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March 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Maureen Hess, Heather Hendrixson and Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Update on Project Review – Fish and Wildlife Lands

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Council Staff

Summary: Staff will provide a brief update on the current stage of the Fish and Wildlife Program's Lands Review process that was initiated in November 2025.

Relevance: Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division work plan 2026; Project Review/Program Implementation; A. Continuation and completion of Lands Review.

Background: There are currently 35 projects¹ funded through the Program that protect and restore habitat through land acquisitions (Table 1). Of those, 29 were noticed to

¹ Note that there are 4 new Lands projects that are currently in development - no project proposal received to date. They will be categorized to a project type designation and reviewed, if needed, when submitted: #2024-003-00, #2024-005-00, #2027-003-00, #2028-002-00. Developing project information is located on [CBFish.org](https://www.cbfish.org).

participate in the review process. The remaining six projects provide administrative support to the relevant projects and will be considered contextually.

As previously noted, staff have updated the review process for projects that have already completed an initial review(s). The projects in this Lands review have had their basic premise and scientific soundness accepted by the Council. This review will focus on project actions and accomplishments, with questions tailored to individual projects. Recommendations will include suggestions to improve project implementation. We will also use this review to better understand the implementation of Lands projects and collect valuable information related to our efforts to track [Program performance](#), and in particular, [details related to land acquisitions](#) (e.g., individual parcel polygon data, associated land management plans, number of acres, etc., if appropriate and available).

The review schedule is:

Review Steps	Date
Review process starts	November 6, 2025
Review materials due	February 13, 2026
Coordination meeting(s) between project sponsor and Council staff and/or ISRP, if needed	March - June 2026
ISRP recommendations report	June 26, 2026
Public comment	June 26 - July 24, 2026
Council recommendations to Bonneville	August 2026

Table 1a: Lands Projects – to be reviewed

Project Number	Proponent Orgs	Project Title	Project Focus – wildlife or fish lands
1990-092-00	CTUIR	Wanaket Wildlife Area	Wildlife Lands
1991-061-00	WDFW	Swanson Lake Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
1992-048-00	CCT	Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range	Wildlife Lands
1992-061-02	KT	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Kalispel Tribe	Wildlife Lands
1992-061-03	IDFG	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)	Wildlife Lands
1992-061-05	KTOI	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Kootenai Tribe	Wildlife Lands
1992-061-06	CDT	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Coeur D'Alene Tribe	Wildlife Lands
1994-044-00	WDFW	Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
1995-057-02	SBT	Shoshone-Bannock Wildlife Mitigation Projects	Wildlife Lands
1995-057-03	SPT	Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation-- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Wildlife Lands
1995-060-01	CTUIR	Isq'ulktpe Watershed Project	Wildlife Lands
1996-080-00	NPT	Northeast Oregon Wildlife Project	Wildlife Lands
1996-094-01	WDFW	Scotch Creek Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
1998-003-00	STOI	Wildlife Mitigation/Operations and Maintenance (O&M) for Spokane Tribe Land Acquisitions	Wildlife Lands
1998-022-00	CTWSO	Pine Creek Conservation Area	Wildlife Lands
2000-015-00	CTWSO	Upper John Day Conservation Lands Program	Fish Lands
2000-026-00	CTUIR	Tat'win Wildlife Area Operations	Wildlife Lands
2002-003-00	CSKT	Secure and Restore Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Montana	Fish Lands
2002-014-00	WDFW	Sunnyside Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
2003-012-00	WDFW	Shillapoo Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
2006-003-00	WDFW	Desert Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands

2006-004-00	WDFW	Wenas Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
2006-005-00	WDFW	Asotin Creek Wildlife Mitigation	Wildlife Lands
2008-007-00	UCUT	Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Program	Wildlife Lands
2008-102-00	CCT	Upper Columbia Land Operation and Maintenance	Fish Lands
2008-104-00	CCT	Upper Columbia Land & Water Acquisition	Fish Lands
2011-004-00	ODFW	ODFW Operation & Maintenance (O&M)	Wildlife Lands
2024-004-00*	STOI	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Wildlife Lands
2026-003-00	BPT	Burns Paiute Wildlife Areas O&M	Wildlife Lands

* New project 2024-004-00 initially reviewed in spring 2025. The Council supported the continued implementation of the project conditioned that the STOI address the points raised by the ISRP as part of this Lands review.

Table 1b. Lands projects – Contextual role (not reviewed)

The following 6 projects administratively support the Lands category of projects and receive direct funding from Bonneville associated with the Northwest Power Act. These projects are not part of the review. For regional transparency, this informational table outlines how these projects contribute to Fish and Wildlife Program Lands.

Project Number	Sponsor Org.	Project Title	Project Description of Work Implemented	Project Focus – Wildlife or fish lands
2008-303-00	CTWSO	Columbia and Willamette Rivers Operations Administration	Provides the necessary support to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to coordinate with and participate in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP).	Wildlife Lands
2008-800-00	MFWP	Montana Resident Fish Habitat Acquisition	Implements the Montana Fish Accord MOA.	Fish Lands
2010-088-00	OSC	Upper and Lower Lemhi Acquisition/Easements	Assists in acquiring interests in land and water in the Lemhi Watershed. In conjunction with OSC's Lemhi River Restoration Project, 2010-072-00	Fish Lands

2011-003-00	ODFW	Willamette Wildlife Fund	Provides the funding necessary for ODFW to implement the Willamette Wildlife MOA	Wildlife Lands
2013-002-00	BPA	Land Acquisition Monitoring	Funds the annual monitoring work completed by BPA's GIS staff for baseline surveys for lands secured through the Program. On the Transmission side of BPA.	Fish Lands
2018-001-00	BPA	BPA Pre-Acquisition	Funds the BPA realty group to do the pre-acquisition activities needed to acquire an acquisition such as title review, site visits, etc. On the Transmission side of BPA.	Fish Lands

Update on Project Review - Fish and Wildlife Lands

Council Meeting

March 10, 2026

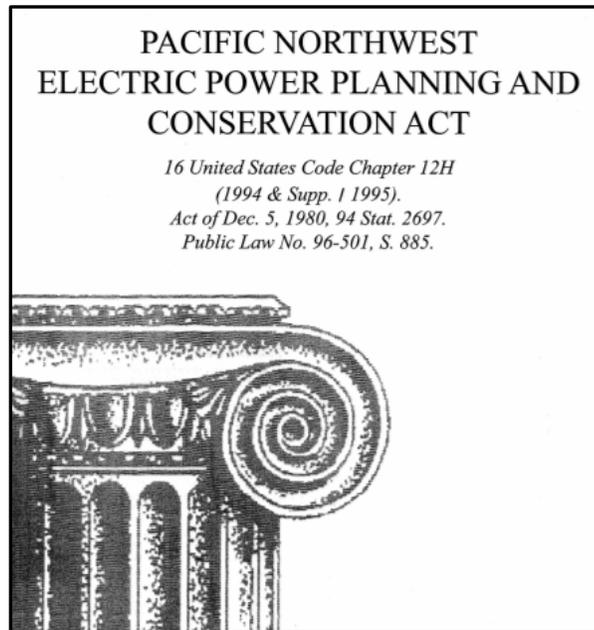


Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Project reviews

Why review projects?

- Northwest Power Act, Section 4h10D: Council role in review and ISRP review (1996 amendment to NPA)



Benefits:

- Clear documentation of each project's purpose, objectives and results
- Scientific review
- Transparency & Accountability:
 - Identify contribution to the Program and region
 - Sharing of project data and information
 - Identification of policy issues to address

ISRP Review Criteria from 1996 Amendment to NW Power Act

Review projects for consistency with the Council's program and whether they:

- are based on sound science principles
- benefit fish and wildlife and
- have a clearly defined objective and outcome
- with provisions for monitoring and evaluation of results



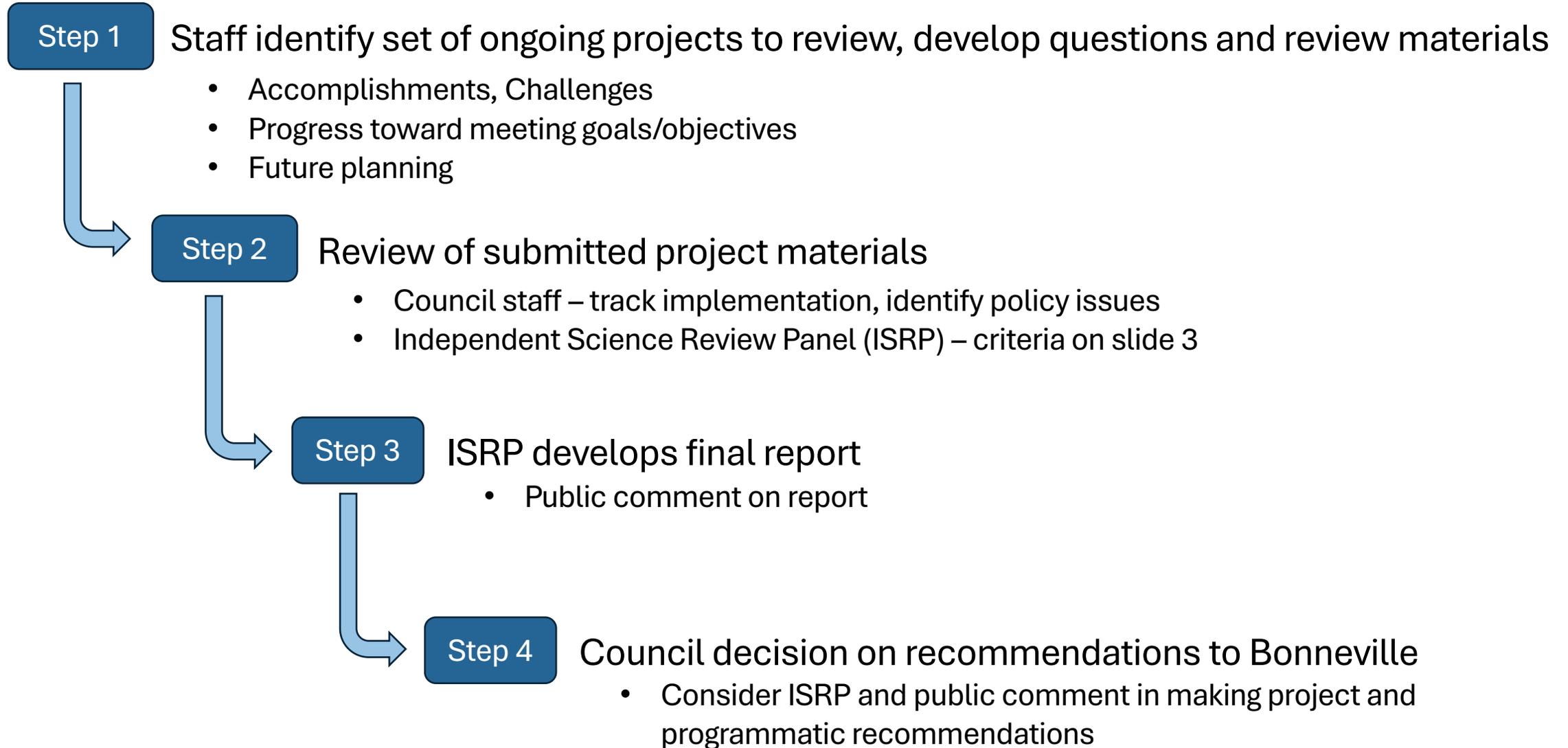
Past reviews

- [2022 Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review](#)
- [2020 Resident Fish and Sturgeon](#)
- [2019 Mainstem/Program Support](#)
- [2018 Research Projects: Progress Review](#)
- [2017 Wildlife Projects](#)
- 2015 - 2019 Solicitation Projects
 - [2019 Northern Pike](#)
 - [2018 Pacific Lamprey](#)
 - [2017 Sturgeon](#)
 - [2016 Habitat Assessment](#)
- [2014 Geographic Review](#)
 - [2017 Umbrella Projects follow-up](#)
- [2013 Resident Fish / Data Mgmt / Regional Coordination](#)
- [2011 RM&E/Artificial Production](#)
- [2011-2014 Lower Snake River Compensation Plan \(LSRCP\)](#)
- [2010 FastTrack](#)
- [2010 Wildlife](#)
- [Fish accord projects](#)
- [BiOp projects](#)
- [2007-2009](#)
- [2007 Innovative](#)
- [2006](#)
- [2005/2006](#)
- [2004/2005](#)
- [2002-04 Province](#)
- 2003 [Mainstem/Systemwide](#), [Request for Studies](#)
- 2002 [Innovative](#), [LSRCP](#)
- 2001 [Innovative](#), [Action Plan](#), [High Priority](#) and [Ongoing](#) reviews
- Proposals for: [2000](#), [1999](#), [1998](#), [1997](#)

Review History

- Numerous project reviews over last 25 years
- Transitioned from annual review of all projects (~300+) at once to focusing on portions of the Program in multi-year review cycles with resulting multi-year project recommendations
- Early project reviews focused primarily on proposed project details to ensure projects were scientifically sound.
- Contemporary reviews have shifted to focus on project results and adaptive management of ongoing work.

Review process – general overview



Revised project review process for projects with an initial review(s) and Council recommendation(s)

- Multiple reviews & recommendations = scientific soundness and basic premise accepted
 - Focus on implementation check-in on project actions
- Focused, smaller sets of projects reviewed at a time
- Not all projects amenable to science review (e.g., O&M, coordination, planning)
- Reduced review materials (project summary, answers to targeted questions)
- Reduced process and deliverables (coordination meetings, as needed)
- Value-added comments and guidance to strengthen projects for continued implementation

Project Review – Fish and Wildlife Lands

- 35 projects that protect habitat through land acquisitions
 - 29 to complete review process
 - 6 administratively support (not reviewed)
- Operations and Maintenance (Stewardship)
 - Maintaining boundaries, roads, gates, fences, locks, signage
 - Control public access or use
 - Mitigate wildfire risk
 - Vegetation management



LANDS

[Maps and details on lands acquired through the Program](#)

Lands Review Timeline

	2025			2026							
<i>Lands Review components & timeline</i>	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Council staff to send guidance document to project sponsors		11/6/2025									
Sponsors submit review materials					2/13/2026						
Council staff review and recommendations											
ISRP review and coordination with sponsors to address questions as appropriate; produce final report									6/26/2026		
Public Comment											
Council Decision											
Council recommendations to Bonneville											



Questions?