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November 29, 2007

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on regional coordination budget for Fiscal Year 2008

PROPOSED ACTION: The Council staff recommends that the Council approve a budget of \$2.3 million for the suite of projects associated with regional coordination in Fiscal Year 2008.

SIGNIFICANCE: That the Council confirms a coordination budget for the suite of coordination projects in Fiscal Year 2008.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The funding level for regional coordination is established at \$2.3 million in Fiscal Year 2008. Budget amounts in later years will depend on further refinement of coordination work under the program.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Council's Fiscal Year 2007 - 2009 funding recommendation to Bonneville, interim, one-year funding levels were established for the five coordination projects. The Council committed to further review coordination activities prior to approving funding for Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009. The funding for Fiscal Year 2007 was \$2,481,044 (Table 1) and was agreed to by Bonneville.

Table 1: Funding for Fiscal Year 2007

Project number	Sponsor	Recommended Funding for one year
1989-062-01	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority	\$2,071,450
2007-108-00	Upper Columbia United Tribes	\$69,594
2007-162-00	Kalispel Tribe	\$65,000
2007-106-00	Spokane Tribe	\$65,000
1998-031-00	Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission	\$210,000

The Council placeholder for the out-years (Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009) was \$2,351,044. The funding decision by Bonneville for these projects was reduced to a placeholder of \$2,052,515 per year for Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009 (equivalent to Fiscal Year 2006 funding levels for all regional coordination).

Above and beyond the placeholder amount, Bonneville agreed to an additional amount for regional coordination for Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT), as approved by the Council at the November 2007 meeting. An additional \$160,659 each year was approved for (Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009) for Project 2007-407-00, Regional Coordination for Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT). This action brought the placeholder amount to \$2,213,174.

When the Fiscal Year 2007 funding decisions were made in November 2006, Council members asked staff and sponsors to work on defining what regional coordination activities are, who would do them, and what the cost of those activities would be. Since then, representatives from the five regional coordination sponsor organizations (the Council, Bonneville, and the Upper Snake River Tribes) have been meeting regularly to develop a long-term proposal for the Council that describes appropriate regional coordination activities and needs. The group has developed a “definitions” white paper that includes a definition of regional coordination, the adaptive management framework for which the coordination is based, and how each type of entity fits into this framework. The group intends to use the paper for two reasons: First, to use as supporting documentation for the more detailed workplans and budget request for Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009; and second, to use as a basis for program amendment recommendations.

ANALYSIS

While the placeholder existed, we encouraged the sponsors to build an appropriate budget based on *needs* and a deliverables-based plan on how the coordination activities of each organization fit together. The point of the year-long review was to assess the what, who, why, and how much for regional coordination activities.

It has been just over one year since the group began meeting, and while general coordination needs have been defined, the specific activities and budgets for each organization have not. In the absence of a group-developed budget and specific work plans from each organization, the Council members and Bonneville agreed to a funding level for Fiscal Year 2008. This funding level of \$2.3 million is approximately the difference between the two placeholders after the adjustment for USRT funding.