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October 7, 2003

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: Lynn Palensky**

**SUBJECT: Contract Amendment for Kootenai Tribe of Idaho -- Lakes Assessment**

### **Proposed Action**

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an amendment to contract SSIM31 with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTI) to develop the Qualitative Habitat Assessment methodology for use in assessing lake and reservoir habitats (LQHA) for the Kootenai and Flathead subbasins. The attached proposal lists the tasks that will be accomplished under this amendment. The existing contract is for \$199,874 and the amendment will increase the existing budget by \$14,000 for a total contract amount of \$213,874.

### **Background**

Subbasin planners in the Flathead and the Kootenai are close to completing the assessment portion of their subbasin plans but need some final assessment work related to lakes and reservoirs. Subbasin planning coordinators for these subbasins have determined that modifying the current QHA assessment tool will aid in the development of a critical component of subbasin plans for these two subbasins. KTI has identified a qualified consultant to undertake this work and has \$7,000 in the existing contract budget for this purpose. The total cost of this activity is estimated to be \$21,000. Montana Council members have agreed to contribute the remaining \$14,000 from the Montana Technical Level II allocation to Idaho's KTI subbasin level contract to fund the remainder of this effort (see attached letter).

### **Proposed Schedule and Budget**

The proposed funding increase will not exceed \$14,000. All work associated with this contract will be complete by May 28, 2004.

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**Kootenai Tribe of Idaho**  
Kootenai Subbasin - Development of  
Qualitative Habitat Assessment for Lakes  
Contract Number: SSIM31  
Amendment #3

**Introduction and Background**

The Flathead and Kootenai subbasin planners are using Qualitative Habitat Assessment (QHA) to assess streams in the subbasins based on key habitat attributes. QHA was designed specifically for resident salmonids in streams. The QHA methodology is currently being refined and applied to numerous subbasin planning and assessment activities for almost all of the Columbia Basin Provinces and will serve to quantify and complete assessments. However, it is not currently geared to assess habitat attributes of lakes and reservoirs. Focal species for the Kootenai and Flathead subbasins include bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout; both of which have adfluvial life histories. This proposed work will help finalize the development of a lake version of QHA (LQHA) that can be used by other subbasin technical teams with reservoirs and lakes in the Columbia.

Dr. Paul Anders, through a subcontract with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTI) is able to assist in the development of LQHA in consultation with the model developers -- Chip McConnaha of Mobrand Biometrics, and Drew Parkin, Council subbasin planning contractor. Dr. Anders will build on the framework of the stream version under the existing KTI contract and with additional funding through this amendment.

Dr. Anders will perform the tasks below consistent with the Council's Subbasin Assessment Template. These tasks will result in a tool that will allow a classification of large lakes and reservoirs in the subbasin, which is necessary for completion of the assessments for both the Flathead and Kootenai Subbasins.

**Tasks**

1. Meet with the creators of QHA (Drew Parkin and Chip McConnaha) to plan and coordinate development of a LQHA spreadsheet tool.
2. Identify key habitat attributes and biological and management factors important to resident salmonids in lake and reservoir environments.
3. Collaborate with Chip McConnaha to convert the stream version of QHA into a lake version (LQHA) by substituting lacustrine attributes for the stream-habitat attributes and by making other conversions and adjustments as necessary.
4. Test the lake version using Lake Koocanusa or Flathead Lake.
5. Add a LQHA chapter to the existing QHA user's guide.
6. Attend and participate in at least one technical team meeting each in the Flathead and Kootenai Subbasins when those teams use the LQHA and provide instruction on the tool's use and fix any problems.

7. Provide follow-up assistance as needed to the Flathead and Kootenai Technical Teams.

## Products

1. A lakes version of the QHA spreadsheet.
2. A description of the methodology (lakes chapter to QHA user's guide)
3. Brief written summary of assessment meeting results and follow-up technical assistance..

## Budget

Lake QHA Development - Amendment SSIM31  
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Personal Services		Hourly Rate	Estimated Hours	TOTAL
<b>1. Meet with creators of QHA</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	6		598
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>598</b>
<b>2. Identify key habitat attributes</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	40		3986
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>3,986</b>
<b>3. Convert stream QHA to lake version</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	40		3986
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>3,986</b>
<b>4. Test the lake version.</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	8		797
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>797</b>
<b>5. Add LQHA to the User's Guide</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	4		399
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>399</b>
<b>6. Attend Technical Team Meetings</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	16		1594
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>1,594</b>
<b>7. Provide follow-up as needed</b>				
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	99.66	16		1594
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>1,594</b>
<b>Total Personal Services</b>				<b>12,954</b>
<b>Travel</b>				

### Travel to Technical Team Meetings

	Unit Cost
Senior Fisheries Consultant 2	
(Lodging, perdiem, mileage)	1,046
<b>Total Travel</b>	<b>1046</b>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>14,000</b>

#### Travel details:

Lodging	8 nights @ \$76	\$ 608
Perdiem	8 days @ \$30	\$ 240
Mileage	600 @ \$.30	<u>\$ 198</u>
		\$1046