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March 4, 2014

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Follow-up Geographic review action for Project #2007-393-00, *Protect and Restore Northeast Oregon/Southeast Washington*¹.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends that the Council support this project for implementation. This recommendation is conditioned on the following.

1. The project funding being used only for partnership efforts.
2. The project's demonstration of benefit and value added will be included as part of the performance review associated with umbrella projects in early 2016.

SIGNIFICANCE: The proposed action will address a condition placed on the project, as part of the Council's recommendation associated with the Geographic Category Review on November 5, 2013.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total funding associated with this project is \$794,817 in expense funds for Fiscal Year 2007 through 2013. The Fiscal Year 2013 expense budget for the project was \$82,868 and had a performance period of February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014². The expense budget proposed in the revised proposal for Fiscal Year 2014 is \$194,333.

BACKGROUND

As part of the fish and wildlife project funding recommendations for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2009, the Council approved Project #2007-245-00, *Protect & Restore Joseph Creek Watershed*, commenting that the budget reduction reflects a budget for staffing

¹ Previously titled: *Protect and Restore Northeast Oregon*

² This amount reflects the adjustment made by Bonneville as part of their budget shortfall in FY2013.

associated with other partners to develop habitat projects with cooperative funding sources, similar to other co-manager projects³. To address the Council recommendation, Bonneville and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) established a new project (i.e., Project 2007-393-00) for the Wallowa and Imnaha subbasins.

On November 5, 2013, as part of the Council recommendation associated with the Geographic Category Review, the Council recommended that the Nez Perce Tribe revise the proposal associated with Project #2007-393-00, *Protect and Restore Northeast Oregon*. Following is the specific language.

Sponsor should submit revised proposal by the end of calendar year 2013 for Council review. Funding recommendation beyond February 2014 dependent on favorable outcome of this subsequent review (see explanation in decision document Part 3)

The recommendation was based on the ISRP review (ISRP document 2013-11) that found that the project proposal did not meet scientific review criteria due to the lack of information and detail necessary to evaluate the scientific merit of the project and the appearance that the project duplicates functions of other projects in the Grande Ronde Subbasin.

The goal of this project is to assist in the restoration of the aquatic ecosystems within Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington so that the habitat needs associated with anadromous and resident fish are addressed. It is the intent of the Nez Perce Tribe to assist in the identification and pursuit of habitat-enhancement projects in the Grande Ronde/Imnaha subbasins in Northeast Oregon and the Tucannon River and Asotin Creek watersheds in Southeast Washington.

On December 31, 2013 the Council received a revised proposal from the NPT intended to address the condition placed on the project. The ISRP provided its review on February 3, 2014 (ISRP document 2014-1).

ANALYSIS

The ISRP provided a recommendation of "Not Applicable" stating that the revised proposal provided the clarity to issues raised in their initial review. The ISRP provided understanding to this recommendation, stating that the defined role of this project in the subbasins of Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington does not contain scientific aspects to warrant a science review. The ISRP appreciated the four letters of support from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, and the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests that demonstrated the importance of this project in assisting habitat-restoration efforts and confirmed that it does not duplicate existing activities in the region. In addition, the ISRP stated that if this project begins to implement on-the-ground actions using Bonneville funds, a review for scientific detail may be necessary.

³ The comment continued as follows: *The sponsor requests the name of this project be changed to "Protect and Restore NE Oregon". Title change to occur at contracting*

The revised proposal demonstrates that the purpose of the project is to pursue partnerships and collaborative activities with the ongoing programs associated with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed and Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. The letters of support also confirm the importance of this project to restoration efforts in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington. In addition, the NPT has demonstrated its ability to secure cost-share funds for Bonneville-funded projects in the Clearwater and Salmon rivers of Idaho. This type of partnership is exactly what is needed to assist in coordinating restoration actions in the Tucanon and Grande Ronde subbasins and add an important catalyst to the existing infrastructures. In addition, the support letters speak to the importance of this complimentary assistance to their habitat-restoration efforts.

As outlined in the revised proposal the project is closely linked to Project #1992-026-01 *Grande Ronde Model Watershed* and Project #2010-077-00, *Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat*. These two projects are part of the Programmatic Issue (B) associated with six other projects identified as umbrella⁴ type projects in the Geographic review. Due to the sensitive aspects of umbrella type projects, several conditions were placed on these projects including one calling for a performance/effectiveness review by early-mid 2016. It should be noted that due to the collaborative nature of the NPT project with the two umbrella projects listed above that their the NPT also should participate in the performance review.

Based on the ISRP review and the letters of support, the Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends that the Council support this project for implementation. This recommendation is conditioned on the project funding being used for partnership efforts and not being used for the implementation of on-the-ground projects with Bonneville funds. In addition, the project's demonstration of benefit and value added will be included as part of the performance review associated with umbrella projects in early 2016.

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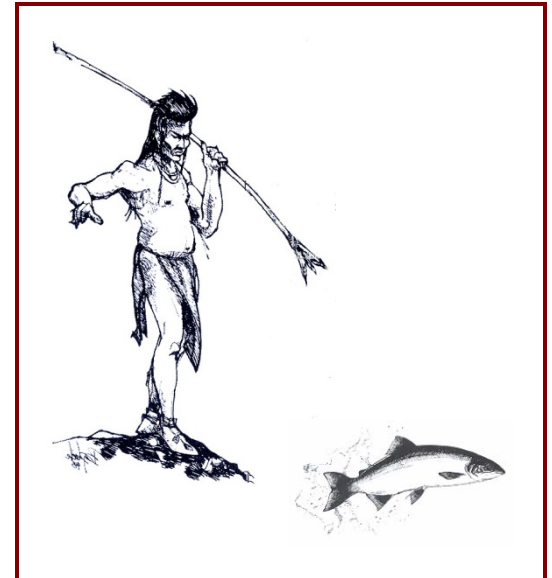
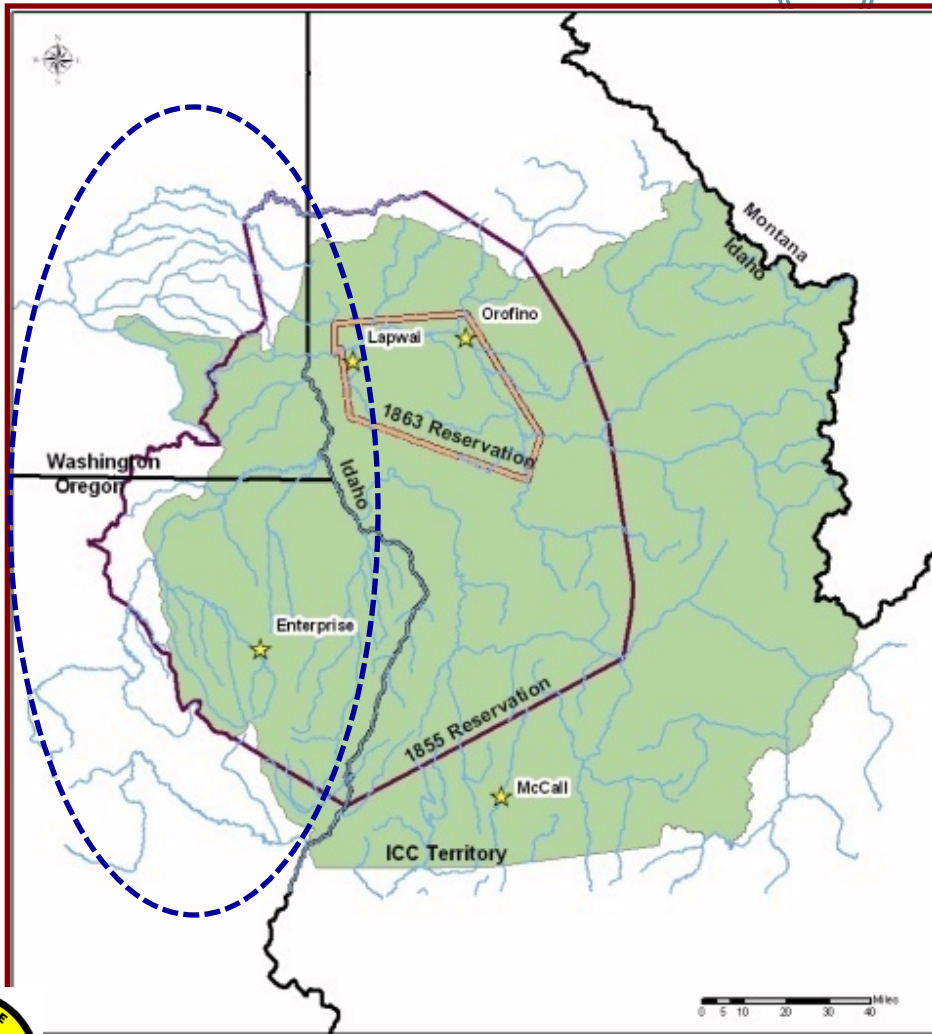
⁴ An umbrella project under the Geographic recommendation was largely defined by 1) serve as a coordinating entity among sponsors in a particular subregion to identify, review, and select projects; 2) use a formal project solicitation process; and 3) allocate and administer Bonneville funds to other entities for implementation.

Protect & Restore Northeast Oregon/Southeast Washington

**Project Number 2007-393-00
NPCC Meeting
March 12, 2014**

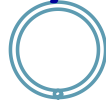
Nez Perce Tribe Treaty Territory

13.3 Million Acres



Objective

Cost Share / Partners



OREGON

- Grande Ronde Model Watershed
- Wallowa Whitman & Umatilla National Forests
- The Freshwater Trust
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Pacific Salmon Commission – Southern Fund
- Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

WASHINGTON

- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
- Umatilla National Forest

Partner/Cost Share Accomplishments



- 546 fish passage structures (inventoried, assessed & prioritized)
- 20,000 Riparian Plants
- Riparian Fence Construction
- Fish Passage/Culvert Replacement- Mahogany Creek
Tamarack Culvert Removal
- Road Decommissioning
 - NE Oregon - 7.5 miles
 - SE Washington – 46.6 miles

Future Projects from Expert Panel Process



NORTHEAST OREGON

- Camp Creek Diversion Improvement
- Big Sheep Creek Diversion Replacement
- Sheep Ridge Diversion Project
- Sheep Creek Riparian Protection Project
- Lostine/Wallowa Conservation Easement
- Whiskey Creek Culvert Replacement
- Joseph Creek Road Decommissioning

SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON

- Road Decommissioning – Tucannon River/Asotin Creek
- Floodplain/LWD Restoration – Tucannon River
- Fish Passage Barriers – Pataha Creek

Pataha Creek Culvert Replacements



Questions?

