



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 2, 2010

In reply refer to: KEWR-4

Mr. Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director  
Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Grover:

With this letter, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is submitting a 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) project narrative for Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review. As you know, the 2008 FCRPS BiOp is a 10 year operations and configuration plan to mitigate for the adverse effects of the hydro-system on the 13 listed fish under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) of the FCRPS BiOp calls for BPA and the other federal Action Agencies (AA) to implement specific mitigation actions to avoid jeopardy and adverse modification of the critical habitat of ESA listed Columbia River fish.

To this end, BPA will continue to fund ongoing Fish and Wildlife Program projects that support the RPA, and develop new projects designed to contribute to hydro, habitat, hatchery and predation management activities required under the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion. Additionally, many of the new FCRPS BiOp RPA projects will also assist BPA in meeting its mitigation obligations under the NW Power Act, and supplement the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. As sponsors develop narratives for these projects, we will submit them for ISRP review.

Proposal FY10Q4-00001 – Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat Project (2010-077-00) has been entered and submitted into Taurus by the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB) and is ready for immediate Council and ISRP review:

<http://www.cbfish.org/Proposal.mvc/Summary/162>

The purpose of this new Tucannon River Habitat project is to construct on-the-ground habitat restoration actions to meet targets required under the 2008 BiOp. The restoration actions will specifically benefit threatened Snake River spring/summer Chinook in the Tucannon Subbasin. They will also benefit Snake River steelhead, bull trout, fall Chinook, freshwater mussels, and other species.

The Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat project would support population level habitat improvement targets called for in RPA action 35: Tributary Habitat Implementation 2010-2018 of the FCRPS BiOp.

The initial contract is slated to start in early FY11 with a BPA funding commitment of \$1,268,560.

As with other programmatic habitat proposals, we expect that the ISRP will identify the need to define decision/prioritization criteria, establish local technical evaluation protocols, and clarify the respective roles of the ISRP and local technical teams. BPA and Council staffs have agreed to collaboratively work with the ISRP in the near future to address these issues, but because of the timing of this proposal submittal it will not benefit from that effort. To the extent practicable, we will incorporate elements of this future collaborative work effort into this and other programmatic habitat projects.

If you have questions about the project narrative, please contact the project sponsor, Steve Martin at [steve@snakeriverboard.org](mailto:steve@snakeriverboard.org). If you need any additional information from the BPA please contact Sarah Branum at [stbranum@bpa.gov](mailto:stbranum@bpa.gov) or Marchelle Foster at [mmfoster@bpa.gov](mailto:mmfoster@bpa.gov), who is helping to coordinate the ISRP.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff as we implement BiOp projects.

Sincerely,

*/s/ William C. Maslen*

William C. Maslen  
Director, Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Mr. Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board  
Mr. Terry Bruegman, Columbia Conservation District  
Mr. Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council