



Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

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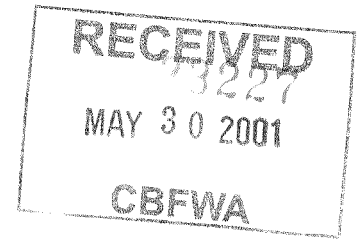
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May 29, 2001

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PRIORITIZATION FOR PROJECT 21014; FIFTEENMILE BIOENGINEERING

This proposal was submitted to use modern soil-bioengineering techniques to treat four sites with significant bank erosion in Fifteenmile Creek Watershed as part of the comprehensive Fifteenmile Watershed action plan supported by Fifteenmile Watershed Council, Wasco County SWCD, and numerous partner agencies and private landowners. It is complementary to the on-going Fifteenmile Creek Habitat Improvement Project led by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

This proposed project was submitted in the Gorge Provincial Review period. ISRP judged the proposal to be fundable, but it was accorded a CBFWA "recommended action" status, making it a lower priority for funding than other actions deemed more urgent.

NWPPC followed the CBFWA priority recommendation. Subsequent to that action, we have secured \$80,000 for project implementation from two other sources: 1) a federal 319 water quality program grant, and 2) a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. This significantly reduces the amount needed under the Fish and Wildlife Program proposal. Instead of the approximately \$200,000 in total funding requested in proposal #21014, the total needed can be reduced to \$120,000.

Given the importance of reducing sediment sources which impact spawning beds of ESA listed winter steelhead, and based on the reduced funding needed from the Fish and Wildlife Program, we respectfully request that the Council reconsider the priority afforded this project and recommend a higher priority so that this work can be done while the other sources of funding are available.

Sincerely,

Ron Graves
District Manager

c: file, c, p, Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
Steve Pribyl, ODFW The Dalles;