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MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: John Ogan

SUBJECT: Bonneville's funding decisions for mainstem/systemwide projects

Bonneville staff will provide an update to the Committee on its response to the Council's funding recommendations for mainstem/systemwide projects. Attached is an August 4, 2003 letter from Therese Lamb formally documenting the first step in the Bonneville decisionmaking process. This first decision establishes the principles that will guide Bonneville's funding actions, and documents a set of projects that it has determined that it will fund consistent with the Council's recommendations. This first set totals just over \$25 million.

Bonneville is still deliberating on which additional projects it will fund within the \$31.5 allocation, and how it will respond to the remaining Council recommendations. Bonneville has yet to decide how it will respond to the Council's recommendations on several significant projects such as Pikeminnow reduction, avian predation, IBIS and others. Additionally, there are two projects that the Council suggested be capitalized, and Bonneville is questioning its ability to do, the result being substantial pressure on the available expense budget. Bonneville expects to continue to involve Council staff in its deliberations, and to have a decision to report to the Council at the September meeting.



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 4, 2003

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Mr. Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Marker:

I am pleased to provide Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) funding decision for the first set of fish and wildlife projects recommended for implementation through the region's Provincial Reviews for the Mainstem/Systemwide (MS/SW) Province. The funding decision for this initial group of projects was based on the following principles that were developed in meetings with NOAA Fisheries, BPA, and Council staff over the last few weeks:

- Work within a Fish and Wildlife Program funding of \$139 million expense and \$36 million capital, allowing \$31.5 million for MS/SW projects.
- Determine the best mix of projects that accomplish adequate coverage for NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion (BiOp) critical research, monitoring, and evaluation (RM&E) requirements for the 2003 check-in.
- Preserve current high value Fish and Wildlife Program investments.
- Continue to explore other appropriate funding sources (appropriated dollars from federal and state agencies) for out-year funding.
- Maintain the draft RM&E Plan as the basis for these Endangered Species Act (ESA) research needs.
- Plan for a regional technical workshop following Independent Scientific Advisory Board review of the RM&E plan to review all Program RM&E projects. This review may occur later this year and serve as a focal point for sharpening a regional approach to future BPA and other agency funding for Integrated Program and ESA RM&E actions that validate the expected results from fish and wildlife projects.

Approaching this initial decision in an atmosphere of openness and collaboration with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council), Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), and NOAA Fisheries staff, BPA set the above principles as a guide to the MS/SW decision. One of those principles was to stay within the \$31.5 million, which we have done. We believe that this decision, when completed next month, will have attained adequate coverage for RM&E categories described in the NOAA Fisheries BiOp for operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). Attached is a table of those projects and

associated costs in the Mainstem/Systemwide Province that are mutually supported in scope and funding level by the Council and BPA and that we plan to proceed with in FY 2004. As you will see, the costs are well under the \$31.5 million budget for MS/SW projects.

We are pleased that there is mutual agreement on the majority of MS/SW projects. We look forward to working with Council, CBFWA, NOAA Fisheries and others as we work to finalize the decision on the remaining projects and to ensure that BPA meets its obligations under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and the NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service FCRPS Biological Opinions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert J. Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Austin
Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Mark Walker, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. John Ogan, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. John Palensky, NOAA Fisheries
Mr. Brian Brown, NOAA Fisheries
Mr. Rod Sando, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

DRAFT -- PROJECTS IN THE MAINSTEM/SYSTEMWIDE PROVINCE MUTUALLY SUPPORTED BY THE NPCC AND BPA -- DRAFT

NPCC and BPA comments reflected in previously documents remain relevant

ID	Title	Sponsor	CBFWA	ISRP	NOAA Fisheries Category	NPCC	FY 2004 Total	FY 2005 Total	FY 2006 Total	BPA Phase	BPA Staff Comments
35002	Determine origin, movements and relative abundance of bull trout in Bonneville Reservoir.	WDFW/YN	Urgent	Fundable in Part		1	293,351	305,000	-	1	
35019	Develop and Implement a Pilot Status and Trend Monitoring Program for Salmonids and their Habitat in the Wenatchee and Grande Ronde River Basins	NMFS	Urgent*	Fundable (Qualified)	2	1	1,515,000	1,515,000	1,515,000	1	Only project for AE; also only programmatic approach to status monitoring; contracting in-process based on recent NPCC recommendation for FY03. Budget revised by BPA, including elimination of \$250,000 overlap with status monitoring activities already addressed in the John Day Basin.
35047	Evaluate Delayed (Extra) Mortality Associated with Passage of Yearling Chinook Salmon Smolts through Snake River Dams	NMFS	High Priority	Fundable	2	1	1,100,000	1,200,000	1,250,000	1	The only project that explicitly addresses extra mortality (one of the primary critical uncertainties identified in the Biological Opinion). Budget revised by BPA.
198201301	Coded-Wire Tag Recovery Program	PSMFC	Core Program	Fundable	2	1	2,028,757	2,028,757	2,028,757	1	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
198201302	Annual Stock Assessment - Coded Wire Tag Program (ODFW)	ODFW	Core Program	Fundable	2	1	217,881	217,881	217,881	2	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
198201304	Annual Stock Assessment - Coded Wire Tag Program (WDFW)	WDFW	Core Program	Fundable	2	1	319,137	319,137	319,137	2	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
198906500 (Annual Stock Assessment - CWT (USFWS)	USFWS	Core Program	Fundable	#N/A	1	119,268	119,268	119,268	2	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
198712700	Smolt Monitoring by Federal and Non-Federal Agencies	PSMFC	Core Program	Fundable	1 (RPA N/A); 2 (RPA 180)	1	1,910,000	1,910,000	1,910,000	1	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.

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ID	Title	Sponsor	CBFWA	ISRP	NOAA Fisheries Category	NPCC	FY 2004 Total	FY 2005 Total	FY 2006 Total	BPA Phase	BPA Staff Comments
198810804	StreamNet	PSMFC	Core Program	Fundable in Part (Qualified)	3	1	2,261,033	2,261,033	2,261,033	1	Scope of work and priorities still need to be reviewed for accomplishing Fish and Wildlife Program and Biological Opinion needs (which data layers to keep and what needs to be added; existing project largely focused on historic needs and priorities). Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
198906201	Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation	CBFWA	Core Program	Not Applicable		1	1,245,700	1,245,700	1,245,700	1	Need to review CBFWA contracts to determine if cost efficiencies can be achieved through consolidation. It may be appropriate to review additional cost-share from CBFWA members. Concur with NPCC re. reduction in effort following Provincial Review Process; budget figures shown are same as recommended by NPCC.
198909600	Monitor and evaluate genetic characteristics of supplemented salmon and steelhead	NMFS	Urgent	Fundable	2	1	593,900	460,500	460,500	1	Steelhead objective within this project on Little Sheep Creek is priority. Could be reduced in scope. Spring/summer chinook objectives may be redundant with Tucannon River spring/summer chinook objectives in proposal 35027. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199008000	Columbia Basin Pit Tag Information System	PSMFC	Core Program	Fundable (Qualified)	1 (RPA 192); 2 (RPA 198)	1	2,431,442	2,431,442	2,431,442	1	This project is largely involved with operation and maintenance of the PIT tag data base and electronic components of PIT detection facilities at dams. As such, it is appropriately designated as an expense project. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199009300	Genetic Analysis of Oncorhynchus nerka (modified to include chinook salmon)	UI	Urgent	Fundable	2	1	126,436	126,000	98,000	1	Review for scope and budget for chinook. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.

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ID	Title	Sponsor	CBFWA	ISRP	NOAA Fisheries Category	NPCC	FY 2004 Total	FY 2005 Total	FY 2006 Total	BPA Phase	BPA Staff Comments
199105100	Monitoring and Evaluation Statistical Support	UW	Do Not Fund	Fundable	1	1	394,655	394,655	394,655	1	Need to be reviewed for potential consolidation with 198910700 and for cost efficiencies. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199302900	Estimate Survival for the Passage of Juvenile Salmonids Through Dams and Reservoirs of the Lower Snake and Columbia	NMFS	Core Program	Fundable	1 (RPA 185); 3 (RPA 189)	1	1,884,200	1,884,200	1,884,200	1	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199305600	Assessment of Captive Broodstock Technologies	NMFS	Urgent	Fundable	2	1	1,468,100	1,468,100	1,468,100	1	Project has undergone considerable review in Technical Oversight Committee to ensure focus on high priority objectives. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199403300	The Fish Passage Center	PSMFC	Core Program	Fundable	1	1	1,302,904	1,302,904	1,302,904	1	Coordination of Smolt Monitoring Program is important function of FPC but needs programmatic review, as noted for Project 198712700. Other activities of FPC are a priority to the fishery agencies and Tribes and may be more appropriately funded by them. This issue has been discussed, but not resolved, by the FPC Oversight Committee. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199601900	Second-Tier Database Support	UW	Do Not Fund	Fundable	2 (RPA 198); 3 (RPA 180)	1	275,111	264,075	264,075	1	Provides integrated data access for use in in-season management and hydrosystem performance tracking. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199602100	Gas bubble disease research and monitoring of juvenile salmonids	USGS	Core Program	Fundable	1	1	16,885	16,885	16,885	1	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
199606700	Manchester Spring Chinook Broodstock Project	NMFS	Urgent	Fundable	2	1	877,600	792,000	767,200	1	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.

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ID	Title	Sponsor	CBFWA	ISRP	NOAA Fisheries Category	NPCC	FY 2004 Total	FY 2005 Total	FY 2006 Total	BPA Phase	BPA Staff Comments
199900301	Evaluate Spawning of Fall Chinook and Chum Salmon Just Below the Four Lowermost Mainstem Dams	PSMFC/ODFW/USFWS/PNNL	Urgent	Fundable	(RPA 199); 1 (RPA 157); 2 (RPA 156); 3 (RPA 155)	1	779,586	779,586	779,586	1	This is only project addressing mainstem spawning. Scope could be reduced to focus only on listed chum. May also be appropriate for potential funding by the Corps. Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
	Request for studies for RPA 182 Gaps					1	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1	RPA 182.
	Request for studies for RPA 184 Gaps					1	800,000	800,000	800,000	2	RPA 184. The kelt proposal under this RFS is more responsive to RPA 184 than the existing project 200001700.
35033	Collaborative, Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Program.	CBFWA	Core Program*	Fundable	2	1	968,800	968,802	968,802	1.5	Negotiations with CBFWA and other regional entities are ongoing, resulting in more focused project than originally proposed, nearing closure.
198605000	White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream from Bonneville Dam	ODFW	Urgent	Fundable		1	1,378,916	1,378,916	1,251,803	3	Budget consistent with NPCC recommendation.
TOTAL							25,308,662	25,189,841	24,754,928		