

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

September 15, 2016

Dear Sponsors of Relative Reproductive Success projects:

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) and the Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) created a cost savings workgroup (Workgroup) to implement the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program's intent to "...fund any new fish and wildlife obligations from identifying savings within the current program..." Over the last year, the Workgroup has scrutinized existing projects funded by Bonneville for efficiencies and to identify potential savings. Going forward, the Workgroup will be expanding its assessment to include certain project subcategories. You are receiving this letter because you are a sponsor of a Relative Reproductive Success (RRS) project.

The ten Bonneville-funded RRS projects form a discrete group, some of which are closed, or are heading towards closure. Those RRS projects closing out are generating identifiable cost savings. The workgroup is interested in understanding each of the ten RRS projects and supporting knowledge and expertise sharing among the sponsors before some of that knowledge and expertise is irretrievably lost as principal researchers move on. It would be helpful to find efficiencies or cost savings to be used for new projects or other research.

Working with each RRS project sponsor, the workgroup identified October 13, 2016 as a day for a public meeting in Portland at the Council offices to discuss the RRS projects as a group. Attached are summaries of each project that the Workgroup has compiled for each RRS project. The summaries are in a common format and include project-specific questions identified by the Workgroup.

Below are some questions that we believe are common to all RRS projects. Please consider your responses to these questions and either e-mail them to the [workgroup](#) beforehand or be prepared to discuss them at the workshop.

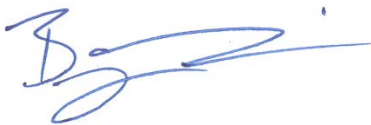
Questions to all project sponsors with RRS studies:

- How does this project inform (1) the [Council's Research Plan](#) and (2) the [Council's Fish and Wildlife Program objectives](#)?
- Can any results from this study be extrapolated to other geographic locations or other populations?
- How does the Idaho Supplementation Study (1989-098-00) inform this project?
- Please provide the following information relative to this project:
 - (a) A scientific question;
 - (b) A hypothesis;
 - (c) A specific time frame within which to answer the question posed.
- How did you determine which species or geographic area to study?
- How are you working or collaborating with other RRS projects on aspects of your study (methodology, data and conclusions)?
- How does [density dependence](#) factor into your studies moving forward?

The workgroup asks each project sponsor to be prepared to summarize their project in about ten minutes with an additional twenty minutes for the workgroup and other sponsors to discuss and clarify any remaining questions about their project. After the project-specific discussions, the workgroup anticipates the sponsors will discuss as a group any outstanding questions or issues involving RRS research.

Thank you for your willingness to get together on the 13th of October from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. We will meet on the 11th floor at the Council's office at 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon. If you have materials you want copied or projected, please send them to Kendra Coles at kcoles@nwcouncil.org.

Sincerely,



Bryan Mercier
Acting Manager, Fish and Wildlife
Bonneville Power Administration



Tony Grover
Fish and Wildlife Division Director
Northwest Power and
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