



DATE: August 23, 2005

TO: Decision Framework Workgroup
MMG

FROM: CBFWA staff

SUBJECT: Support material for development of a schedule and process for decision making – August 24, 2005 Decision Framework Workgroup meeting

To facilitate an efficient and effective meeting, CBFWA staff is providing the attached information for consideration in developing a process and schedule for integrating the project selection and the Program amendment processes. The draft framework approved at the August 2-3, 2005 CBFWA Members Meeting served as guidance for the development of the attached information.

THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE IS NOT A PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME.

Staff anticipates further development of the attached list of critical elements at tomorrow's meeting to better identify the time necessary to complete integration of the processes. It is anticipated that the product of tomorrow's meeting will be a proposed schedule, represented in a Gantt chart, for presentation to the CBFWA Members on August 29, 2005 which includes descriptions of each of the decision making processes necessary to meet the objectives identified by the group.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Tom Iverson at (503) 229-0191.

DRAFT Objectives

- To create a decision pathway and schedule that allows the Northwest Power and Planning Council (NPCC) the opportunity to select projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 based on an Integrated Regional Management Plan that identifies clearly articulated objectives and provides performance measures for achieving them while protecting, mitigating and enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin
- Integrate Subbasin Plans, ESA recovery plans, and other existing Federal, State and Tribal plans into a single unified plan for the basin

Critical Elements

Project Selection Process Development

The NPCC will fully develop the project selection process which will provide a complete description of the solicitation process, the review process and the decision making process for each compartment within the Program culminating in a Project Selection Guidance Document. This document would be complete, with budget allocation by compartment and province, prior to project solicitation.

Duration: 2-4 months

NPCC/BPA Solicitation of Proposals

The NPCC and BPA will jointly solicit proposals based upon the Project Selection Guidance Document allowing up to 60 days for proposal development and submission.

Duration: 1-2 months

ISRP Review

The ISRP preliminary review would include province visits and proposal presentations. At this time, the assumption is that all projects will receive comprehensive reviews; if the reviews were scaled in some way (e.g., O+M projects and Art. Prod), projects may require a less intensive review. The details of the review process need to be developed to better understand this time requirement.

Duration: 6 months

ISRP Fix-it-Loop (under consideration)

The ISRP report will be released for public comment and project sponsors may be allowed to respond. The general public may also submit comments on individual proposals. A period of time will be required for project sponsors to generate responses to the ISRP, and an additional amount of time for the ISRP to consider those responses will be required.

Duration: 2-3 months

Project Prioritization

Local prioritization will occur within the provinces/subbasins and within various “programs” for the systemwide proposals. The NPCC staff will then facilitate the final decision making at the NPCC in creating recommendations for funding to BPA.

Duration: 3-4 months

BPA contracting

Once recommendations are provided by NPCC, BPA will contract for the proposed work. In the past, BPA has requested 90 days to establish or renew contracts.

Duration: 3 months

Province Planning Workshops

Using the recent NPCC AHA effort and CBFWA resident fish status review as a base, province level workgroups would develop biological objectives and action plans for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin. Workgroups would be established to develop systemwide program plans (i.e., Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Information Management and Coordination).

Duration: 3 months

Recovery Plans

NOAA has requested recovery plans for all salmon and steelhead ESUs in the basin by December 31, 2005. Existing recovery plans for bull trout and sturgeon have been incorporated into subbasin plans.

Develop Guidance Document for Program Amendment

NPCC staff will develop a guidance document that explains the purpose and scope of the upcoming program amendment process. The document would 1) explain what function and purpose the province level biological objectives will serve, 2) explain how subbasin plans and other information have been or should be used to develop province level objectives, 3) establish a common vocabulary for the amendment process, 4) describe what assumptions have been made for habitat, hydro, harvest and hatchery interactions, and then 5) present derived or example objectives for anadromous and resident fish.

Duration: 3 months

Integrate Province Plans to create Integrated Regional Management Plan

Co-managers would integrate the province level action plans, combined with systemwide program plans to form the Integrated Regional Management Plan.

Duration: 3-4 months

Issue Request For Recommendations

The NPCC will issue a request for program amendment recommendations as required by Section 4h of the Power Act.

Duration: 3 months

Public Review of Recommendations

The Power Act requires public review of and comment on program amendment recommendations before proceeding to amendments. This is the period where the NPCC staff begins to formulate the Draft Program Amendment.

Duration: 2 months

Public Review of Draft Program Amendment

The NPCC releases their draft amendment for public comment.

Duration: 2-3 months

NPCC Adopts Program Amendment

The NPCC would adopt the final program amendment which would include biological objectives at the province level, with findings and responses to comments.

Duration: 2-3 months

DRAFT Objective: To create a decision pathway and schedule that allows the Northwest Power and Planning Council (NPCC) the opportunity to select projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 based on an Integrated Regional Management Plan that identifies clearly articulated objectives and provides performance measures for achieving them while protecting, mitigating and enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin. The Plan will also integrate Subbasin Plans, ESA recovery plans, and other existing Federal, State and Tribal plans into a single unified plan for the basin.

Critical Path Elements	Months	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Project Selection Process Development	2-4	█	█		▲																
NPCC/BPA Solicitation of Proposals	1-2						▲	█													
ISRP Review (may require less time)	<6								█	█	█	█	█	▲							
ISRP Fix-it-Loop (under consideration)	2-3														█	█					
Project Prioritization	3-4																█	█	▲		
BPA Contracting	3																		█	█	▲
Province Planning Workshops	3		█	█	█																
Recovery Plans					▲																
Develop Guidance Document for Program Amendment	3	█	█	▲																	
Integrate Province Plans to create Integrated Regional Management Plan	3-4					█	█	▲													
Issue Request for Recommendations	3					▲	█	█													
Public Review of Recommendations	2								█	█											
Public Review of Draft Amendment	2-3									█	█	█									
NPCC Adopts Program Amendment	2-3													█	█	▲					

This is not a proposal. It is a working draft prepared for discussion at the August 24, 2005 Decision Framework Workgroup meeting.