

PROVINCE BASED PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Fiscal Year 2001 project solicitation, review, and recommendation process will be limited to two or perhaps three provinces, and a limited research and “innovative” projects category. The Columbia Gorge, Inter-Mountain, are proposed for review and Fiscal Year 2001 funding recommendations. A third province review, for the Mountain Columbia, will be initiated in calendar year 2000 (likely June). Because of the timing of that review, however, it will relate to Fiscal Year 2002 projects.

Subbasin summaries will be developed for each of the subbasins in the provinces being reviewed in 2000. This document, and the process used to develop them, are interim, and will be replaced by subbasin plans developed to meet program requirements to be determined in the present Fish and Wildlife Program amendment. finishes its program amendment later this year.

An *interim project renewal process* will be employed to establish the budgets and approved activities for ongoing projects in the provinces *not participating* in the Fiscal Year 2001 ISRP review. That interim project renewal process is briefly referenced in section VI. below.

Beyond the Fiscal Year 2001 rolling review, CBFWA has proposed the following order of review for the remaining provinces. Council staff will consult with the ISRP and incorporate Council suggestions in determining if the Council should adopt the proposed order of review. The province review sequence that has been proposed (but not adopted in its entirety) is as follows:

- 1) Columbia Gorge
- 2) Inter- Mountain
- 3) Mountain Columbia
- 4) Columbia Plateau (split review)
- 5) Blue Mountain
- 6) Mountain Snake
- 7) Columbia Cascade
- 8) Lower Columbia
- 9) Middle Snake
- 10) Upper Snake
- 11) Columbia estuary

Types of projects that will be reviewed in the rolling province review

The ISRP will review, and the Council will make funding recommendations for projects proposed to be funded from Bonneville’s direct program in the provinces being reviewed. This includes both ongoing and newly proposed projects.

The Council also will review projects within the respective province that are funded from the “reimbursable” category of the Bonneville funding MOA during the rolling reviews. Reimbursable projects review will include the Corps of Engineers’ Columbia River Fisheries Mitigation Program, the Corps’ fish and wildlife operations and maintenance and research budget, USFWS Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, and Bureau of Reclamation operation and maintenance budgets for the Leavenworth Hatchery Complex. These types of reimbursable projects will be assessed by the ISRP when the province in which these activities are located or is reviewed.

II. PROJECT REVIEW FOR THE COLUMBIA GORGE AND INTER-MOUNTAIN PROVINCES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 (and MOUNTAIN COLUMBIA for FY 2002) USING “SUBBASIN SUMMARIES”

The Council anticipates that in the future, subbasin plans that meet the objectives and standards in the amended Fish and Wildlife Program will be the source and justification for proposed projects. However, the Council does not believe that it is possible or reasonable to develop adequate subbasin plans for the Fiscal Year 2001 project selection process before the Council has adopted the objectives and standards in the amended program, not scheduled for completion until later in 2000. Until the standards for subbasin plans are established in the program amendment process, and a reasonable amount of time has been provided for the development of those plans, the Council will ask that project proposals be organized using an narrative subbasin summary concept.

What is in a Subbasin Summary?

The Columbia Gorge province includes six subbasins in addition to that portion of the mainstem of the Columbia River between (and including) Bonneville and The Dalles dams. Ongoing and proposed new projects for the Columbia Gorge province should be organized with reference to each of these subbasins through a subbasin summary. Likewise, the Inter-Mountain province contains two subbasins, a portion of a third, and that area of the mainstem Columbia River between and including Chief Joseph dam and the U.S./Canada border. Subbasin summaries will be needed for each of these areas in the Inter-Mountain province.

The subbasin summary will not be confined to fit into a specific proposal form. Rather, the narrative format used by the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Authority in its August 20, 1999 Draft Implementation Work Plan for describing subbasins provides an example of the format desired. While the format used by CBFWA provides a useful exemplar for the summaries, it should be noted that the context in which these summaries will be produced differs substantially from that in Fiscal Year 2000.

The Council expects CBFWA to be ultimately responsible for ensuring that subbasin summaries are developed as described herein, and produced in a timely manner. However, in order to facilitate broader involvement in developing these subbasin

summaries, the Council will include or require the inclusion of other key participants for each phase of subbasin summary development. It is important to note that the process being described here for Fiscal Year 2001 project review is *not* the process for developing a formal, final subbasin plan for adoption into the Fish and Wildlife Program. That process will come later. Therefore, the interim process for project review described here, designed most directly to meet the Council's needs to review projects funded under the existing program, will not require the level or breadth of participation that formal subbasin planning may. In the following sections, which describe in more detail the development of each component of the subbasin summaries, the key participants at each stage will be identified.

The subbasin summaries are intended foremost to facilitate ISRP project review. However, the Council sees the process by which the summaries are developed to also be a step in compiling information and establishing relationships that will need to be built upon when subbasin-planning work accelerates after the Fish and Wildlife Program is amended. The additional information sought in the summaries, and the broader participation requirements described below, are designed to lay a foundation for later subbasin planning for Council program purposes, with subbasin and watershed work being done by the individual states. Recognizing that there are state, local, and federal subbasin and watershed based planning activities underway or being discussed, the participation requirements for subbasin planning also seek to insure that the rights of Indian tribes rights are protected as required in the Northwest Power Act.

The elements of a subbasin summary are:

- 1) a subbasin description;
- 2) assessment type information;
- 3) a description of past and existing activities affecting fish and wildlife and habitat;
- 4) an explanation of existing management goals, objectives, policies, etc.,
- 5) a statement of near-term fish and wildlife project needs.

1. Subbasin description

The subbasin summary should describe the subbasin in terms of location, drainage area, climate, predominant land uses, etc. Maps should be provided.

2. Assessment type information component

Each subbasin summary should provide the best available subbasin information available relating to, or useful for, a subbasin assessment. The Council strongly encourages the gathering of this information for both aquatic and terrestrial elements of the environment. The following types of information should be provided when and where available:

- Distribution of species and & life stages

- Natural disturbance history
- Land and water uses
- Barriers to movement
- Topography/geomorphology
- Biological processes (vegetation, hydrology, competition/predation)
- Limiting factor analysis/identification

The Council believes that the information that was provided in the ecosystem summaries in the CBFWA Fiscal Year 2000 DAIWP was useful, and a good first attempt at compiling this type of information. However, some of the elements identified immediately above were not addressed or addressed only in a very cursory manner. The Council does not know if the lack of presentation was a matter of presentation emphasis or, rather, an indicator that little or no information exists in some of the subbasins on some these elements. It would be very useful if the subbasin summaries that are being prepared for Fiscal Year 2001 were more comprehensive and also clearly indicated where information on some of these elements is scarce, non-existent, or incomplete. The Council will establish a process to facilitate a more aggressive effort for gathering this type of information in Fiscal Year 2001, and that is described below.

➤ Developing the assessment component

New primary data gathering and analyses assessment work need not be done for subbasin summaries in the Columbia Gorge, Inter-Mountain (or additional provinces) participating in the Fiscal Year 2001 project review. However, the Council does seek to have all available assessment type information identified and reconciled to the extent possible in the subbasin summaries. The Council anticipates that a wide array of agencies, both state and federal, and tribes, and local groups may possess watershed and/or subbasin assessment type data and information or analysis. The goal is to identify and compile that information in the subbasin summaries. These meetings will also be used for the Council to make available any results that have been produced by the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Model (EDT) to date for the province.

To gather and attempt to reconcile this assessment information, the Council will call upon CBFWA to facilitate meetings in the Columbia Gorge, Inter-Mountain, (and possibly a third) provinces. The Council expects that these meetings will require two full days for each province. The Council will require the following be invited to participate:

- 1) State watershed/subbasin planning agency representatives;
- 2) Tribal, federal, and state fish and wildlife management agency representatives;
- 3) State water quality agency representatives;
- 4) State, tribal, and federal land management agency representatives;
- 5) Persons familiar with the use and results of the EDT model and outputs;
- 6) CBFWA staff
- 7) Northwest Power Planning Council staff; and
- 8) Established subbasin or watershed councils.

What must be produced after the two-day meeting is a compilation of the assessment type information. A summary of this information should then be produced and presented as the first component of the subbasin summary.

3. Existing and past activities and accomplishments/ gather APR information

The third element of the subbasin summary is a brief explanation of the existing activities occurring within the subbasin that affect fish and wildlife or their habitat. This explanation should certainly include activities that are funded by BPA as part of the Council's program. The explanation should also include activities that are being conducted outside of the Fish and Wildlife Program that have a beneficial or detrimental impact on fish and wildlife or habitat. In addition, this component of the subbasin summary will be the vehicle through which the information required to implement the Artificial Production Review Report can be gathered.

The Fiscal Year 2000 DAIWP submitted by CBFWA included information regarding past activities in subbasins. This material was a good start, but this is an area that the Council believes that improvement and additions must be made. This section should go beyond listing program-related projects that have been implemented in the past. This section should describe the accomplishments, in terms of benefits to fish and wildlife, of those past program activities. Results should be reported in quantifiable terms, such as smolt to adult survival.

In addition, the focus needs to expand beyond only projects or activities implemented pursuant to the Council's program. For example, where activities are being conducted with other funding sources, they should be identified and described in this section. A second example of the additional material needed in this section relates to regulatory activities instituted to benefit fish and wildlife or habitat. Where federal, tribal, state or county governments have instituted land or water management guidelines, requirements, or restrictions with an objective of protecting fish, wildlife, or their habitats (i.e. stream buffer area protection, wetlands protection) those should be identified and explained. Only when all activities within a subbasin aimed, at least in part, at protecting, mitigating or enhancing fish and wildlife are identified and explained can we coordinate and focus Bonneville funding through the program in the most effective manner.

Finally, this section of the summary can and should be used to begin gathering the information sought in the APR report. As discussed in the APR report, using this existing annual project review process provides an economy of effort for this work.

➤ Developing the Past and Existing Activities Component

The Council expects that CBFWA can complete this section of the subbasin summaries by building upon the information that was included in their FY 2000 DAIWP. Noting that there needs to be enhanced information provided in regards to the results or benefits of past activities, the Council expects that CBFWA can and should seek out that

information from project sponsors, summarize and report it. Similarly, in regards to the need to look beyond Bonneville funded projects, the Council expects that CBFWA will need to encourage and rely upon its members to gather information, or at least, provide contacts for CBFWA staff. For example, the Yakama Nation and WDFW should be utilized to provide information about activities occurring in the Yakima River subbasin under the Washington State Growth Management Act to protect riparian areas, and other fish and wildlife habitat areas. Similarly, IDFG should provide information about the TMDL work going on in Idaho. It is likely that all of the states have similar, non-Bonneville related activities or regulatory changes occurring that can and should be reported.

➤ Begin Implementing Artificial Production Review Report

One category of “past and existing” activities or projects in each of the provinces and subbasins to be identified in the subbasin summary are artificial production projects. The Council, in concert with managers and stakeholders, recently completed its report on artificial production, and submitted that report to congress (Council document 99-15). One of our first opportunities to begin implementing the Artificial Production Review Report (APR) recommendations will be the provincial rolling review. By using the province review, production projects funded under the direct program in that province, as well as those funded as part of the Bonneville reimbursable account, including the Corps of Engineers mitigation hatcheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Lower Snake River Compensation Plan can be addressed.

As part of the rolling review process, we will ask project sponsors who have production programs in these provinces to answer several questions relating to the policy guidance in the APR report and to supply specific data on operations and objectives. Examples of the needed information for each program and facility would include the following:

- A statement identifying the purpose or purposes for the artificial production, as purposes are defined in the APR report. For each population being addressed, define the use of artificial production as an augmentation, mitigation, restoration, preservation/conservation or research program, or a combination of these purposes.
- A justification or rationale for functioning under the stated purpose or purposes. How does the artificial production relate to fish and wildlife goals, objectives, mandates, legal obligations or other concerns for each population being addressed?
- An explanation of how the production program satisfies each of the APR policies and production performance standards. If the program cannot meet the established policies and performance standards, the sponsors should discuss what kinds of operational reforms would be needed and what might it cost to implement these changes.
- A compilation of production data. This would include information on past releases, survival data, adult returns, contribution to fisheries, etc.
- Anticipated future production. The sponsors should outline the planned production and specific objectives for these releases.

- Data on effects and interactions with other fish populations. For example, it would be appropriate to include all available information on hatchery and wild stock interactions for each population where artificial production is used.

For anadromous production programs, we will ask sponsors to use Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) to provide most of the needed information. For resident fish facilities a modified HGMP may be used (CBFWA is currently developing a resident fish HGMP).

We anticipate that the production data/information gathered here will fold into the subbasin summaries completed for the provinces being reviewed

4. Identification and explanation of existing management objectives, policies, strategies for the subbasin.

The next component of the subbasin summary should be an explanation of the currently existing management objectives for the subbasin. Where management objectives are derived from specific management plans, court orders, permits, etc., those should be identified and summarized. To be clear, the Council does not expect the sponsors and management agencies and tribes with fish and wildlife jurisdiction to negotiate or completely agree on management objectives for each subbasin for purposes of this project funding review. In fact, to the extent that existing management objectives or policies differ, the Council encourages the drafters of the umbrella to identify simply identify those disagreements, and briefly explain differing perspectives. The upcoming subbasin planning process will be the forum for resolving these differences.

➤ Developing the description of existing management objectives, goals strategies component

The subbasin summaries do not require that fish and wildlife co-managers establish among themselves, and/or with other land and water managers and others the management goals, objectives, policies, etc. that will govern fish and wildlife and habitat management in the subbasins in the future. Rather, the subbasin summaries required for Fiscal Year 2001 project review seek disclosure and possible reconciliation of what objectives are currently directing fish, wildlife, and habitat management.

The Council will call on CBFWA to facilitate a “field meeting” in the provinces for the development of this component of the subbasin summary. The purpose of the meeting will be threefold. First, the participants should identify, share, and reconcile to the extent possible existing fish and wildlife management strategies called for under existing plans. Second, the participants should seek to identify and record past accomplishments of the strategies being employed under those plans. Third, after doing this preliminary work, the participants should attempt to identify near-term needs that exist under existing plans and strategies. In considering these near-term needs, the participants should consider if they may be met through continuing ongoing Bonneville

projects, redirecting such projects, initiating new Bonneville funded projects, or through activities or projects funded or implemented outside of the direct program.

This component of the subbasin summary will reflect existing management plan goals and strategies for purposes of project review, rather than developing new management direction for the future as will be done in developing a subbasin plan to adopt into the program. Therefore, the Council does not believe that it is critical to require the broadest participation in developing this component of the subbasin summary. The Council believes that the appropriate participants include the tribal, state, and federal fish and wildlife agencies, other persons or entities with ongoing projects in the subbasins, NPPC staff, CBFWA staff, any other key contacts identified in the first “assessment meeting,” and representatives from the ISRP.

5. Identification of proposed new needs, and ongoing projects proposed for continuation, and an explanation of their relationship to the assessment information, other existing activities, and management goals, objectives, and policies.

The final piece of the subbasin summary is an identification of both the ongoing projects that are proposed for continued funding, and a statement of new near-term needs. The justification for continuing ongoing projects and the rationale for the new needs should be made in light of the assessment information (or lack thereof) and existing management plan objectives and strategies.

III. PROJECT SOLICITATION AND REVIEW

The Council and CBFWA will make the subbasin summaries available to the public, and provide notice that the Fiscal Year 2001 project solicitation will center upon the statement of near-term needs contained in those summaries. Again, the Council expects that near-term needs may be met by continuing ongoing projects, redirecting existing projects, proposed new projects to be funded by Bonneville, and other activities not seeking Bonneville funding.

Anyone may submit a proposal to address needs that are identified in the subbasin summary. The Council intends that project specific proposals will continue to use the proposal forms substantially similar to those that were used in Fiscal Year 2000, although project proponents will also be allowed to reference and submit for consideration the information and reports underlying the project proposal. The Council staff will work with CBFWA and the ISRP to make any needed modification to the proposal form to allow the proponent to identify the relationship of the proposal to the subbasin summary. We expect this work to be completed in early-mid March. The Council staff will also work with the ISRP and CBFWA to generally identify the type of other material that may be provided in addition to the project specific form.

The subbasin summary will provide the context and justification for the projects proposed in any subbasin, allowing the project sponsor to explain how the proposed project relates to the assessment information, to other activities occurring in the subbasin,

and to existing management goals. The summary itself will *not* provide the detail of the projects. Individual project forms, and other project specific information and documentation will need to be provided for each of the projects proposed. The Council expects that project proponents will continue to be responsible for completing the individual project proposal forms, and providing other project background information to the ISRP.

At the same time that project sponsors prepare and submit project proposals for review for direct program funding to implement the Council's Program, the federal agencies with reimbursable fish and wildlife activities in the same province and subbasins will also be asked to prepare for review a description of the on-going and new fish and wildlife activities proposed for funding. If a project in this category is within one of the subbasins (e.g., reimbursable artificial production activities within a subbasin), the Council expects the project sponsor to work with other entities in the subbasin in the development of the subbasin summary *and* then to describe how their activities proposed for funding fit within that subbasin context. If the project is within the province but in the mainstem (e.g., Corps fish passage activities at mainstem dams), the Council expects that the project sponsor be able to explain how the activity proposed for funding fits within the broader context of fish and wildlife needs and activities in that province, in the mainstem as a whole considered as an integrated system, and in the basin as a whole.

As indicated on the timeline being contemplated, project proposals for the Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces will be called for on or about June 21st, and be due on or about August 4th. The project proposals will be provided to the ISRP for its review, and to CBFWA for its internal review. These dates, and the others identified in section V. below are planning dates at this time. A definitive timeline is currently being established and will be made public on or before March 10, 2000.

After a short review period, a workshop will be conducted where the project proponents will present the subbasin summaries and their individual project proposals to the ISRP. The Council believes that each project proponent will be given this opportunity without regard to any ranking established within a CBFWA review process. This workshop will provide the opportunity for a question and answer session between the ISRP and those making project proposals. In addition, the ISRP may, in limited circumstances, request site visits as part of its review of a proposed project or collection of proposed projects. Both Council and CBFWA staffs will also attend the workshop where project proposals are explained and discussed.

Near the end of September, the ISRP will issue preliminary reports, making its preliminary findings and recommendations as required under section 4(h)(10)(D) of the Act for the provinces being reviewed as illustrated in the timeline below. Thereafter, the project proponents and the public will be given the opportunity to make a response to the ISRP preliminary report, and the Council expects CBFWA to coordinate those responses as it did in Fiscal Year 2000. After a review period, the ISRP will provide a final report to the Council near the end of November. The Council will fully consider the

recommendations made by the ISRP in its two reports, and making its project recommendations by the end of 2000.

IV. INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS NOT FOCUSED ON A SPECIFIC SUBBASIN

The Council anticipates that there will be a separate solicitation for Fiscal Year 2001 research projects not linked to specific subbasins (“systemwide”) and for new and innovative projects that will run concurrently with the province reviews.

For the “new and innovative” piece, the Council will establish a planning target placeholder-funding amount for these projects that will be available each year. The Council will, in consultation with CBFWA and the ISRP, develop criteria for new, innovative proposals that will be provided in the solicitation notice. Although definitive criteria are forthcoming, the Council anticipates that innovative proposals will need to focus on research type activities that provide information or concepts that have systemwide utility or application until the program is amended. The criteria for innovative project solicitation will be completed and made available by the end of March, well in advance of the late June project solicitation.

The other element of this yearly solicitation and review process provides the mechanism by which the ISRP will review research type projects that are not closely linked to specific subbasins or provinces in some manner, and thus, not amenable to province based review. Many (but probably not all) of the projects that have been called “systemwide” projects in the past may fit within this category. A few examples of these types of projects include the coded wire tag projects, and data management projects. The Council will work with CBFWA and the ISRP to identify each of the systemwide projects approved in Fiscal Year 2000 that fall into this category, and select some of them as candidates for ISRP review in Fiscal year 2001. Those not reviewed in the Fiscal Year 2001 process will be reviewed in Fiscal Year 2002.

The Council does not intend that systemwide projects be reviewed each year by the ISRP. Once reviewed, those projects will be put on a multi-year funding path similar to projects reviewed as part of a province review. The Council simply wants and plans to have an established review placeholder where projects of this type can be reviewed in a regular rotation like projects tied to specific provinces.

IV. EXCEPTIONS TO “ROLLING REVIEW” -- PROJECTS THAT MAY BE REVIEWED IN FISCAL YEAR 2001 NOT LINKED TO THE PROVINCES BEING REVIEWED

The general rule is that new and ongoing projects will be reviewed by the ISRP and considered by the Council for funding recommendations *only* when the province in which they will be implemented is being reviewed. There are three exemptions now envisioned:

Projects in the Three- Step Review may advance according to the time schedules established by that review process.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1998, the Council instituted an interim three-step review process for new artificial production projects. The three-step review partitions these types of projects into three segments, and Council approval is required to advance from one step to the next. Ongoing artificial production projects that have been approved to enter the three-step review process prior to Fiscal Year 2001 will be reviewed on the schedule that is dictated by the three-step review process. For example, if an artificial production facility in the Columbia Cascade province (which is one of the later provinces to be reviewed under the sequence above) completes step 1 in Fiscal Year 2001 and the Council approves the step 1 submittal, the Council will consider funding step 2 activities in Fiscal Year 2001, and not require that the project advancement be put on hold until the rolling review reaches the Columbia Cascade province in the next year or two.

There is a caveat that must be emphasized regarding this exception. The Council does not currently envision that a final step 3 approval for major new, long-term production facilities can be given without a subbasin plan that can meet the standards adopted in the program being available.

Acquisitions

The second type of project that may be reviewed out of the sequence established for the province rolling review are acquisition projects. The most common type of acquisition project is land acquisition. Another type of acquisition project may be water or water right acquisitions. Council staff is working on criteria that may be applied to these projects, and will propose them to the Council when more fully developed. At this time, the nature of the standards being considered by the staff for possible proposal include the following:

1. The element to be acquired (land, water, etc.) is at risk of being becoming unavailable before the rolling review reaches the province in which it is situated;
2. The appropriate CBFWA caucus concurs that the acquisition may be made out of sequence with the rolling review.
3. The sponsor identifies how the acquisition is consistent with a subbasin plan or subbasin summary.

Expedited priorities

There have been some relatively informal discussions around the region about funding “expedited” or “high-priority” actions for fish and wildlife, although there does not appear to be any formal proposal at this time. The Council will seek to ensure that, where applicable, the scientific review process established for project funding be followed if “expedited” or “high priority” activities are proposed, albeit perhaps out of the province sequence.

V. INTERIM PROJECT RENEWAL PROCESS FOR ONGOING PROJECTS NOT LOCATED IN THE PROVINCES BEING REVIEWED IN FISCAL YEAR 2001.

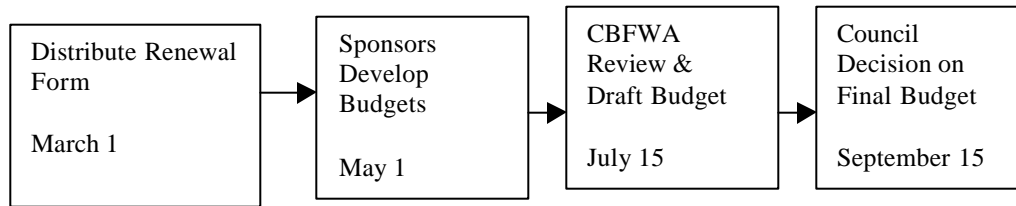
The rolling review, by design, does not subject all projects to ISRP review and Council recommendation each year. Having set out the sequence for the review of the provinces above, it is apparent that as many as nine of the provinces will not be reviewed in Fiscal Year 2001. The ongoing projects in those provinces received approval only for Fiscal Year 2000 in the recently concluded project recommendation process. Therefore, there is a need to renew and approve project budgets for the ongoing projects in provinces that will be reviewed in the Fiscal Year 2002 and 2003 rolling reviews. This process is described in a companion document.

Scope of FY 2001 Renewal Process:

The renewal process would be for existing projects only and would focus on improved budget detail. This **includes** ongoing projects in the provinces being reviewed this year. For projects not in the rolling review for FY 2001, this process would not collect the full level of project background and narrative used in previous years and would not go through the Independent Scientific Review Panel. Reasoning that this is a process to set budgets for already approved projects, scientific review would be left to the provincial review process (limited to the Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain for FY 2001 as discussed above. The process would be similar to those of previous years in that an electronic form would be used to collect budget estimates and the budgets would be reviewed and recommended by the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority.

The major change in the budget format is to respond to Council guidance to improve fiscal accountability and implement Bonneville's improved program management practices. Specifically, the project budgets would be developed for separate phases:

- Planning and design
- Construction/Implementation
- Operation and Maintenance
- Monitoring and Evaluation



The proposed budget form asks for cost estimates in two ways -- by task and by materials, labor, indirect charges, etc. Doing so allows clearer definition of what it is a sponsor proposes to do in FY 2001 and we hope will avoid the majority of potential contract renewal disputes next year.

The Council requested that Bonneville begin managing project budgets more closely by these phases. The Council's FY 2000 decision document calls for doing so to provide improved capacity to monitor implementation costs and warn of unanticipated increases in project costs. Bonneville is conducting a redesign of its fish and wildlife management systems to improve project implementation and oversight (the major part of my assignment to Bonneville). This effort calls for clearer definition of project scopes and schedules. The level of budget detail in the proposed budget form supports these objectives and allows carrying the detail through the contracting and reporting process.

As noted at the beginning of this memorandum, the Council and CBFWA are currently finalizing the modifications that will be made to the forms to facilitate this review. The Council and CBFWA will provide additional guidance and instructions for this renewal process in early March.

VI. TIMELINE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 REVIEW

CBFWA and the Council are currently developing a definitive timeline for the Fiscal Year 2001 province based "rolling review" process. It is anticipated that this timeline will be made available on or before March 10th. The following is a tentative timeline for calendar year 2000 rolling review activities that may be referenced for planning purposes:

- March 6th - Initiate solicitation for **ongoing** projects for FY 2001 "interim project renewal."
- March - Announce province reviews with schedules and background information.
- April 13th -14th - Field meetings in Columbia Gorge to collect "assessment type information, develop assignments and plan next steps for subbasin summary development.
- April 10th -11th Field meetings in Inter-Mountain to collect "assessment type information," develop assignments and plan next steps for subbasin summary development.
- May 1st - Budget proposals for ongoing projects in "interim project renewal process" are due to CBFWA.

- Late-May - Field meetings in Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces to develop “past activities” and “existing management plans” components of the subbasin summaries.
- June 30th - Subbasin summaries for Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces due to NPPC.
- Early June - Announce province review for Mountain Columbia with schedule and background information.
- July 10th - Solicit proposals for projects in the Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces. Solicit proposals for “new and innovative” research projects. Provide notice that proposals for out-of-sequence acquisition type projects or three-step review projects should develop proposals must be submitted during the province review.
- July 11th - Field meeting in Mountain Columbia to collect “assessment type information,” develop assignments and plan next steps for subbasin summary development.
- August 16th - Project proposals for Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces are due; “new and innovative,” and out-of-sequence acquisition and three-step project proposals due.
- August 18th - Project proposals provided to ISRP and subbasin teams.
- August 30th - Field meeting in Mountain Columbia to develop “past activities” and “existing management plan” components of the subbasin summary.
- September 11th -15th - Project sponsors present proposals to ISRP.
- Early September - NPPC recommends start of Fiscal Year 2001 budget for **ongoing** projects outside of Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain provinces.
- September 22nd - Subbasin summary for Mountain Columbia submitted to NPPC.
- October 6th - First ISRP report on Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain (and other projects) due. Report released for public comment.
- October 9th - Solicit proposals for projects in Mountain Columbia (for FY 2002).
- October 27th - Responses to ISRP report due (fix-it-loop).
- November 10th - CBFWA Draft Annual Implementation Workplan submitted.
- November 17th - Project proposals for Mountain Columbia (FY 2002) due.
- November 1st - Project proposals for Mountain Columbia out to ISRP.
- November 24th - ISRP provides second and final report, taking into account public comment and CBFWA draft workplan.
- December 1st - Final ISRP report on Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain due.
- December 11th - 13th - Project sponsors (for Mountain Columbia) present proposals to ISRP.
- End of December, Early January - NPPC recommendations to Bonneville for Columbia Gorge, Inter-Mountain, new and innovative, and other out of sequence projects.