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October 9, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: CBFWA Funding Request - Project 2000-013-00, "An evaluation of an experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake"

Action

Council staff will present the above request by the Colville Confederated Tribes to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at your meeting on October 15th. The request is for \$49,700 to complete environmental sampling to provide informational needs requested by Canada agencies' regarding the possible re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake. The current contractual period¹ for the project is limited therefore the funding request will be presented to the Committee and Council at this meeting.

Recommendation

Council staff recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Committee approve this request for an additional task under Objective 3 of the project's proposal and recommend that Bonneville authorize an additional \$49,700 to the current budget from the Fiscal Year 2003 unallocated placeholder to fund this request.

Background

On September 9, 2002, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) recommended modifying the scope of work and budget for Project 2000-013-00, *An evaluation of an experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake*, to complete the evaluation at a level that would meet the appropriate Canadian agencies' needs for implementation. This recommendation is for an additional \$49,700 to expand environmental sampling to a monthly schedule from the previously budgeted seasonal schedule for this project (see attachment 1).

The goal of this project, proposed and funded initially in Fiscal Year 2000 and currently in its final year of the three-year program is to assess risks and benefits, formulate hypotheses, and

¹ March 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003

develop an experimental design and analytical tools for the possible re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake. Following are the objectives of the project as defined in the FY 2000 project proposal².

Objective 1. Disease risk assessment.

Objective 2. Exotic species re-introduction risk assessment.

Objective 3. Inventory existing habitat and opportunities for habitat enhancement.

Objective 4. Develop life-cycle model of Okanagan salmonids, including interactions with resident kokanee.

Objective 5. Develop experimental design.

Objective 6. Finalize plan for experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake and associated monitoring programs.

Upon completion of the first year of project implementation, questions were raised regarding the rearing capacity of the lakes. This was due to the identification of *Mysis relicta*, in large concentrations, in Skaha Lake. There is evidence that the introduction of mysids into a lake can coincide with a decline in kokanee abundance, or if a successful re-introduction of sockeye is even feasible. In an effort to address the ramifications of this evidence the project sponsor attempted to conduct the needed work associated with this additional task but was unable to conduct additional monitoring and maintain their reviewed and approved budget.

It was determined that an additional task identifying expanded sampling was needed to further evaluate the rearing conditions and *Mysis relicta*/*O. nerka* interactions in Skaha Lake and the north basin of Osoyoos Lake. In addition, diel migration information for *O. nerka* and *M. relicta* will be collected over the growing season to begin to understand the interactions between them.

To complete this effort the sponsor is requesting a \$49,700 budget modification to their FY 2002 budget for a new task³ under Objective 3 of the project proposal⁴.

Analysis

The sponsor feels that this budget modification request will ensure that a full evaluation of experimental re-introduction of sockeye in Skaha Lake is attained to an acceptable level for the Canadian agencies (Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission, provincial and federal governments) to use when considering the implementation phase of this project⁵. In addition, the sponsors have developed this modification request with Bonneville.

The CBFWA, Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support modifying the budget and scope of work for Project 2000-013-00, *An evaluation of an experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon in to Skaha Lake*, from the FY 2002 Integrated Unallocated Placeholder for a one-time increase in budget of \$49,700.

² Objective 1 through 3 span the three-year period. Objective 4 was completed in the second year, and Objective 5 and 6 will be completed in the third year ('03)

³ Assess potential rearing conditions in Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes (temperature, dissolved oxygen, zooplankton/mysid, water chemistry for nutrients).

⁴ Approved budgets for this project as amounted to FY 2000 @ \$171,000, FY 2001 @ \$180,000 and FY 2002 @ \$237,155

⁵ As discussed with the project sponsors on October 6, 1999, the implementation phase of this project is dependant on a favorable step review.

Attachment 1: Letter received from CBFWA requesting budget modification for Project 2000-013-00 on September 9, 2002.



September 9, 2002

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recommend modifying the scope of work and budget for Project 200001300, *An evaluation of an experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake*, in order to complete the full evaluation at a level that will meet the appropriate Canadian agencies' needs for implementation of re-introduction. This recommendation is for an additional \$49,700 to expand environmental sampling to a monthly schedule from a seasonal schedule during the final year of field work for this project.

The re-introduction project has proceeded on schedule and budget during its three year life. There is tremendous promise for re-introducing sockeye salmon into Skaha Lake and other lakes in the Okanagan Subbasin, thus increasing production by orders of magnitude. The project sponsor is working closely with their Canadian counterparts to insure a timely and effective reintroduction effort. These funds will allow future phases of implementation to proceed.

The CBFWA Members recommend approval of this request by the NWPPC. The Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support modifying the budget and scope of work for Project 200001300, *An evaluation of an experimental re-introduction of sockeye salmon in to Skaha Lake*, from the FY 2002 Integrated Unallocated Placeholder for a one-time increase in budget of \$49,700.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

for

Robert Lohn, Vice Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members and Fish and Wildlife Managers
Sarah McNary and Bob Austin, BPA
Doug Marker, NWPPC
NWPPC Members and Staff

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October 7, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Funding Request - Project 1988-120-26, "Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Program (YKFP)"

Action

Council staff will present the above request by the Yakama Nation to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at your meeting in Spokane on October 15th. The request is for \$188,407 to complete their training and education of four tribal personnel currently in school to fulfill operational needs to meet the goals and objectives of the Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project.

Recommendation

Council staff recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Committee not approve the request as received. Council staff suggests that the Council support actions by Bonneville, working in coordination with Yakama Nation Fisheries Management, to prioritize the existing budget associated with Project 1988-120-25, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) Management*, to address the emergency needs of the students.

Background

The goal of this proposal is to provide support for training and educational assistance to selected Tribal personnel to ultimately fulfill the management and other key positions within the YKFP.

On September 22, 1999, the Council approved \$231,000 from unallocated FY 1999 funds to complete training and education programs for six fish culturists and one fish biologist for the

hatchery program. The Yakama Nation had asked the Council to restore funds to a project that was approved in the 1998 selection process but were not used that year¹.

Through this project, the Yakama Nation has been able to train tribal members to staff the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research facility as well as other projects within the YKFP. The project has provided three personnel with four year degrees (i.e. Bachelor of Science) and an additional five with two year Associate Degrees² meeting the goals of the Yakama Nation's 1998 request.

On May 29, 2002 the Yakama Nation requested an additional \$188,407 for 2003, \$150,561 for 2004, and \$102,346 for 2005 totaling [Mark - wrong total]. The request would support four fish culturists and their salary, tuition, fees, books, supplies, and housing needs.

On September 9, 2002, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recommended an additional \$188,407 for the project conditioned as a one-time budget increase to allow the current enrolled students to complete the 2002/2003 school year.

Analysis

Project 1988-120-26 has not been separately reviewed in the Council's project funding process and was not submitted in the Columbia Plateau provincial review. It is linked to Project 1988-120-25, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) Management*, as a subcontract. This project was reviewed during the Columbia Plateau Province, though the project proposal and narrative only footnotes the "training and educational" element, but does not identify a specific objective or task³. The staff concludes that this is not qualified as a separate, ongoing project.

The Yakama Nation currently has an additional four students already enrolled in higher education programs to prepare them to operate production facilities associated with the YKFP⁴. The funding has been extended, although not augmented since the Council recommended a one-year extension of the project in 1999.

It seems that this request repeats the problem that occurred in 1999 in that there was no anticipation of the need for the funding and the timely submittal of a project proposal for regional review. It also appears that the scope of the original proposal as approved by the Council has changed from the education and training of six "Technician/Culturist" to an additional four. During Council deliberation on September 22, 1999 Council members expressed their concern that the approval of funding was an exception and would not set a precedent for this type of approval outside

¹ During the 1998 project selection process, \$231,000 was approved by the Council for a Yakama Fisheries Program Hatchery Training and Education Project. Bonneville did not receive a work statement for the project during FY 1998, but received it in early FY 1999. The cover letter was dated November 16, 1998 but was apparently delayed by internal review processes and therefore was received by BPA several weeks after that date. After conclusion of the FY 1998, BPA, CBFWA and the Council staff identify unspent funds associated with the projects and determine that the unspent funds associated with this project be returned to the placeholder. It appears that this decision was not apparent to the sponsor or BPA at the appropriate Quarterly Review when this alignment was discussed.

²Through 1999 three personnel have received a Bachelor of Science and five have completed a two year Associate Degree.

³ It is footnoted under "Out year objective-based budget" and "Other budget explanation" as a note stating that outyear projections beginning with FY2003 includes a Training and Education component.

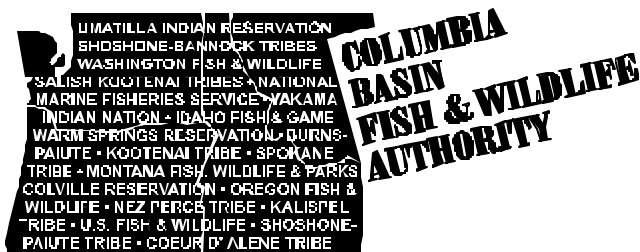
⁴ Three students completed first year of two year Associate Degree in fish culture and one student completed second year in Fisheries Science at the University of Idaho

the normal process. At the time, the Council stressed that any future proposal should be reviewed, as other projects, to verify their benefits to fish and wildlife in the basin.

The request from CBFWA does not address the past or current status of this subcontract, therefore Council staff does not feel that it is appropriate to approve this funding request and suggest that Bonneville encourage the tribe to fund the emergency needs of this study from within the budget approved for Project 1988-120-25, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) Management* during the Columbia Plateau review.

The issue of providing financial support for Tribal fisheries education is one the Council, Tribes and Bonneville should continue to discuss. Before additional Council recommendations are made for these types of projects, the Council, working in cooperation with the Tribes and Bonneville, should consider how alternative institutional funding maybe identified and utilized to support Tribal fisheries education.

Attachment 1: Letter received from CBFWA requesting budget modification for Project #198812026 on September 9, 2002.



September 9, 2002

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

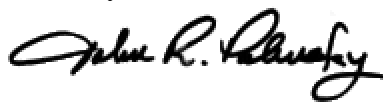
Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recommend modifying the scope of work and budget for Project 198812026, *Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Program (YKFP) – Training and Education*, in order to allow the current enrolled students to complete the 2002/2003 school year. This recommendation is for \$188,407 to fund four students to complete their training and education to meet manpower needs for the YKFP hatchery program.

The CBFWA Members recommend approval of this request by the Northwest Power Planning Council. The Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support modifying the budget and scope of work for Project 198812026, *YKFP – Training and Education*, from the FY 2002 Integrated Unallocated Placeholder for a one-time increase in budget of \$188,407.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



for

Robert Lohn, Vice Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members and Fish and Wildlife Managers
Sarah McNary and Bob Austin, BPA
Doug Marker, NWPPC
NWPPC Members and Staff

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October 8, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Economic Review of Project 1993-060-00, Select Area Fishery Evaluation Project

Action

At your meeting in Spokane on October 11 - 13, 2002 the project sponsors will present the enclosed information to the Fish and Wildlife Committee (see attached document). Council staff is seeking a Committee recommendation regarding the adequacy of this economic information as it relates to the condition placed on this project by the Council. The Committee recommendation will be presented to the Council at this meeting to allow timely guidance to Bonneville so that it may, if approved by the Council, proceed with contracting for the project (The project's contractual period is the same as the fiscal year).

Background

On September 11, 2002 the Council provided funding recommendations to Bonneville for the Estuary, Lower Columbia, Columbia Cascade, Middle Snake, and Upper Snake provinces.

The Council requested that prior to approval of the staff recommendation for project 1993-060-00, *Select Area Fishery Evaluation Project (SAFE)* included as part of the Lower Columbia and Estuary provincial review, that the sponsors (Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and Clatsop County Economic Development Council) provide additional information on the economic benefits accruing to the commercial fishing economy through the implementation of this project (see attachment 1).

For purposes of comparing Bonneville investment with the economic value information provided by the sponsor, the following table shows Bonneville's previous funding support of the project and the sponsors' request as part of the Lower Columbia and Estuary provincial review:

Budget history (shaded FY's reflect amounts recommended by the staff during the province review)

FY	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Total	418	394	786	785	900	1,400	1,400	1,500	1,551	1,679	1,648	1,703

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Council find that the project sponsors have addressed the condition placed on this project as part of the Estuary provincial. Staff further recommends that the Council direct Bonneville to fund the project at the levels, and with the conditions, provided in the staff recommendation for the Lower Columbia and Estuary (see attached staff recommendation from the September Council meeting). As it does with all fish and wildlife projects, the Council supports identifying available measures to further reduce the costs of the project while meeting its objectives.

Attachment 1: Council staff recommendation for Project 1993-060-00, *Select Area Fishery Evaluation Project*, as presented to the Council on September 11 - 13, 2002.

Columbia Lower Issue 1: *Select Area Fishery Evaluation Project* (Project 199306000)

Initial Staff Recommendation: In 1993, Bonneville initiated the Columbia River Terminal Fisheries Project (now named the Select Area Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) project), a 10-year comprehensive program to investigate the feasibility of terminal fisheries in Youngs Bay and other sites in Oregon and Washington. This cooperative project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Clatsop County Economic Development Council's (CEDC) Fisheries Project explored the means to increase harvest of hatchery fish while providing greater protection to weak wild salmon stocks. The project developed in three distinct stages: an initial two-year research phase to investigate potential sites, salmon stocks, and methodologies; a second three-year phase of expansion in Youngs Bay and introduction into areas of greatest potential as shown from the initial work; and a final five-year phase of establishing terminal fisheries at full capacity at all acceptable sites. Currently, the project is in the third phase.

The project received a "Fundable in Part" recommendation from the ISRP. The ISRP supported the ongoing activities but did not support any expansion of the project due to lack of scientific and economic justifications. The ISRP stated that before any additional investment into the expansion of this project an economic analysis and a determination of potential impact on listed stocks should be conducted. CBFWA rated the projects as High Priority.

Bonneville recommended funding the project for the implementation of RPA 164 (Harvest Strategy 1: Develop fishing techniques to enable fisheries to target non-listed fish while reducing harvest-related mortality on ESA-listed species) and recommended that the funding of the project be conditioned on the submittal of delinquent annual reports. In addition, Bonneville concurred with the ISRP regarding the current scope, though they mentioned the excessive costs associated with the project.

NOAA Fisheries indicated that there is no association of this project to the Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System and stated "close evaluation of this project is needed before any expansion to avoid any risk to listed fish."

Council staff concurs with the findings of the ISRP, Bonneville and NOAA and supports no expansion of the production associated with the project. Funding for Fiscal Year 2003, 2004 and 2005 reflects no expansion of the project, but applies the 3.4% rule. Funds were provided in Fiscal Year 2003 to relocate a net pen at Tongue Point. This reflects a one-time cost of \$71,000 to relocate the net pen from a leased area where the project has lost the ability to lease the location, to a new dock.

Funding associated with Fiscal Year 2003 will address the tenth and final year of the feasibility study. The Council needs to receive a final report regarding this project summarizing and evaluating the findings and conclusions of this investigation regarding the feasibility of terminal fisheries in the lower Columbia. This report needs to be comprehensive and must address the current dynamics in the commercial fisheries such as the market, the economic value of the fisheries made possible through this project, and the value to the industry of this project in the context of all other fishing opportunities and activities in the lower Columbia and Estuary that the industry now has available. .

At the conclusion of the tenth season the information and data collected to date will need to be summarized and analyzed with the report submitted in Fiscal Year 2004. Activities associated with this final report and project review needs to occur within the budget proposed in the staff recommendation. If there is a budget shortfall, sponsors will need to prioritize tasks from within budget to ensure completion of these final report activities. Staff recommends that the project sponsors' final report be reviewed by both the ISRP and the IEAB during Fiscal Year 2004, and that future funding for this proposal (i.e. Fiscal Year 2005) is conditioned on a favorable review by these advisory boards and the Council.

Funding for the project will come from the base budget allocation for these provinces.