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January 7, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Lynn Palensky and Brian Allee
SUBJECT: Clearwater Subbasin Planning Contract

Proposed Action

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) to initiate a process to respond to comments received through the Council's review of the Clearwater Subbasin Plan. The project will have two phases. Phase I, at a projected cost of \$11,822, will scope the work to be done. Phase II will identify and carry out plan revisions suggested by formal comments from the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) and others. Phase II will likely require a contract amendment for the additional work, with a limit of \$75,000 in projected costs. Staff recommends approval of the Phase I contract amount of \$11,288 now with the understanding that this contract will probably come to the Council for amendment later.

Background

The Final Draft Clearwater Subbasin Plan was submitted to the Council on November 13, 2002 to be considered for adoption into the 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program. The Clearwater plan has already been through a technical review at a two-day Council-sponsored meeting in November 2002 with the ISRP, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The meeting served as part of the technical review defined by the Council for subbasin plans. The meeting allowed invitees to gain a better understanding of the technical assessment and the management plan and to provide initial feedback, including a written report. The initial ISRP report on the final draft plan is due the first week in February. Once the report is delivered, the NPT and the Clearwater Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will review it and decide what items should be addressed and how extensive any revisions should be. Phase II of this proposed project will provide resources for technical support to amend or revise the Clearwater Plan, as appropriate. *The proposed workplan and budget which have been sent to you electronically, are available on the Council's website at www.council.org/news/agenda.htm.*

Proposed Schedule and Budget

All work associated with this proposed project will be complete by July 2003. The Idaho Level II Steering Committee has approved a \$75,000 overall budget for this project (see attachment).

Proposed Work Plan for Clearwater Subbasin Planning
January 6, 2003

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Overview: The Final Draft Clearwater Subbasin Plan was submitted to the Northwest Power Planning Council (Council) on November 13, 2002. It is the first subbasin plan to be proposed to the Council for adoption into the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council has not yet finalized all of the details of the review process for subbasin plans, but the process will include at least a technical, public and programmatic review. The Clearwater plan has already been submitted for technical review. This review began when the Council staff held a two-day meeting in November 2002 to review the plan, and invited NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP), Council staff and the Clearwater Technical teams to participate. The meeting was designed to provide an opportunity for invitees to gain a better understanding of the technical assessment and the management plan through presentations by the technical team. It was also an opportunity for the invitees to provide initial feedback on the plan. This was a very useful meeting and the Nez Perce Tribe has some ideas of improvements that they will make to the final draft plan.

The initial ISRP report on the final draft plan is due the first week in February. Once the report is delivered, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Clearwater Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will review it and decide what items will be addressed and to what extent. Those decisions will also be made in February. The ISRP review will be the first comments that will need to be addressed. As the first plan to be reviewed, we expect the draft will receive a good deal of attention. The Clearwater will doubtless face a heavy workload in responding to comments. This proposal will provide for technical support to the subbasin planning team by working with the Council and regional reviewers to amend the Clearwater Plan, as appropriate. This work plan is intended to begin the process of addressing comments and revisions through participation in several meetings and organizing comments for the PAC to consider.

Tasks:

- 1. Provide technical support to PAC while receiving comments.** Provide technical support to PAC and Clearwater Focus Program in the review process. Present a technical briefing to the Clearwater PAC and technical subcommittees on the comments received about the Clearwater assessment, inventory and plan.

This will involve reviewing comments, developing recommendations for responses to comments and meeting with the PAC for decision-making involved in responding to comments.

- 2. Participate in a meeting sponsored by NOAA Fisheries.** NOAA Fisheries has indicated that it will hold a meeting to reorganize Clearwater Assessment information for a single population of steelhead in the Clearwater. This will be a training meeting in which NOAA Fisheries will explain what they mean by wanting more analysis by population for a single population. The results of this meeting will be presented to the PAC, with a recommendation on whether to complete this type of analysis for the rest of the populations in the subbasin.

Approach and Schedule:

Phase I

1. Initiate a contract with the Council in January 2003 for the above work.

Phase II

2. Amend the contract in February/March 2003 to reflect agreed upon changes to the work plan. These changes are to be based largely on the ISRP report and may include comments from other entities.
3. Meet with NOAA Fisheries in February for “training” meeting.
4. Brief the Clearwater PAC in late February or early March on the comments and training. Respond to other comments received in the Council’s review process.
5. Work on the above tasks will be completed by July 2003. Identify a final submission date to the Council based on finalization of the review and adoption process.

Project Budget:

Personal Services			
	hourly rate	est. hours	TOTAL
Provide technical support to PAC while receiving comments			
Project coordinator	75	24	1,800
Fish biologist	75	24	1,800
Wildlife biologist	75	24	1,800
GIS staff	80	4	320
Subtotal			5,720
Attend meeting sponsored by NOAA Fisheries			
Project coordinator	75	24	1,800
Fish biologist (two individuals)	75	40	3,000
Subtotal			4,800
Salary subtotal			10,520.00
Travel			
	days	rate	TOTAL
Provide technical support to PAC while receiving comments			
Mileage Lewiston	160	0.365	58.40
			58.4
Attend meeting sponsored by NOAA Fisheries			
Per diem	6	30	180
Lodging	3	85	255
Mileage to Spokane	160	0.365	58.4
Airfare from Spokane to Portland	3	250	750
Subtotal			1,243.40
Travel subtotal			1,301.80
Total costs			11,821.80

Assumption:

1. We will need to submit monthly progress and financial reports to Idaho Level II and Council staff.