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June 28, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole

**SUBJECT:** ISRP review of Innovative Proposals

The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) released its review of the fiscal year (FY) 2007-2009 Innovative proposals on June 26.

Fifty-nine proposals were submitted to the Council for consideration, and the ISRP found that nine proposals substantially meet the innovative solicitation criteria. The FY 2007-09 innovative proposal solicitation specified that an innovative project:

- offer a method or technology designed to directly benefit fish and wildlife, that (1) has not previously been used in Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife projects or (2) if used before in other projects, has not been used in the proposed application
- is an innovative on-the-ground "demonstration" or "pilot" project with a focus on testing or demonstrating new methods or technologies
- if successful will contribute to direct improvements in the survival or productivity of Columbia River fish or wildlife species such as Investigations of basic biological and physical phenomenon are not targeted with this solicitation
- is consistent with the Council's Program
- address key management questions or limiting factors identified in the Program's subbasin plans or mainstem amendments
- can feasibly be complete within 18 months, including one year to implement the work and six months to complete reports and other deliverables as appropriate
- meet the ISRP's review criteria in Section 4(h)(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act

The ISRP found that five of the nine proposals are highly *justified and merit immediate funding*. These are:

<b>Proposal#</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Funding Request (2 years)</b>	<b>ISRP Priority</b>
200752100	Improving Fish Habitat Using Innovative Strategies to Remediate Contaminated Sediments in the Columbia River Basin	\$185,112	A1
200752400	Integrated Non-Lethal Electric Barrier and Sonar System to Deter Marine Mammal Predation on Fish in the Columbia River System: A Demonstration Project	\$1,440,483	A1
200751300	Eelgrass enhancement and restoration in the Columbia River Estuary through innovative site selection and planting techniques	\$252,794	A2
200751600	Enhancing Summer Instream Flow and Reducing Temperature in Agricultural Watersheds	\$224,766	A2
200755700	What was old is new again: evaluate traditional gears for selective harvest	\$444,971	A2
	<b>Total Request Top Five Ranked Proposals</b>	<b>\$2,548,126</b>	

In addition, the ISRP found that four proposals offer potentially valuable contributions to the Fish and Wildlife program, but do not stand out for their innovation or demonstrate as strong a potential to provide significant benefits as those ranked in the first group. These proposals are:

<b>Proposal #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Funding Request (2 years)</b>	<b>ISRP Priority</b>
200753500	Physical and Biological Field Testing of a Flow Velocity Enhancement System (FVES)	\$318,310	B1
200752600	Lake oxygenation pilot study: Improving Redband Trout habitat quality in Twin Lakes, WA	\$271,634	B2
200751800	Evaluation of artificial upwelling to enhance lower Columbia River Gorge chum salmon spawning	\$173,590	B3
200754200	Shad for Nutrient Enhancement -- Demonstration of Fishery Supply, Disease Evaluation, Product Type and Potential Use	\$163,400	B4
	<b>Total Request Ranked Proposals - B List</b>	<b>\$926,934</b>	

An additional five proposal were found to have innovative methods but were not on the ground demonstration or pilot projects. These projects were found to be research oriented and the ISRP

suggests that they have the potential to make important contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Program.

The ISRP did not rank the other 45 proposals submitted. These proposals did not meet the criteria for funding under the innovative solicitation.

### Next Steps

A one month public review period was initiated upon the completion of the ISRP report. Comments are invited on both the ISRP review of innovative proposals and on the proposals themselves. The comment period closes July 24<sup>th</sup>. The staff will prepare a recommendation package for consideration by the Fish and Wildlife Committee at its August meeting. Based upon the recommendation by the Committee, the full Council will consider final innovative project recommendations at its September Council meeting. Then once the Council delivers its final recommendations to Bonneville, and Bonneville makes its funding decision, contracts for the innovative projects could be in place within a few months.