases their draft amendment for public comment.

Duration: 2-3 months

NPCC Adopts Program Amendment

The NPCC would adopt the final program amendment which would include biological objectives at the province level, with findings and responses to comments.

Duration: 2-3 months

Table 1. Draft schedule of processes for project selection and Program amendment processes.

