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April 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Request to extend additional funding for Coeur d' Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility Project - #1990-044-02

Action

The Coeur d' Alene Tribe (CDA) has requested additional funding to supplement funds as defined in the Issue summary for Mountain Columbia provincial review¹. This request is for Coeur d' Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility (Project #1990-044-02), to allow staffing pending the Council's decision on the revised master plan. At this time the sponsor is requesting an additional \$39,988 be approved at your meeting in Walla Walla.

Recommendation

Council staff recommends that the Council recommend to Bonneville that it reallocate \$39,988 from the capital funds to maintain the project until the step review decision defines the future direction of the project.

Background

On June 27, 2001 Council approved funding recommendations for the Mountain Columbia provincial review¹. The Council concluded that the ISRP's criticisms, as part of their review of the project proposal, were so severe that further consideration of the existing artificial production proposal would be unsuccessful if returned to the ISRP for review. The Council decision recommended that the Coeur d' Alene Tribe be provided an opportunity to revise the project concept.

¹ Since the time of this decision the activities associated with the Coeur d' Alene subbasin have been realigned to the Intermountain Province.

To accomplish the task of revising the project concept the Coeur d'Alene Tribe formed an Interdisciplinary Team comprised of eleven recognized scientists in the fields of hatchery construction, hatchery life support systems, fish ecology, and fishery management. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the team built upon the critical uncertainties raised in the previous master plan review and highlighted the importance of research/monitoring and evaluation strategies in the development of a new master plan. This "new" master plan and supporting documents were submitted to the Council on January 13, 2003.

On January 30, 2003 the master plan and supporting documents were submitted to the ISRP for their review and comment. On March 17, 2003 the ISRP provided their review to the Council. The ISRP concluded that the master plan did not provide a convincing basis for the implementation of this project and had not adequately addressed critical issues (ISRP 2003-5).

On April 9, 2003 the Council approved the release of an issue paper on the master plan (document 2003-3) for public comment.

Analysis

As part of the provincial review the Council supported CDA use of the remaining Fiscal Year 2001 funds approximating \$132,000 to initiate a study on the food habits of the predatory fishes and alternative site analysis. Funding in Fiscal year 2001 and 2002 (\$244,616) is conditioned on the implementation of the predation study and alternate site evaluations only, future funding is dependent on the step submittal and favorable review process.

The predation project and alternate site evaluations were completed and folded into the master plan submitted to the Council in January 2003. The monies outlined in the provincial decision carried the project to this point in the three step review process. As outlined in the issue paper public comment will be taken at the May and June meetings and written comments will be accepted through June 13, 2003. This will lead to a staff recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the July meeting with an anticipated Council decision at the August meeting regarding the future of this project.

It seems reasonable to provide funding to the sponsor to maintain salary expenditures and travel associated with this project and the review process until a decision can be made in August.