

Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting

September 9, 2003
Spokane, Washington

Council members present: Bartlett (chair), Danielson, Cassidy, Eden

1. Discussion and recommendation to confirm Fiscal Year 2004 start of year Program budget.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee discussed 2004 start-of-year budget issues including: 2004 existing recommendations, proposed continuation of funding for the Columbia Gorge and Intermountain provinces, and “placeholders” (including an innovative placeholder). The Committee also discussed the available budget amount for 2004, which includes \$139 million, **plus** unspent/rescheduled funds from 2003. Staff recommended this topic be presented to the full Council in September for consideration.

Committee action: The Fish and Wildlife Committee supported the staff recommendation to take this item to the full Council at the September meeting. The Committee recommended that the full Council discuss placeholders for “Innovative” and “data management” projects. Although the recommendations are based on several assumptions, staff and the Committee believe the assumptions are reasonable and will be confirmed in the following months.

2. Discussion and recommendation of project implementation issue:

Step One Review of the “Coeur d’ Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility” (Project #1990-044-02).

Council staff recommended that the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility Master Plan not be approved. The recommendation is made with the understanding that a within-year request to address funding needs associated with maintaining and/or developing trout ponds (1990-044-04) may be submitted in the near future.

Presentation by the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe: Tribal Chairman Ernest L. Stensgar, Alfred Nomee (Director of Natural Resources) and Ron Peters (Fisheries Manager) spoke in support of continuation of project funding.

The Coeur d’ Alene Tribe presented letters of support from the Tribe and from the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The Tribe also presented an option for revision and continuation of Step one to address the new ISRP’s concern regarding carrying-capacity in the basin.

Committee action: The Committee supported the staff recommendation.

3. Recommendation of Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority Workplan.

CBFWA staff and members presented statements of support for the workplan. Comments were received from John Palenski (CBFWA chairman), Rod Sando (CBFWA Executive Director), Dev Louis (CCT), Dave Johnson (NPT).

Committee action: Subject to finding the remaining necessary funding in 2004, the Committee supported the proposed CBFWA workplan and recommended that the workplan be presented to the full Council in October for consideration.

4. Presentation of the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Spring Chinook master plan (project # 1988-053-01).

This was a status update. The Council staff anticipates presenting a recommendation to the Committee at the October meeting regarding this project. Shaun Grassel, Becky Ashe and Dave Johnson (NPT) presented information regarding funding needs for the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Spring Chinook program.

Committee action: None.

5. Bonneville's response to the Council's mainstem systemwide project funding recommendations.

Bob Austin presented a brief update on Bonneville's latest version of the mainstem/systemwide project funding decision. Bonneville is in agreement on 95% of the Council's project funding recommendations. Bonneville should have a final decision within two to three weeks.

Committee action: None

6. Report from subbasin planning Regional Coordinating Group (RCG).

Staff provided an update from the most recent RCG meeting. Items under discussion include ISRP review of subbasin planning and how subbasin planners may respond to the ISRP comments, given that no additional funding will be available. Also discussed the BiOp Remand and its effects on subbasin planning. There has been some confusion about deliverables after May 2004. There was some preliminary discussion about subbasin planning continuing past May 2004 in high priority subbasin.

7. Mainstem amendment implementation.

This was a status report. Staff met with representatives from the federal actions agencies and fish and wildlife agencies to discuss the mainstem tasks and coordination issues. This group will meet again in a week to discuss spill evaluation and design. Staff will update the Council on the results of the meeting and suggest possible next steps.

Council action: None