

Memo

DATE: 3/12/10

TO: Tony Grover, Bill Maslen

From: Yakama Nation (John Jorgensen)

RE: ISRP Response Report

At the Council's June 17, 2009 request, the ISRP began a review of the Yakama Nation's Columbia River Fish Accord proposal titled Upper Columbia Nutrient Supplementation (2008-471-00). The project is intended to assess and characterize nutrient availability, and if needed the project proponents will perform controlled experimental addition of limiting nutrients to enhance natural production of anadromous salmonids and their supporting ecological functions and limnological conditions in rivers in the Methow Subbasin.

On July 10, 2009, the ISRP released a preliminary report requesting a response to nine specific items ([ISRP 2009-27](#)). On October 26, 2009, the Council submitted the Yakama Nation's response documents which included point-by point responses to ISRP review comments and an updated project proposal that incorporated those responses.

On December 2, the ISRP provided their second review ([ISRP 2009-50](#)), which had some items that were confusing to the project sponsors and seemed to ratchet the experimental approach up beyond what was requested and inferred in the ISRP's preliminary review (July 10, 2009; [ISRP 2009-27](#)). The ISRP said the confusion in the December review stemmed from attributing some elements from a similar nutrient proposal by the Shoshone Bannocks to the YN proposal that the ISRP was reviewing concurrently. The ISRP attempted to correct these mistakes in an updated memo that was posted February 19, 2010 (ISRP 2009-50 Update). After the second ISRP review in December 2009, project sponsors prepared: 1) a formal response report detailing issues resulting from both ISRP reviews, and 2) a brief project summary for the ISRP.

To resolve these ongoing issues, a subsequent conference call was held on February 22, 2010, including ISRP members Eric Loudenslager, Pete Bisson, Bob Bilby, coordinator Erik Merrill and John Jorgensen from the Yakama Nation, and Paul Anders, an independent consultant subcontracted by the YN to discuss the Yakama's Upper Columbia nutrient enhancement proposal, response, and ISRP review. Mark Fritsch, Council staff, joined as well. Roy Beaty, BPA, and Steve Parker, YN, were invited but couldn't participate.

To inform the conference call discussion, John Jorgensen sent the project's draft response document to the ISRP before receiving the ISRP's updated memo on Friday, February 19. After the conference call, the group agreed that the ISRP would circulate summary notes to the teleconference participants, John will update his response document and proposal, and the ISRP will review those documents with a quick turnaround. A decision needs to be made soon for the YN to contract with BPA to begin gathering baseline data such as water quality information. The ISRP members' comments at the teleconference were shared with the full ISRP, who will consider the response and reach consensus on a final finding.

Thus, along with this cover letter, project proponents submit, as requested: 1) an updated response report addressing the nine ISRP issues brought up during both reviews, including new responses to issues discussed on the February 22, 2010 conference call; and 2) an updated final project proposal narrative for final review by the ISRP.