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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE, *et al.*

Defendants.

Civil No. 01-640-RE

**FEDERAL DEFENDANTS'
SIXTH REMAND REPORT**

As required by the Court's Order dated March 28, 2007, Federal Defendants provide the Court with an updated proposed action/RPA and, as we agreed at the March 9, 2007 Status

2. Planning and Reporting

The Action Agencies will provide a transparent and regular examination of their performance under the new FCRPSA BiOp through implementation and progress reporting, using the following milestones:

Overview of Planning and Reporting Milestones

Year	Plans and Progress Reports
2007	2007-2009 actions identified in Proposed Action/RPA
2008	Annual Progress Report
2009	Comprehensive Report
2010	2010-2012 Implementation Plan
2010	Annual Progress Report
2011	Annual Progress Report
2012	Comprehensive Report
2013	2013-2015 Implementation Plan; Annual Progress Report
2014	Annual Progress Report
2015	Comprehensive Report
2016	Annual Progress Report
2017	New Proposed Action

2.1. Implementation Plans

Within our proposed actions, the Action Agencies have identified specific details for the first three years of the BiOp term (2007-2009). This specific information represents our initial three-year implementation plan for the new BiOp. The Action Agencies will maintain a BiOp database to provide project and action level detail for planning and reporting purposes. This information will be updated and summarized in subsequent three year implementation plans (2010-2012, 2013-2015, and 2016-2017) during the life of the BiOp.

The Action Agencies will coordinate implementation with other appropriate regional processes. This includes coordination related to statutory provisions for the Federal government (BPA/Power Council), voluntary coordination among Federal agencies (Federal Caucus), and coordination with regional processes for Federal/non-Federal engagement (TMT, SCT, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program (PNAMP), Northwest Environmental Data-network (NED), etc.). The collaboration described in the Oversight section is intended to support continued interaction among the sovereigns regarding the effectiveness of the Proposed Action and the need to alter or adjust actions in response to documented successes or failures.

2.2. Annual Progress Reporting and Adaptive Management

As noted previously, the Action Agencies will monitor implementation and compliance, or programmatic performance, for all of our action commitments. In addition, we will track

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- *Fund marking of hatchery releases from Action Agency funded facilities to enable monitoring of hatchery-origin fish in natural spawning areas and the assessment of status of wild populations.*
- *Report available information on population viability metrics in annual and comprehensive evaluation reports.*

Action: Collaboration Regarding Fish Population Status Monitoring

Fish population status monitoring is a primary responsibility of regional fish management agencies and is being implemented for most populations through agency programs. The Action Agencies will enhance existing fish population status monitoring performed by fish management agencies through the following collaboration commitments:

- *Support the coordination, data management, and annual synthesis of fish population metrics through Regional Data Repositories and the CBFWA State of the Resource report.*
- *Facilitate and participate in an ongoing collaboration process to develop a regional strategy for status and trend monitoring for key ESA fish populations and an associated regional agreement for joint funding and implementation. This monitoring strategy will be coordinated with the status monitoring needs and strategies being developed for hydro, habitat, hatchery, harvest and estuary/ocean.*
- *Provide cost shared funding support and staff participation the PNAMP fish population monitoring workgroup and NED to advance regional standards and coordination for more efficient and robust monitoring and information management.*

RME Strategy 2: Hydrosystem RM&E

Funding Source(s): Corps of Engineers O&M and Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program funding. BPA – direct funding.

Rationale: Evaluating the effectiveness of hydro actions and critical uncertainties is a central feature of the FCRPS ESA responsibilities.

What's New: Additional actions that include PIT tagging of UC Chinook and steelhead and SR sockeye if feasible.

2.0 Hydrosystem RME

Management Questions: The following are the primary management questions with respect to FCRPS hydro passage actions. Hydro RM&E actions described in this section are focused on providing information needed to answer these questions to support ongoing and adaptive management decisions.

- Are salmon and steelhead meeting juvenile and adult hydro passage performance standards and targets?
- Is each project in the hydropower system safely and efficiently passing adult and juvenile migrants?
- What are the most effective configurations and operations for achieving desired performance standards and targets in the FCRPS?

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- *Coordinate implementation with other appropriate regional processes. This includes coordination related to statutory provisions for the Federal government (BPA/Council), voluntary coordination among Federal agencies (Federal Caucus), and coordination with regional processes for Federal/non-Federal engagement (TMT, SCT, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program (PNAMP), Northwest Environmental Data-network (NED), etc.).*

Action: Data Management

The Action Agencies will ensure that the information obtained under the auspices of the FCRPS RM&E Program is archived in appropriate data management systems. Proposed actions include:

- *Continue to work with regional federal, state and tribal agencies to establish a coordinated and standardized information system network to support the RM&E program and related performance assessments. The coordination of this development will occur primarily through leadership, participation and joint funding support in the Northwest Environmental Data-network (NED) workgroup, the PNAMP coordination group and the RM&E pilot studies in the Wenatchee, John Day, Upper Salmon, and estuary.*
- *Contribute funding for data system components that support the information management needs of individual Hydro, Tributary Habitat, Estuary/Ocean, Harvest, Hatchery, and Predation RM&E.*
- *Participate in NED and PNAMP efforts to develop and implement a regional management strategy for water, fish and habitat data*

RME Strategy 9: Project Implementation and Compliance Monitoring

Funding Source(s): BPA – direct funding; Corps appropriations; Bureau appropriations

Rationale: Regular tracking of implementation commitments is essential to accountability.

9.0 Project Implementation and Compliance Monitoring

The Action Agencies have identified specific commitments or actions for each of our hydrosystem, estuary/ocean, tributary habitat, hatchery, and predator control strategies, providing clear programmatic level measures for evaluating progress, subject of course to adaptive management. We will update these implementation details in 3 year cycles. Projects will be monitored for implementation of planned deliverables and compliance to performance expectations.

Action: Implementation and Compliance Monitoring

- *The Action Agencies will monitor the successful implementation of projects through standard procedures and requirements of contract oversight and management, and review of project deliverables and final reports.*
- *The Action Agencies will maintain BiOp databases to provide fish improvement and monitoring project and action level details for planning and reporting purposes. This*