

Proposal # 199803100

Responses to ISRP preliminary review of Mainstream/Systemwide Proposals

Title: Implement Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan Now

Sponsor: CRITFC

For Questions, Contact: Catriona Black, Watershed Coordinator. 503-731-1315, or cat@critfc.org.

ISRP Comments

Comment:

The project would be improved by taking a more targeted evaluative approach to coordination. New activities should be prioritized to reflect what has been learned about watershed restoration.

Response:

The proposal is tailored to work with current processes, focused on subbasin planning.. The Council has changed the entire region's focus from watershed planning and assessment to subbasin assessment and planning. Subbasin planning is required for future funding of habitat protection and restoration work and so subbasin planning is the required priority.

Experience has shown that there is a substantial need for CRITFC participation in the NWPPC and CBFWA activities (see responses below). Priorities are essentially set by the NWPPC and BPA . In these efforts we will continue to use the skills and knowledge amassed so far through previous work. Tasks in the work plan build on past efforts, most notably the tasks associated with the tribal watershed handbook (tasks focus on dissemination, integration into watershed and subbasin processes), and the inclusion in watershed assessments of culturally significant resource assessment and management needs (tasks include incorporation into subbasin planning efforts and implementation into management plans). These tasks aim to distribute tools and knowledge accumulated from previous years' work in watershed assessment in the Columbia Basin.

Comment:

A plan to monitor and evaluate project effectiveness is needed. How does the project determine whether coordination processes are effective?

Response:

It is difficult to measure the tangible effects of improved communication and coordination on this regional scale. The project as proposed does not include specific monies for monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of coordination. Through contract reporting activities, conducted at quarterly intervals, CRITFC will report to BPA the progress on accomplishing tasks as described in the objectives including milestones reached, meetings attended, outreach conducted, and products produced. CRITFC will compile data on cost-share monies applied for and obtained for tribal restoration projects; a measure of the increased effectiveness for the Fish and Wildlife Program dollars invested.

CRITFC staff will also monitor effectiveness of activities funded under this proposal through regular communications with the Tribes to ensure that their needs are being met in terms of coordination with co-managers, the NWPPC, CBFWA, and provision of technical assistance. Staff will interact regularly with NWPPC to ensure that communication between the Council staff and members with the Tribes is as productive

and open as possible. Maintenance of cooperative relationships between the CRITFC Tribes and the co-managers of natural resources in the Columbia Basin will be evidenced by, among other things, development and implementation of collaborative proposals, productive interaction between the parties and continued improvement in communication and information exchange.

Comment:

More detail should be provided in the proposal on project results and accomplishments to date.

Response:

A more descriptive list of accomplishments to date follows.

Watershed Assessments:

Created and published 100 page handbook on watershed restoration. This handbook was created in conjunction with a steering committee composed of tribal and CRITFC staff, and an advisory committee of staff from 15 outside agencies. The handbook explains the tribal approach to watershed restoration, details both passive and active restoration efforts to restore watersheds and explains the rationale for these. In addition, it explains the importance of watershed assessments, suggests parameters for a monitoring plan, promotes successes that tribes have had in restoration work, and highlights partnership efforts particularly with Salmon Corps. This handbook is written in easy-to-read language and is intended to make the restoration philosophy explained in *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* accessible to a wider audience. The intended audience includes policy makers, watershed council members, landowners, tribal staffs, and other personnel around the region conducting watershed restoration.

Completed Subbasin Summaries for Imnaha and Grande Ronde Watersheds.

Completed Watershed Assessment of limiting factors for salmonid survival in the Imnaha Watershed.

CRITFC staff is assessing the Tribes' GIS data needs for watershed and subbasin planning, identifying data gaps for future work.

CRITFC staff reviewed, critiqued and summarized various watershed assessment methods for production of a watershed methodology guide. The ongoing guide integrates NWPPC subbasin planning efforts. CRITFC staff has conducted literature reviews and analysis of existing methods.

CRITFC will continue to review watershed assessment results from the four tribes and incorporate comments into future assessment work and use results in planning and prioritizing restoration efforts.

Comprehensive Watershed Proposals Assistance:

CRITFC worked to promote the tribally sponsored projects through funding cycles by working with CBFWA and NWPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program and BPA's 2001 Action Plan for Fish in Response to the Power System Emergency. Provided technical and policy review to tribal fisheries program managers in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) project proposal process. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) staff peer reviewed tribal and inter-tribal project proposals. In addition, we monitored the progress of these projects through the funding process and helped restore projects in jeopardy of not receiving funding.

CRITFC staff meets with the tribes on a regular basis either by telephone, e-mail, or in person to coordinate efforts and discuss tribes' restoration needs. Conducted field visits to each of four tribes to view habitat projects. Met with tribal program managers and staffs to review goals and objectives of these projects and of tribal programs, and ensured that these projects were consistent with subbasin goals. In addition, maintained regular correspondence with tribal fisheries program managers and staffs.

CRITFC Technical Advisory Team, including hydrologists, fisheries scientists, watershed and water quality scientists, provides project review services to the member tribes as requested.

CRITFC assisted in development of the Collaborative Monitoring and Evaluation Proposal of the CBFWA submitted in the 2002 Mainstem/Systemwide provincial proposal solicitation.

Cost Sharing:

Individual meetings with the tribes were conducted in conjunction with extensive effort to identify the high priority tribal projects.

Meetings were held with the Oregon Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board which resulted in more tribal applications for these funding sources. Additionally, we met with representatives from Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Nature Conservancy, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

CRITFC participates on a number of committees to allocate regional funds to the tribes. We met numerous times with Washington State University, the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program and the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss collaborative efforts. We continue to research new funding sources on the World Wide Web and through personal contacts. The Spirit of the Salmon Fund, administered by CRITFC, will also be utilized to fund various projects on a cost-sharing basis for a wide range of habitat restoration activities.

The Spirit of the Salmon Fund staff and the Project Manager for this contract have assisted in submitting numerous proposals to non-governmental sources by researching potential funding agencies, and submitting written proposals to potential funding agencies. The Watershed Department was also successful in achieving numerous sources of funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Administration for Native Americans, the Economic Development Administration and the Pacific Salmon Commission and the Flintridge Foundation. All of these funds assisted the tribes in the implementation of *WY-KAN-USH-MI WA-KISH-WIT*.

Guidelines for Monitoring Evaluation:

CRITFC staff worked with Washington State University and the Nez Perce Tribe in development of an umbrella-monitoring program for all projects. The evaluation standards were implemented in the NWPPC subbasin planning process. CRITFC will continue to review, critique, and summarize monitoring and evaluation guidelines for projects and design specific evaluation plans for projects.

CRITFC staff coordinated the development of a joint proposal for monitoring and evaluation being submitted in the 2002 Mainstem and Systemwide Provincial solicitation process by CBFWA in collaboration with CRITFC, Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and potentially the National Marine Fisheries Service. The proposal sets out a framework for cataloguing, evaluating, and improving monitoring and evaluation of anadromous and resident fish stocks in the Columbia River Basin and their responses to recovery efforts.

Salmon Corps:

CRITFC staff conducted a two-day training in March 2001, five day training and field experience in October 2001, and a one day training in May 2002. Salmon Corps members were trained in watershed assessment methods, watershed management, and culvert survey procedures.

CRITFC staff contracted for Salmon Corps field work for each of the four member tribes. Staff also has successfully promoted Salmon Corps for other entities conducting restoration work such as the Lower Columbia River Estuary Project.

Outreach:

CRITFC staff was involved in strategic public outreach planning for CRITFC's Jammin' for Salmon event which highlighted salmon success stories and held August 4-5, 2001 in Portland, Oregon. The event promotes new relationships with corporate sponsors who are showing a strong interest in funding tribal salmon restoration projects.

CRITFC organized a tribal water quality conference in Spokane, Washington in November 2000. Eighty-nine representatives from the 13 tribes of the Columbia River Basin, federal, state, and private organizations attended the conference to discuss critical water quality issues in the basin. Topics included tribal development of water quality standards, TMDLs, Superfund site listings, fish tissue contamination issues, effects of temperature and gas on fish health, water quantity, jurisdictional issues, fund raising and other topics. One of the highlights of the conference was a tribal-only session that was held as a means to give the tribes a venue to talk about shared concerns.

CRITFC coordinated the 2001 Columbia River Basin Tribal Water Quality Conference, held September 26-28 at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. The conference was attended by 91 registered participants from 15 Tribal governments, federal and state resource agency personnel, and several other organizations. The conference provided a forum for discussion and technical exchange on water quality issues that affect Tribal resources in the Columbia Basin. Topics addressed included: developing a Tribal vision for Columbia Basin water quality, regional water quality processes, development of Columbia River mainstem Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), for temperature and total dissolved gas, temperature and total dissolved gas modeling for mainstem TMDLs, water quality standards, improving communication between Tribes and agencies, and presentations on projects by Columbia Basin Tribes in the U.S. and Canada. Important products from the conference are the compiled comments from the facilitated sessions during which Tribal participants provided feedback and suggestions on major water quality topics.

Participated in the American Indian Resource Institute Conference in Seattle, Washington and identified tribal priorities for the 107th U. S. Congress.

The Project Manager for this contract continued his role as Vice-Chairman of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program (includes participation of various governmental agencies, environmental groups, industry and the public). He also was selected to serve on the Endangered Species Act Executive Committee for the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Others:

CRITFC staff participated in regional policy making forums including the Pacific Northwest Temperature Criteria Guidance Program and the Columbia River Mainstem Total Maximum Daily Load Development process. We were crucial in implementing the listing of the Portland Harbor section of the Willamette River as a Superfund site. CRITFC coordinated the tribes and agencies throughout the first year of the Superfund process. CRITFC continued providing technical support and information on the dredging issue of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. CRITFC reviewed and commented on the Oregon Forest Practices Act Feasibility Studies, the Washington Water Quality Standard Revisions, and the Oregon Water Quality Standards Tri-Annual Review.

Comment:

Provide details and evaluation of the restoration handbook.

Response:

The Handbook, *Protecting and Restoring Watersheds: A Tribal Approach to Salmon Recovery* is intended to provide insight into the Columbia Basin treaty tribes' approach to watershed restoration and to help natural resource managers, landowners, and watershed council members undertake restoration in their own watersheds. The handbook describes priorities for a healthy watershed, steps for watershed restoration (including assessment, protection, passive and active restoration strategies), the importance of establishing partnerships, and the necessity for monitoring and evaluation of watershed restoration work. This handbook is written in easy-to-read language and is intended to make the restoration philosophy explained in *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* accessible to a wider audience. The intended audience includes watershed council members, landowners, tribal staffs, and other personnel around the region conducting watershed restoration. The Handbook was completed by the Watershed Department in September, 1998, and has been widely distributed.

Informal feedback indicates that readers have found the handbook a valuable resource on the policies and preferences of the four CRITFC tribes in watershed protection and restoration. CRITFC and Tribal staff have requested numerous copies for distribution to partners for this purpose. The Handbook has been used as a guide for CRITFC staff in commenting on and assisting with development of proposals for restoration work in the Basin.

A hardcopy of the handbook is available for review by contacting Catriona Black at 503-731-1315.

Comment:

Methods should be described with more specificity.

Response:

Methods are adapted as the NWPPC, CBFWA, and 13 Tribes processes evolve. Coordination with the Council and CBFWA involves responding to events as they arise (as well as raising issues originating with the Tribes). Generally, methods include:

- Represent tribal interests in meetings and other forums (estimated number of Council meetings: 15, CBFWA meetings: 24, 13 Tribes meetings: 12).

- Involve Council members and other partners in tribal meetings and forums (estimated number of visits for Council members to Commission:4, CRITFC staff visits to Council offices:6).
- Track projects proposed by each Tribe in the funding cycles (estimate 40 project proposals expected over 2003-2006).
- Pursue Cost shares for tribal restoration efforts through collaborating with other agencies, discussing congressional allocations with senators and representatives and staff, supporting funding of complimentary programs (such as LCREP) in state funding processes, and applying for funds from non-governmental sources.
- Meet with Tribes at their offices to review and asses needs for purposes of project development (estimated number of visits per year: 8).
- Maintain regular communication with Tribal staff and cooperating partners throughout the Basin.

Below is a more descriptive explanation of methods for each of the objectives and tasks described in the originally submitted proposal.

1. Provide comprehensive coordination and tracking of tribally sponsored watershed protection & restoration projects to ensure timely on-the-ground project implementation and cost sharing within each subbasin
 - a. Provide management assistance to the four tribes' fisheries programs in packaging and managing comprehensive watershed proposals and projects through the NWPPC, CBFWA and BPA review and contracting processes.

Methods: Provide assistance to tribal programs in navigating through the NPPC and BPA project review and contracting process. Coordinating and completing tribal watershed project contracts for FY1999 & part of FY2000. An estimated 26 habitat projects in the eight focus subbasins for FY99 & FY00 will be tracked and monitored throughout the review process. Attend and advocate for tribal projects in NWPPC, CBFWA, and ISRP forums. Periodic meetings with affected fishery managers and subbasin cooperators will be scheduled to review projects status and results. Approximately 8-10 meetings will be conducted.
 - b. Provide coordination amongst tribes and project cooperators to insure projects are integrated within the subbasin and consistent with NPPC F&W Program, Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, and fish habitat objectives for the subbasin.

Methods: Provides for regular communications with tribes and subbasin cooperators to identify and clarify, at the technical and policy levels, that overall goals and objectives for the subbasins are being met by coordinated actions and efforts in the subbasin. Continue to conduct telephone, e-mail, and on-site visits with tribes and project cooperators to discuss and coordinate projects. Provide assistance in developing subbasin plans to develop a prioritized listing of habitat improvement work, identify project costs on ten year implementation schedule, and monitor project completion.
 - c. Maintain a project tracking system for tribal/subbasin projects to monitor project implementation, fiscal management, local and regional project coordination and reviews, overall subbasin evaluation results and effectiveness.

Methods: CRITFC will maintain a database of all BPA funded tribal sponsored projects. This database will be periodically updated as projects or milestones are completed. The system contains information about submittal and approval of proposals and contracts, project leaders and cooperators, project locations and activities, and current project status. Further, queries will be created to examine data on entire subbasins, project sponsors, fiscal expenditures, regional review status, and compilation and summary of subbasin results and effectiveness. An annual status report highlighting overall annual and accrued results for each subbasin will be prepared for review and use by the tribes, subbasin cooperators, NWPPC, and BPA.

- d. Promote cost sharing of subbasin watershed projects with tribal, federal, state, local, and private agencies, organizations, and individuals by identifying and coordinating funding and implementation opportunities.

Methods: Hold at least 4 new meetings annually with key personnel from funding agencies and tribal staffs to discuss opportunities for cost share. Monitor increase in non-BPA funds requested and acquired in each subbasin. Continue work with NOAA for funding of tribal restoration projects through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. collaborating with other agencies, discussing congressional allocations with senators and representatives and staff, supporting funding of complimentary programs (such as LCREP), in state funding processes, also meeting with tribes to review and asses needs for purposes of project development. A list of projects will be developed in conjunction with each tribe for which cost-share would be beneficial. Funds will be applied for in conjunction with the Spirit of the Salmon Fund at CRITFC.

2. Provide technical support to tribes in developing & implementing scientifically sound watershed projects and promoting tribal land management strategies which protect salmon habitats within subbasins.

- a. Coordinate and staff CRITFC Technical Advisory Team (a scientific technical team including fisheries scientists, hydrologists, watershed and water quality scientists) to assist tribal/subbasin project sponsors and implementers in developing projects and standards for watershed restoration projects consistent with Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit.

Methods: Provide technical reviews of proposed projects and actions for consistency with subbasin habitat restoration efforts and Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit.

3. Provide technical support to tribes & subbasin cooperators to assure federal, state, and private land managers implement accountable management plans consistent with the biological needs of fish, their habitats, and fishery management goals.

- a. Coordinate and staff CRITFC Technical Advisory Team to review proposed management plans and coordinate with tribal staff in responding to ensure tribal interests are integrated.

Methods: Provide technical reviews of land management plans and proposed actions and their consistency with subbasin habitat restoration efforts and Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit.

- b. Promote incorporation of standards in Tribal Restoration Handbook and incorporation of tribal assessments of culturally valuable natural resources into watershed and subbasin assessments and plans.
Methods: Promote use of watershed restoration priorities as described in watershed restoration handbook. Disseminate scientifically reviewed watershed restoration handbook and make presentations to watershed councils and subbasin planners. Seek incorporation of standards in new planning efforts through meeting with planners and public promotion.
4. Provide technical support to tribes in conducting watershed assessments and subbasin planning as part of the NPPC Fish and Wildlife Program.
- a. Provide technical support, assistance with coordination, and assistance and support acquiring funding to tribes conducting watershed assessments.
Methods: Continue regular communications with tribes and project partners to identify technical assistance needs and priorities. Provide assistance in identifying and applying for funding for technical needs in conjunction with the Spirit of the Salmon Fund at CRITFC. Provide technical review of proposed projects by CRITFC staff. Provide coordination services and information regarding past and current projects occurring in the watershed where new activities are planned (see task 1.c.), review project in context of others in the watershed for compatibility of goals and methods. Continue to conduct telephone, e-mail, and on-site visitations with tribes and project cooperators to discuss and coordinate projects.
 - b. Provide coordination and assistance to tribes contracting with the NPPC to conduct subbasin planning as part of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Provide technical support, product review, assistance with coordination, and assistance and support in the NPPC funding process.
Methods: Provide for regular communications with tribes, NWPPC members and staff, and subbasin cooperators to identify and clarify, at the technical and policy levels, that overall goals and objectives for the subbasins are being met by coordinated planning efforts. Maintain open channels of communication between tribal staff researching and writing plans and Council staff for smooth execution of contracts and efficient production of plans. Provide resource for technical review of subbasin plans written by CRITFC tribes. Advocate for adequate resources for completion of high quality subbasin plans.
 - c. Cooperate with StreamNet to gather digital data (G.I.S.) on watersheds and subbasins based upon needs specified in assessment guidelines. Work with Tribes to identify and address data gaps.
Methods: Coordinate with tribes to fill gaps in data needed to accurately assess and plan for watershed management. Contract with GIS mapping specialists to fill identified high priority mapping needs in at least two watersheds.
5. Maintain support for Salmon Corps program through participation in planning and coordination with Salmon Corps Staff throughout the year.
- a. Maintain support for local salmon restoration projects and cooperative mentorship program with Salmon Corps.
Methods: Continue to build relationship between CRITFC and the Salmon Corps program through regular communications and interaction. Continue

- development of program to provide Salmon Corps youth work experience in natural resources management in the field and in office/administrative settings to provide opportunities for Native American youth to become active resource managers and potential employees of the CRITFC Tribes. Continue active involvement in development of Salmon Corps program.
- b. Work with Salmon Corps to train crew members to collect necessary field data and coordinate with Salmon Corps and tribes to have Corps members collect necessary field data where gaps exist for assessments & project monitoring.
Methods: Conduct field training for new Salmon Corps field crews in watershed assessment techniques to prepare them for survey work. Introduce the crew to restoration concepts in *Protecting and Restoring Watersheds: A Tribal Approach to Salmon Recovery*.
 - c. Promote and coordinate contracting with salmon corps crews to provide labor in implementing habitat restoration and protection projects throughout the basin.
Methods: Work with tribal project sponsors and others to promote Salmon Corps as a resource for completing field work and conducting assessments and monitoring field work.
6. Support and develop tribally sponsored efforts in public outreach and education for subbasin watershed restoration and protection projects.
- a. Assist tribes & subbasin cooperators with public outreach through community based meetings, workshops, and field tours of on-the-ground projects. Utilize Salmon Corps to promote public awareness in each subbasin.
Methods: Provide information, outreach publications, and staff time to assist tribal staff in public outreach to partners in watershed and subbasin planning. Organize and participate in forums (at least 4) interacting with the public and with partners to promote tribal restoration projects and the good science behind the tribal restoration plan *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*. Coordinate field tours of tribal projects for NWPPC members, CBFWA partners, and potential funders.
 - b. Promote opportunities for local partnerships by communicating in the media subbasin watershed restoration activities and document and publicize success stories (watershed protection, restoration, and supplementation) using fact sheets, articles, and video.
Methods: Produce publications describing the successes and challenges of tribally sponsored salmon restoration efforts in the Basin. Distribute publication regionally to tribal partners and potential partners in new efforts. Communicate in the media tribal policy as related to fish and wildlife habitat improvements through responsible watershed management consistent with *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*.
7. Organize and coordinate water quality projects in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries and evaluation of water quality effects on anadromous fish species.
- a. Support implementation of the Tribal Water Quality Improvement Program for Anadromous Fish once it is approved by the four member tribes and the CRITFC Commission.
Methods: Meet with tribal staff to target priority actions. Meet regionally with agency staff to advocate for and develop strategy to implement priority actions.

This task is heavily cost-shared with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. Other activities will be funded through that grant.

- b. Evaluate anadromous fish health issues in the mainstem Columbia River resulting from toxic contaminant exposure and develop collaborative working relationships with state and federal agencies to address these fish health concerns.

Methods: Meet regularly with tribal staff and partners in the federal and state arena to garner support for the funding and execution of studies designed to assess the effects of water quality impairment on fish health in the Columbia River Basin. Work with partners through NWPPC and CBFWA to promote management activities for the benefit of fish through improved water quality. Other activities will be funded through cost share sources.

- c. Provide program support and capacity building for tribal water quality initiatives.

Methods: Meet regularly with tribal staff and partners in the federal and state arena to garner support for proposals to fund tribal water quality initiatives. Meet with staff of the NWPPC and CBFWA members to disseminate information regarding risks to anadromous fish from water quality impairment and benefits associated with support for tribal water quality improvement efforts. Other activities will be funded through cost share sources.

Comment:

Responsibility to other tribes if any should be clarified.

Response:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) was formed in 1977 by resolution of the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation. Under treaties with the United States signed in 1855, the Commission's member tribes reserved their sovereign rights to hunt and fish in areas ceded to the U.S. and at all usual and accustomed fishing stations. The tribes are recognized as co-managers of the fish resources in the Columbia River Basin.

The Commission is a technical support and coordinating agency for the fisheries management policies of its member tribes. The fish and wildlife committees of these tribes govern the Commission. The Commission employs biologists, hydrologists, other scientists, public information specialists, policy analysts, and administrators who work in fisheries harvest control and coordination, scientific support, public outreach, advocacy and planning. The Commission also operates a fisheries enforcement program for the four tribes. Inter-tribal police officers protect treaty fishermen from harm and harassment and enforce tribal fishing regulations.

The Commission staff report to and work under direction of the Commission Members, representing the four tribes for the benefit of the tribes and the treaty resources. In the course of duty, staff cooperates and collaborates with the governments of the States, the United States of America, and the various Tribes of the Columbia River Basin as appropriate for the advancement of the Commission's mission. Under this proposal are several objectives and tasks which are appropriately carried out in cooperation with other

Tribes in the Columbia River Basin. Staff remains responsible to the Commission and the four Tribes of the CRITFC.

Comment:

The budget should be evaluated. Several budget components seem high.

Response:

Cost estimates are based on salary, fringe, indirect, and travel expenses for CRITFC staff necessary to complete tasks listed. These estimates are based on past experience garnered through prior years.. The comment was not specific as to which budget components seem high. Therefore in this response, we will review the overall budget summary as displayed below:

Item	Note	FY 2003
Personnel	Approx. 3 FTE	127,968
Fringe benefits	@31.5%	40,310
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		13,743
Travel		16,100
Indirect Costs		82,972
Subcontractor		33,000
	Total BPA funding request	314,093

The personnel funding provides approximately 600 person days for completion of the tasks, the majority of time for three full time employees. Fringe rate is standard percentage of salary and provides for health benefits, employer contributed personnel taxes, and pension program.

Supplies include maintaining computer equipment needs for mapping and database management, and production, printing and distribution of reports, outreach and media materials.

Travel includes airfare, auto rental and mileage, hotel, per diem, and public transportation. Travel expenses are for travel to NWPPC meetings throughout the region (approx. 15 trips), CBFWA members meetings (approx. 2 trips) and Members Management Group meetings, approximately two visits to each tribal government office for work on project development, technical products, and cost share options (approx. 8 trips), travel to meet with various funders to promote cost share opportunities (approx. 4 trips), and coordination and training with Salmon Corps (approx. 3 trips). The estimated number of trips is approximately 32, with an average cost of just over \$500.

Indirect is calculated at a predetermined rate to include expenses for office operations including: rent, heating, cooling, lighting, water, communications, computer support and internet costs, building maintenance, financial accounting and oversight, and human resources functions.

Subcontract amounts enable CRITFC to utilize the expertise of the tribes in support of conducting watershed analysis, data gathering, and management activities on reservation lands. Funds are contracted to the Tribes to accomplish tasks in the work plan.

Action Agency/NMFS RME Group Comments:

Comment:

Proposal indicates applicability to RPA 180 ... Proposal lacks technical details, reports and documents (e.g., Handbook) describing project methods and results apparently are not available on either BPA or sponsor web pages, so cannot evaluate how any of these activities might satisfy RPA 180 or compare to RM&E guidelines being developed regionally. Need results and data.

Response:

This project is a coordination project and produces no direct monitoring data or reports. No such results and data are available for review. *Also See Response Below.*

Ocean and Estuary Subgroup Comments:

Comment:

This proposal claims to support 23 different RPAs but is so broad and vague it is not possible to clearly establish that support. It could possibly be focused on estuary and RM&E needs as the CRITFC Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit report is one that the NMFS BO has supported.

Response Below

ISRP Remarks on RME Group Comments:

Comment:

The ISRP agrees with the RME comment that ... it is difficult to assess its support for particular RPAs. More information should be provided to support the claim of RPA support, specifically with regard to RPA 180.

Response Below

Combined Response:

This project does not intend to satisfy RPA 180. This proposal provides the necessary funding for the Commission to be fully represented in the regional processes necessary to satisfy RPA 180, and other RPAs; processes that cannot be successful without the contributions provided by the Tribes. Tasks described in this project do provide support for regional activities intended to satisfy RPA 180. This proposal provides for full participation by Commission staff in the NWPPC and CBFWA. Through these bodies, staff participate in decision making and collaborative efforts to design and implement regional RME guidelines. A specific example of this involvement: Currently, CRITFC staff funded under this proposal are participating in the development and coordination of proposal 35033 for development of a collaborative, systemwide monitoring and evaluation program. Without funding, this proposal would not have occurred. CRITFC was the only tribal government with resources to devote substantial time to writing, reviewing, and developing consensus around this proposal. CRITFC staff participated in its development and obtained Commission approval for the proposal. CRITFC staff will continue to work collaboratively with Basin cooperators to develop regional RM&E strategies and implement cost-effective monitoring for each project under the BPA RME program.

As co-managers of the fisheries and wildlife resources in the Columbia Basin, Tribes will play an important role in developing strategies and monitoring effectiveness of actions taken to preserve the endangered species impacted by hydrosystem operations

on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Funding for participation of Tribal governments in regional efforts to satisfy RPA 180 (and others) is necessary to provides the NWPPC, CBFWA, and the Action Agency/NMFS RM&E group with the tribal perspective they need to do a complete job.

Below is a description of the support provided for implementation of RPA's by CRITFC staff through this proposal (as listed in originally submitted proposal).

RPA Number	Description of relationship to CRITFC activities
5	Under this proposal CRITFC staff are developing and implementing a Tribal Water Quality Plan for CRB Salmon. Staff will collaborate with agencies to coordinate and to integrate this plan with the Action Agencies' Water Quality Plan for the Columbia and Snake mainstem to move toward attainment of CWA standards consistent with the goals identified in the 2000 biological opinion.
82,83	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will work with tribal staff and agencies to ensure that all research needed for the system-survival analysis is identified and funded, as necessary.
105	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will continue to work with tribal staff to asses overall watershed condition, to plan and coordinate habitat improvement actions across the landscape, and continue to explore additional options for funding projects to enhance the function of ecological communities in areas other than riparian habitat enhancement.
34,115,14 1-3, 180, 198	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will pursue goals to develop and implement a comprehensive program to further the understanding of links between water quality and fish health, and to improve water quality in the Columbia and Snake Rivers for the benefit of anadromous salmonids and other fish species of import to the Tribes for harvest under the 1855 treaties.
151	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will work with tribal staff and others to implement subbasin/watershed plan goals to protect and increase instream flows by limiting additional consumptive water withdraws, by using the most efficient irrigation methods, by preventing soil compaction and riparian vegetation removal and wetland destruction, and, where necessary, restoring soil, riparian vegetation and re-creating wetlands.
152	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will support tribal involvement in development of tributary TMDLs as part of the Tribal Water Quality Plan for Salmon.
180,154,1 55,157	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will continue to support and participate in development of a collaborative monitoring and evaluation plan for the Columbia Basin to evaluate the effects of habitat improvement actions on target species in terms of survival, adult returns, expanded distribution, or other standards.
154	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will develop and manage information management tools to support subbasin planning and will coordinate with and support similar efforts by tribal staff. CRITFC staff will continue supporting the subbasin planning efforts for the sixty-two subbasins of the Columbia River.
175,184	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will continue to support and coordinate development of the facilities and research programs of the Cooperative Center for Applied Fish Science at the Hagerman fish rearing and research facility. Research will include improvements in hatchery environment or practices, stock genetics and interactions, and interactions between "wild" and hatchery fish.
193-198	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will continue to support and participate in the LCREP plan to monitor and restore salmonid habitat in the Columbia River estuary.
199	Under this proposal CRITFC staff will continue to support and participate in collaborative regional recovery and coordination efforts including CBFWA, Regional Assessment Advisory Committee, Artificial Production Advisory Committee, and others.