



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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October 20, 2006

TO: Members Advisory Group
FROM: CBFWA Staff
SUBJECT: AFAC Comments on Hatchery Reform Project

Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

At their meeting on October 12, 2006, the Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC) discussed potential participation in the Columbia River Hatchery Reform Project. Dan Warren and Chip M^cConnaha provided an overview of the project to the AFAC. Dan Warren also prepared draft summaries of the tasks, time, effort, and costs involved with member participation (attached).

Dan and Chip explained that most existing data has been uploaded to a web-based system, and a priority need for the remainder of 2006 is a review of this on-line data. In early 2007 the project moves up-basin, and will benefit from further data and information review and workshop attendance by managers. This will require time and travel from CBFWA members at the technical and program manager level.

The AFAC generally recognized the relative importance of the project, pending further information regarding integration with harvest information and data coordination. StreamNet needs to be actively involved to ensure long-term maintenance of the information that is accumulated.

Although the AFAC recognizes the importance of the project, the AFAC is not prepared to make specific recommendations regarding the priority of using CBFWA funds for this project over other tasks identified in the 07-09 CBFWA work plan. As shown in the attached budget, the estimated cost for participation is approximately \$250,000 through spring 2008 (\$63,000 in 2006 and \$187,000 in 2007-08). This is a significant portion of the annual amount budgeted in the 2007-09 CBFWA proposal for member participation in technical reviews and regional groups (currently \$361,000). Potential additional reductions in the CBFWA budget as suggested by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council reduce the likelihood of using CBFWA funds for participation.

The AFAC and Project staff agreed that a workshop targeted at familiarizing the AFAC and the MAG with the project would be beneficial. The workshop has been scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2006, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's large conference room.

Please contact Dave Ward or Tom Iverson with questions regarding this workshop at (503) 229-0191.

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