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Montana

March 7, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Funding recommendation for Project #1990-044-00, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration - Trout Pond Stocking

INTRODUCTION:

At your meeting in March the Council staff will review a within-year budget modification request that addresses trout stocking needs associated with Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration Project. The policy group associated with the budget-tracking process has reviewed this request, and Council staff will provide an overview of the request and seek a recommendation from both the Committee and the Council at your March meeting.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Council staff recommends that the Council approve this request for \$58,079 in Fiscal Year 2006 funds associated with the Project #1990-044-00, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration for the stocking and conducting the associated maintenance and monitoring for the existing three ponds for this project.

BACKGROUND:

On October 15, 2003 the Council recommended that Bonneville not fund the *Coeur d'Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility* (Project #1990-044-02) Master Plan. The Council understood that this action would close out the project. The recommendation was made with the understanding that a within year request to address funding needs associated with maintaining and/or developing trout ponds would be submitted in the near future. The Council recommended that such a request be submitted and addressed under Project #1990-044-00, *Implement Fisheries Enhancement Opportunities on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation*.

Due to the budget issues that have been associated with the Program since Fiscal Year 2003 and the limited capacity to address within funding requests except for emergency and jeopardy type actions over the past three fiscal years, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's requests for the remaining ponds, including the stocking needs have never been addressed. This, coupled with the level funding that has also occurred over the past three fiscal years, has created a need for a within-year funding decision to stock and operate the existing ponds.

On February 22, 2006 the Council recommended that several within-year requests as defined in the letters received from Bonneville on February 9, 2006 be approved for a total of \$4,108,792. The Council concurred with Bonneville on deferring a request associated with Project #1990-044-00, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration¹ to the FY 2007 - 2009 review process. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe had requested \$193,578 to design and construct two additional ponds, provide rainbow trout to stock these and the existing three ponds and conduct the associated maintenance and monitoring.

During the deliberation at the Fish and Wildlife Committee on February 21st, associated with the above decision, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe requested that an alternative approach to their request be considered. Recognizing the reasoning to defer the construction of the additional two ponds to the FY 2007 - 2009 process² the Coeur d'Alene Tribe expressed a need to be provided funds to adequately stock the existing three ponds with rainbow trout. The Fish and Wildlife Committee suggested that the request be discussed by the Policy Group and brought back to the Council in March.

ANALYSIS:

On February 24, 2006 the Coeur d'Alene Tribe submitted the request to the fish and wildlife program budget tracking website received. The request addressed the stocking of 8400 lbs. of rainbow trout, maintenance (water quality and sanitation) and monitoring creel surveys) needs associated with the three existing ponds for a total of \$68,604 expense. Initially Council staff had concerns regarding the total costs associated with the project and contacted the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to provide additional detail regarding the associated costs of the work elements outlined in the request. On March 1, 2006 the sponsor provided the specific cost detail and the Policy Group met to discuss the specifics of the request. It was determined that the costs needed to be more refined. The Policy Group determined that Bonneville staff would work with the sponsor and refine the costs.

On March 3, 2006 the Council received a letter from Bonneville (see attachment 1) providing additional detail and refinement to the original request received regarding the alternative within year request. The Bonneville recommendation to fund the request at \$58,079 reflects reductions to the costs associated with water quality monitoring and personnel costs associated with the request.

¹ Fiscal Year 2006 budget @ \$1,197,873.

² As part of the FY 2007 - 2009 solicitation the Coeur d'Alene Tribe submitted Proposal # 2007-024-00, *Coeur d'Alene Trout Ponds*. Due to the implication associated with the construction of the remaining two ponds and the associated out-year funding, it was determined that the FY 2007- 2009 review and prioritization process would provide the needed confirmation of the local importance of the proposal.

Based on this the Council staff recommends that the Council approve this request for \$58,079 in Fiscal Year 2006 funds associated with the Project #1990-044-00, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration for the stocking and conducting the associated maintenance and monitoring for the existing three ponds for this project. This recommendation is made with the understanding that future funding for these proposal work elements will be dependent on the review and prioritization as part of the FY 2007 - 2009 project selection process.

Attachment 1: Letter received on March 3, 2006 from Bonneville regarding within-year budget adjustments associated with Project #1990-044-00, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Habitat Restoration.



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 3, 2006

In reply refer to: KEW-4

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

Dear Mr. Marker:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe submitted a within-year request for project number 1990-044-00 on November 21, 2005, to construct three new trout ponds (two fishing ponds and one central holding/transfer pond facility). This request was reviewed by the Budget Oversight Group (BOG) on December 7, 2005, and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) subsequently recommended "Deferral to the FY07-09 Proposal Solicitation" of this request in its February 9, 2006, letter to Doug Marker. The Council also recommended "deferral to the FY07-09 Proposal Solicitation" of the project during its February 21-22, 2006, meeting, but also agreed to a request from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to resubmit a modified proposal to stock fish in the existing ponds for consideration at the March Council meeting, as described below.

This revised proposal has four major components:

1. Facilities Maintenance (policing, mowing grass, sanitation, etc.),
2. Monitor water quality and pond integrity,
3. Stock three ponds four times each during 2006 with rainbow trout, and
4. Monitoring of both fish populations and catch.

We have reviewed this funding request and believe the activities and budget represent a fair and reasonable estimate for the operation and maintenance of three trout ponds over approximately a six month period. This request reflects the review and subsequent reduction of the extent of water

quality monitoring and amount of time spent on a final report of the projects activities. The total requested funding is \$58,079, broken down as follows:

Item	Note	FY 2006 Cost
Personnel	0.5	\$17,794
Fringe Benefits	41 %	\$7,296
Other	GSA vehicle	\$2,350
Overhead	31.83 %	\$8,734
Other	Fish cost with transport	\$18,780
Other	water quality monitor and testing	\$2,000
Other	sanitation stations	\$1,125
Total FY 2006 budget modification		\$58,079

Cost explanation

The total cost of the project over a 6 ½ month period proposed to begin approximately in mid-April and run through the end of October, is \$58,079. The cost breakdown is as follows:

Labor - The Labor includes 1 person for six months. Includes Facilities Maintenance (policing, mowing grass, sanitation and etc.), Monitor water quality and Pond integrity, Stock three Trout Ponds four times each and complete M&E (Creel surveys at each pond, population estimates periodically to determine actual harvest rates vs. predicted through creel census. (1040 hrs. @ \$17.11/hr = \$17,794) + (0.41 (41% fringe rate) x \$17,794 = \$7,296) = \$25,090

Fish - The selected vendor was the only fish producer that would plant fish 700 lbs. at a time. Other vendors would only plant fish 2500 to 5000 lbs. at a time. The price for 700 lbs. delivered from the production facility is \$1565.00. Three ponds stocked four times per season = \$1,565 x 3 x 4 = \$18,780

Water quality testing - \$222.22 per sample @ three times a season for three ponds, starting just prior to planting fish. \$222.22 x 3 x 3 = \$1,998 (Rounded to \$2,000)

GSA Vehicle - 32.6% of the year x \$7,200/year = \$2,350.00

Sanitation - \$ 225.00 x 5 months = \$1,125.00

This proposal provides funds for stocking the ponds to support harvest fisheries and associated O&M and M&E. The task of "Stocking Trout Ponds" has been a part of the requested funding of the Coeur d'Alene's fish production program since at least FY2000. However, the task has been embedded in a proposal that also included other tasks that had not been supported through previous review processes (e.g., Trout Production Facility Master Plan; construction of two new trout ponds). This proposal is for only the "Trout pond stocking" task for the existing ponds previously funded by BPA, and necessary O&M to maintain the grounds and M&E to assess the effectiveness of stocking and harvest fishery. All other components of the previous proposal are recommended for deferral to the FY07-09 process.

BPA recommends this request to be funded as an alternative within year request. The current schedule for second quarter Within Year request review by the Council would not result in a decision until mid-May 2006, which would significantly reduce the benefit of stocking to support harvest fisheries.

This recommendation does not constitute a recommendation to fund the trout ponds O&M beyond this limited timeframe of April through October 2006. This proposal in its entirety will be reviewed as part of the ongoing FY07-09 Intermountain Province review process.

Please feel free to contact either Mark Shaw at (503) 230-5239 or Lee Watts at (503) 230-4625 for further information, or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



William C. Maslen
Director for Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Mr. Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ms. Patty O'Toole, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Karl Weist, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ms. Stacy Horton, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ms. Joann Hunt, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Kerry Berg, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mr. Brian Lipscomb, Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority
Mr. Tom Iverson, Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority
Ms. Amy Langston, Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

bcc:

Lee Watts –KEWU-4
Mark Shaw – KEWU-4

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March 7, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Funding recommendation for Updated Proposed Action (UPA) for Project #2003-114-00, *Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival*

INTRODUCTION:

On October 12, 2005 Council staff received five proposals from Bonneville Power Administration addressing the Updated Proposed Action (UPA) for the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion remand. As you will recall the Council during the January and February meetings have approved three¹ of these five projects. At your meeting in March the Council staff will provide an overview of the request associated with Project #2003-114-00, *Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival* and seek a recommendation from both the Committee and the Council at your March meeting.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Council staff recommends that the Council confirm that sponsor's response and Bonneville's proposed contract for Project #2003-114-00, *Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival* has satisfied the Council's conditional funding recommendation in its Fiscal Year 2006 Fish and Wildlife Program start-of-year recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

Bonneville, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed the UPA for their joint operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The UPA includes a program to improve the quality of tributary habitat to help provide "off-sets" to the impacts of hydropower operations on the survival of certain listed

¹ Updated Proposed Action (UPA) habitat proposals - Project #2005-004-00 Whitehall Wells, Project #2005-003-00 Entiat 4-Mile Wells, and Little Bridge Creek Project.

anadromous species (Evolutionarily Significant Units, or ESUs). Together, the Action Agencies have agreed to address specific limiting factors on the survival of these ESUs in specified areas of their passage, spawning and rearing habitats. The effects of the November 24, 2004 UPA were evaluated in a revised Biological Opinion regarding the FCRPS issued by NOAA Fisheries on November 30, 2004 pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival research, Project #2003-114-00, is utilizing the POST (Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking) array. The POST array of listening lines has been used to demonstrate that it is possible to directly measure survival and movements of either individual smolts or a cohort of tagged smolts in the ocean. The project completed its demonstration phase in Fiscal Year 2004-05, and addresses both status and critical uncertainties monitoring requirements under the UPA. The UPA states that the objective related to the POST project is to develop an ability to allow the assessment of early marine survival and ocean movements for Columbia River salmon stocks. This objective is met by the development and implementation of a set of acoustic arrays, which track movements of individual fish along the West Coast of North America.

The proposal continues to build on the technical results initially funded as part of the Fiscal Year 2001 Innovative Proposal Category, *A Feasibility Study for Pacific Ocean Salmon Tracking (POST)*, Proposal ID 22001 (Project #2000-080-00). This initial effort developed the measurements necessary to design an acoustic tracking network using the newly available electronic tag technology to assess the capability of young salmon to successfully retain these relatively large tags.

This project was also part of the solicitation in FY 2003 associated with the Columbia Estuary Province review cycle (Proposal 30007). During this review it was suggested and recommended by Council and Bonneville that this project be reviewed in Mainstem/Systemwide and not in the Columbia Estuary Province. As part of the Mainstem/Systemwide decision in June 2003 the Council recommended not funding the project. In October of 2003 BPA decided to fund this project but with a much smaller budget than originally sought by the sponsor.²

In Fiscal Year 2005 the Council and Bonneville funded the project for an additional \$200,000. The project sponsor requested a within year increase in the budget for 2005 of \$120,000; BPA funded this request so a total budget for this project for 2005 is \$320,000.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2006 Fish and Wildlife Program start-of-year planning budget and project recommendations the Council approved a \$1.5 million budget for the project. This recommendation was based on an ISRP review of the proposed increase in scope associated with the project.

On October 12, 2005 Council staff received the five proposals from Bonneville addressing the UPA for the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion remand. The submittal included not only the three listed habitat proposals (i.e., the Whitehall Wells, Entiat 4-Mile Wells, and Little Bridge Creek Fence proposals), but also included Project #2005-001-00,

² In Fiscal Year 2004 BPA funded this project for \$200,000.

Estuary RM&E Pilot Project and Project #2003-114-00, Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival.

Based on the initial staff review of the five proposals, Project #2003-114-00, Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival, was returned to Bonneville for additional information prior to scientific review. This project was resubmitted by Bonneville on November 7, 2005 and was submitted to the ISRP for review.

On December 16, 2005 the ISRP provided their review (ISRP 2005-19). The ISRP found the project fundable in part at a reduced level of funding and deployment of the proposed acoustic tracking array. They further state in this review that deployment should be restricted to the Columbia River Basin and Plume with no deployment of acoustic receivers until further evaluation. A response loop was also requested by ISRP to address their comments and recommendations.

On January 11, 2006 a response was received from the sponsor addressing the issues and concerns that the ISRP had raised. This submittal was forwarded to the ISRP on the 12th.

On February 14, 2006 the ISRP completed their response review (ISRP 2006-3). The ISRP noted the improvement made to the proposal, but continued to have issue and concern regarding aspects of the study design and methods. The ISRP continues to recommend that proposed deployment of new acoustic arrays and equipment in 2006 be funded in part (for one year) at a reduced rate and limited deployment of proposed new benthic (i.e., VR3) acoustic equipment and new arrays in 2006. The ISRP further recommended that two outer-coast arrays south of the mouth of the Columbia River (Tillamook, Oregon, and one additional location) and two north of the mouth of the Columbia River (Willapa Bay, Washington, and Brooks Peninsula, B.C.) would be sufficient for proposed research in 2006.

In addition, the ISRP does not recommend deployment in 2006 of new VR-3 acoustic equipment at existing array positions in Icy Strait (AK), Queen Charlotte Strait (BC), N. Strait of Georgia (BC), Fraser River (BC), or Juan de Fuca (BC/WA), and that it is premature to place acoustic arrays in Puget Sound. It is important to note that Bonneville does not currently fund deployment of the above arrays except for Icy Strait (AK). These other arrays and equipment are funded by other agencies.³

ANALYSIS:

The ISRP recommends that this project be funded in 2006 at a reduced rate. This recommendation would be possible if the ISRP's assumption was correct that the fish and wildlife program was funding the deployment locations of new VR-3 acoustic equipment in all locations. However, as described above, Bonneville is not funding these arrays and the sponsor

³ A major source of funding for the POST project came from the Moore Foundation. The POST project also receives financial support from the Pacific Salmon Commission and the Canadian government. The 2006 F&W Program budget of \$1.5 million represents approximately 10-20% of the total project funding.

cannot re-assign equipment for those locations that have been designated as low priority by the ISRP (i.e., most of BC and Puget Sound).

Based on this understanding Bonneville staff worked with the sponsor to address the remaining ISRP recommendations:

- Bonneville concurs with the ISRP's recommendation to not fund deployment of new VR-3 acoustic equipment in 2006 at Icy Strait (AK).
- Bonneville concurs and the sponsor agrees with ISRP's recommendation to locate two arrays on the outer shelf north of the mouth of the Columbia River. As recommended by the ISRP the sponsor can locate one of these arrays near Willapa Bay. The second north array will be located at Topknot Point on north Vancouver Island, BC. ISRP references Brooks Peninsula on north Vancouver Island, BC, but due to permitting issues and local environmental conditions the location has been moved a short distance north to Topknot, a location where the shelf is wider.
- Bonneville concurs and the sponsor agrees with the ISRP's recommendation to locate two arrays south of the Columbia River near Tillamook, Oregon. However, given budget constraints to deploy and extend the lines at Willapa Bay and Topknot Point (both of which are longer than the original locations used in 2004-05) there is not enough funding in 2006 to deploy and equip two lines south of the mouth of the Columbia River. Although the Tillamook line would be most desirable, that location will require a total of 63 sensors to cover the entire shelf. In order to remain within budget, the sponsor has instead proposed to shift the location of the line south to Cascade Head, Oregon, where the shelf is narrower and can be covered with only 29 sensors.

Based on the alignment of the Project #2003-114-00, Acoustic Tracking for Studying Ocean Survival to the concerns and issues raised by the ISRP during their reviews, the association of the project to other research activities on the Pacific rim, and the contribution that this project provides to the Action Agencies ability to achieve specific goals identified in NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion and the UPA the Council staff recommends that the Bonneville and the sponsor have addressed the concerns of the ISRP and that the resulting scope of the proposed contract satisfies the conditions of the Council.

The Council staff developed this recommendation for both the Committee and the Council at the March meeting. The compressed presentation for the March meetings is to be responsive to the approaching field season and the need to order the tags for the fish out-migration in April/May, and the acoustic equipment.