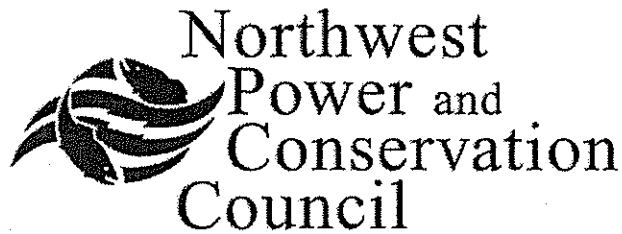


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January 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Iverson

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Project Reviews

Accord Projects

The council developed draft guidance for Science Review of Accord projects, which is available on the Council's website. The suite of Accord projects is comprised of both *new proposed projects* and *ongoing projects*, and they are generally categorized as such for review and contracting purposes. Some ongoing projects will have changes in scope or expansions that result in new work elements. The *new project* category can be further categorized by whether or not the project has previous Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review. The guidance document describes the categories of projects in further detail and how and when each might go through science review. We anticipate the new BiOp projects to be processed in much the same way, but have not finalized the process yet.

Several Accord projects have been reviewed recently or are currently being reviewed. Table 1. provides a quick reference for Accord Projects that have recently been reviewed or are currently being reviewed.

Wildlife Review

Updated project proposals are due for 35 (including one new Accord project) wildlife projects this Friday, January 23rd. The ISRP will begin the review immediately and sponsors will present projects to the ISRP on March 3-4. Staff recommendations will be made in May-June timeframe.

RM&E-Plus Review

Council and Bonneville staffs are in the planning phase of the categorical review. In this process, BPA is working with their various RM&E workgroups to determine what is required from them in the BiOp and Accords, then they will compare to what is already being funded in the program. Council staff is working with the RM&E leads to develop the list of existing

projects to review in this category, according to subcategories; develop a schedule for review, and begin identifying some of the cross-cutting issues and questions that this review should attempt to answer. At the last meeting, we looked at general timeframes for this set (this is *not* final by any means):

Planning: now-April 1

Sponsor Reports: (updating narratives and budgets on proposal forms): April-May-June

ISRP Review: July-August

Staff Recommendations: September

Council Recommendations: October

BPA Funding: October - November

On Deck

The next scheduled categorical review is for artificial production. The planning for this category would begin when staff completes the planning for RM&E Plus.

Table 1. Accord Project Review Status (from January 2009 fish and wildlife committee)

New Proposals

Eleven “new” Accord projects submitted to ISRP for review in November, 2008 by the Lower River Tribes Accord parties

- One project (Genetic Assessment) met scientific criteria;
Funding recommendation and final ISRP science review discussion at the January Meeting
- Ten projects need additional information. Response loop initiated December 15

Wildlife Categorical Review

- One Accord project currently preparing for ISRP review in March 2009

On-going projects

- Klickitat Master Plan – Step 1 review received an ISRP “*meets criteria (qualified)*”; approved August 2008; Step 2 design in progress
- Hood River Master Plan – Step 1 review received an ISRP “*meets criteria in part (qualified)*”; approved October 2008; Step 2 design in progress
- Chief Joseph Master Plan – Step 2 submittal received and currently being reviewed. ISRP requested response from sponsor
- Potlatch Watershed– change in scope currently being reviewed. ISRP requested response from sponsor
- Yankee Fork Master Plan – Step 1 ; received an ISRP “*does not meet scientific criteria*” September 2008
- Walla Walla Master Plan – Step 1; received an ISRP “*does not meet scientific criteria*” November 2008
- Wildlife Categorical Review – six Accord projects are currently preparing for ISRP review in March 2009
- Three water transactions on the Lemhi submitted to the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (CBWTP) under the State of Idaho Accord. Reviewed by CBWTP Transactions Advisory Committee and determined to satisfy the criteria approved by the ISRP; moved to contracting in December 2008