

From: Chamness, Michele A
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2006 5:01 PM
To: Baugh, Zenobia
Subject: FY07-09

Northwest Power and Conservation Council Members,

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds construction and O&M of hundreds of juvenile fish screen facilities throughout the Columbia Plateau Province. These screen facilities are designed to be protective of juvenile salmonids, but are the design and construction appropriate for each site? Are the screen facilities being maintained and operated by the various agencies and irrigation districts so that the sites function as they should to protect fish? In most cases the answer is yes, however in some cases there are major problems that result in delay, harm or even direct losses of juvenile salmonids.

There is currently no monitoring and evaluation program for sites outside of the Yakima and Walla Walla River basins. There is no evaluation of whether the sites are meeting NMFS criteria for juvenile fish screens. O&M agencies are required by BPA to provide monitoring and evaluation documentation and this proposed project would provide that information but do not usually have the equipment or means to measure water velocities, view the "watered up" portions of the facilities during operation or evaluate the function of the site against NMFS criteria.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has been monitoring and evaluating juvenile fish screen facilities in the Yakima and Walla Walla River basins for a number of years. As indicated in Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife News Bulletin on 9/29/06;

"An important feature of the Yakima Basin fish screen project is the periodic evaluation of performance of the screens given the changing flow conditions in the canal or ditch. These evaluations were beneficial to the program's overall success. Continued monitoring of screen performance is recommended as part of the program in the future.

BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council have made a long-term commitment to continue funding the operation and maintenance of the fish screens, which will be performed by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Bureau of Reclamation and affected irrigators.

Officials say the ongoing work will safeguard the \$33.4 million initial investment in the construction of the screens and related costs. "

Project 198506200 is a continuing project that proposes evaluating construction, operation, and maintenance of up to 25% of the juvenile fish screen facilities in the Columbia Plateau Province. This proposal not only offers monitoring and evaluation independent of those agencies maintaining and operating the screen facilities, but also

gives the O&M agencies feedback on the effectiveness of their cleaning and operating methods in protecting juvenile salmonids.



Project 1985062001 is a little unusual in that it proposes work over multiple subbasins within the Columbia Plateau Province which extends across both Oregon and Washington, but excludes the mainstem. The NPPC Decision Memorandum states "For projects proposed to implement the subbasin plans in the tributary subbasins and the estuary, the Council identified local review groups by ecological province and state,..." However, this project was only assigned to Washington representatives for review even though much of the proposed work is in Oregon. Oregon reviewers did not realize the proposal covered several subbasins within Oregon, and did not review it. Discussions with ODFW screen shop personnel indicated they were interested in finding out how the sites they maintain are functioning.

We feel proposed project 198506200 provides required monitoring and evaluation documentation, and helps BPA ascertain that the millions of dollars spent on mitigation efforts are having a positive effect on survival of ESA listed species.

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