



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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To whom it may concern:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has implemented fish habitat restoration measures in the Fifteenmile Creek Subbasin through the Fifteenmile Creek Habitat Restoration Project (#199304000). The project has received funding from the Bonneville Power Administration since 1987. Many stream and fish habitat restoration successes have been measured in the Fifteenmile Creek Subbasin resulting from implementation of the project. Although much progress has been made restoring stream conditions, poor water quality remains a concern for resource managers as a threat to aquatic resources in the Subbasin.

The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District submitted a project proposal titled Mitigate Streambank Sediment Sources in Fifteenmile Watershed using Bioengineering Techniques (Project #21014) to the Northwest Power Planning Council for funding in FY2002. This project is designed to reduce sediment input into Fifteenmile Creek by stabilizing highly erodible streambanks and improve water quality. The proposed project received a low priority for funding by the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority.

It is our understanding that the overall cost of this project to the Bonneville Power Administration has been considerably reduced from the original proposal with the addition of several other outside grants. Based on the lower project costs and potential water quality benefits, therefore we recommend that this project be reconsidered for funding in the next appropriate funding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rod A. French
Project Leader Fifteenmile Creek Habitat Restoration Project
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife