

W. Bill Booth
Chair
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

April 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Preview of www.cbfish.org (aka Taurus)

Ben Zelinsky from Bonneville and Matt Deniston from Sitka Technology Group will provide a preview of www.cbfish.org, to the Committee prior to a public launch of the site in June. This accounting and tracking system is often referred to internally as Taurus; however, as a regionally-accessible site, it will likely generate a common branding as "cbfish.org." Ben and Matt will provide a high-level guided tour of the cbfish.org, including how it complements and works in synch with Pisces and a look at the report functions.

The launching of this website will represent a giant leap forward in the accessibility and accountability of the Fish and Wildlife Program implementation and budget information.

Staff find this site to offer features and benefits including:

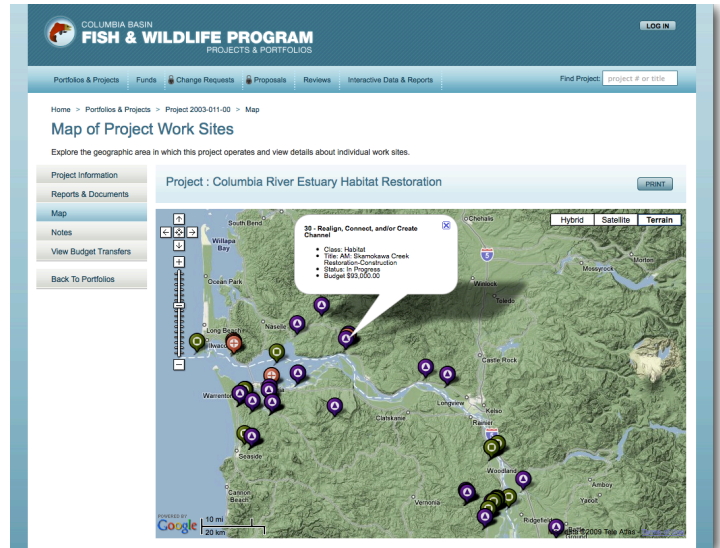
- Quick and easy access to project and budget information
- Access to higher-level program information useful to the Council and the public
- Ability to access and create different and personal project portfolios (e.g. by Accord, category, specific groups of projects)
- Complements the more detailed project information housed by Pisces
- Access to program summary budget information (planning, availability, decisions, and implementation)
- Ability to map projects and easily access more detailed project information

Attached is a fresh-off-the-press one-page summary of the Taurus/cbfish project.

Taurus Project Overview

The Fish & Wildlife Program at Bonneville Power Administration is the largest of its kind in the world. Its \$250+ million annual budget funds over 600 habitat restoration, research, and hatchery operations projects in the Columbia River Basin. A product of the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the Program is responsible for mitigating for the federal hydropower system, most significantly for its harmful effects on the Columbia and Snake River salmon runs. In recent years, the Program’s annual budget has doubled in efforts to respond to Biological Opinions issued by regional scientists in order to do more to protect and restore threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and resident fish species.

To help BPA and its regional partners manage the expansion, Sitka Technology Group started building a custom software system codenamed Taurus in October 2008. The mission: To transparently and consistently manage project and portfolio decisions in support of the Fish & Wildlife Program’s objectives and obligations. Taurus (www.cbfish.org) is both a public web site providing unprecedented views into the Program’s activities and accomplishments, and a web application used by analysts and managers to define, review, evaluate, select, and budget project portfolios.



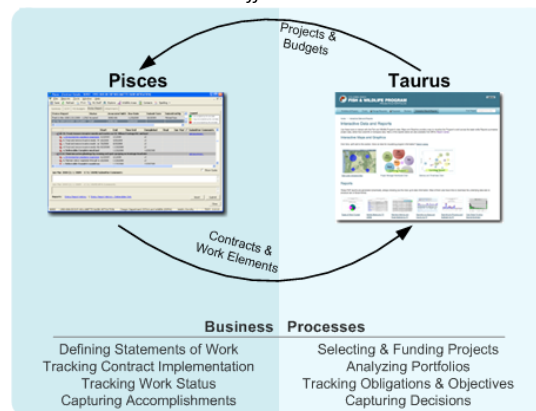
From www.cbfish.org, you can view program funds along with their present and past budgets, and peruse the recent history of reviews involving one or more projects, and access a wide range of project portfolios. The site offers a few ways to view portfolios, from the “Basic Info” view which provides project definition and location information, to “Budget History” and “Expenditures” views which transparently display every budget adjustment ever made to a project (think, checkbook register) and summarize expenditures under each projects’ multiple contracts.

As the system of record for all projects, www.cbfish.org tracks and manages the decision history for each project as well as a wealth of other information such as relationships to other projects and to Biological Opinions. It also tracks the general location of each project, and shows detailed work sites in a Google map. An information-rich system, www.cbfish.org provides numerous data tables which can be dynamically sorted and filtered for quick analysis, or downloaded for offline analysis. The site also offers a range of interactive maps and charts. For example, one interactive map provides insight into the Program’s annual habitat accomplishments by region.

Simplified Taurus Data Model – Projects are the hub



How is Taurus different than Pisces?



Program participants can log in and do things like build their own portfolios based on a wide range of criteria, or “tag” projects of interest. They can run reports and do ad-hoc analysis. Eventually, participants will also use the system to request changes to existing projects and to submit proposals for new projects.

Questions about this project? Contact Ben Zelinsky at bdzelinsky@bpa.gov