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March 5, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Peter Paquet

SUBJECT: Regional Technical Support Contract -- Oregon Natural Heritage
Information Center, OSU

Proposed Action

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the Oregon State University, Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (ONHIC) for the development of regional technical products needed for subbasin planning based on the proposal submitted by the ONHIC. The proposal is consistent with Task 2.7 the Council's Regional Level Master Contract for subbasin planning with Bonneville. The contract will not exceed \$24,270.

Background

ORNHIC's key function is to maintain, develop and distribute biodiversity information in Oregon. The center is working with partners to provide the most comprehensive information on plants, wildlife, fish, fungi, and vegetation throughout Oregon. The ORNHIC also manages the Oregon Gap Analysis Program, to develop and distribute GIS information on many of Oregon's species and habitats. This same work has been completed for the other states and forms the basis of The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Planning tool that is being used throughout the basin. However, a data gap exists for a part of Oregon. This proposal aims to fill that data gap so that Oregon subbasin planners will have available the same common GIS data set that is being used throughout the rest of the region.

The funding for this project will be paid for primarily by the Regional Technical budget to fill this gap in Oregon. The Oregon Toast will contribute a smaller portion of the funding. Funding from the Oregon TOAST budget has been approved by the Oregon Subbasin Planning Group.

Schedule and Budget

The tasks outlined within this workplan will be complete within one calendar year by March 2004. The funding for this work will not exceed \$24,270.