

Date: October 4, 2007

To: Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC)

From: Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director
Columbia basin fish and Wildlife Authority

Subject: Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP)

The NPCC recommended on November 15, 2006 to fund CSMEP for two years (FY07 and FY08) pending further Council consideration of a regional monitoring and evaluation framework. The recommendation also included the expectation of a report for the Council and science review to be delivered by the end of FY 08. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded the project at approximately one-half the recommended amount in FY08, stating, "reflects a transition to project closure in FY08." The fish and wildlife managers consider CSMEP to be critical for developing and implementing, through Adaptive Management, a coordinated, regional M&E program and have contributed approximately \$320,000 of their own funds to the project in FY07.

Listed below are products CSMEP plans to complete or initiate in FY08. Work in grey will be dropped if the project remains at the current rather than recommended level.

- Survey managers to determine key decisions and monitoring questions that have not been addressed by CSMEP to date to determine priorities for future monitoring design work,
- Development of a regional hatchery monitoring framework to assess the effect of hatchery straying on productivity,
- Completion of a spring Chinook viability model and cost database to help managers design cost effective population abundance monitoring programs, but no testing of the model,
- Wrap-up of the current hydro and harvest analysis,
- Preparation of reports for Council and ISAB review,
- Consolidation of recommendations to date for regional monitoring programs,
- Complete development of a data quality summary for the Status of the Resource Report.
- Based upon survey of managers to determine key decisions and monitoring questions that have not been addressed by CSMEP, examine the strengths and weaknesses of the monitoring programs informing those decisions, and as necessary develop integrated monitoring designs within a regional monitoring context,
- Extend the spring Chinook viability simulation model to steelhead to help managers assess their current programs and explore alternative, cost effective monitoring designs as necessary,
- Work directly with local recovery teams and subbasin planners to use the CSMEP analytical tools to improve their M&E designs,
- Expand the CSMEP hydro action effectiveness analysis to FCRPS performance standards,
- Develop alternative designs for steelhead harvest monitoring and assist US vs. Oregon managers develop programs to better determine fishery impacts to listed populations,
- Complete the analysis of the strengths and weakness of current population abundance monitoring programs for all Chinook salmon and steelhead populations above Bonneville Dam,
- Facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the regional hatchery effectiveness monitoring program,
- Complete development of an integrated PIT tag program to answer monitoring questions across multiple "H's",
- Begin to work with habitat managers to integrate habitat action effectiveness and status/trend monitoring with fish population monitoring programs.

Consequences of Reduced Funding and Project Termination

CSMEP has successfully facilitated collaboration across management agencies to focus on key, regional fish management decisions by assessing the strengths and weaknesses of existing monitoring programs and designing alternative M&E methods that build upon strengths and overcome weaknesses of the existing programs. CSMEP has “passively” begun to influence monitoring programs within the Basin; either directly through the fish managers use of developing CSMEP products, or indirectly through adoption of CSMEP ideas and processes into regional forums such as US vs. Oregon harvest monitoring and the Ad Hoc Supplementation Workgroup. In the future CSMEP will actively facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of regional anadromous and resident fish and wildlife monitoring programs as recommendations are brought to the Members of CBFWA for adoption and implementation.

A rigorous, collaborative, regional, coordinated fish and wildlife monitoring program will continue into the future to:

- assess the status and trends of fish and wildlife and habitat especially for species protected under the Endangered Species Act,
- assess the effectiveness of management actions implemented for FCRPS mitigation actions, the Fish Wildlife Program and other management activities
- provide feedback to NPCC, FCRPS and fish and wildlife manager’s so programs can be adapted as necessary to meet established objectives
- provide accountability to the taxpayers and rate payers

If funding remains reduced, and CSMEP terminated in FY08, the benefits of CSMEP will be lost or severely compromised. These CSMEP benefits include:

- a forum for the dialogue and technical analyses needed to contribute to a coherent, cost-effective and consistent regional M&E program
- regional coordination of fish and wildlife monitoring for the collection, reporting and regional analysis of the various state, tribal and federal data which contributes to information needed for regional reporting and support of adaptive management.