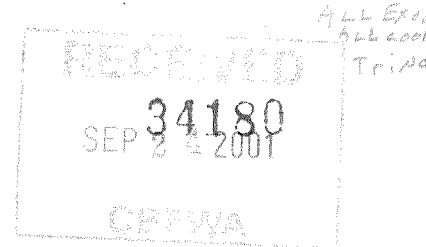




Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621



ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

SEP 19 2001

In reply refer to: KE-4

Mr. Samuel N. Penney, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Dear Chairman Penney:

On behalf of the Administrator, I am responding to your letter dated August 13, regarding Bonneville Power Administration's (Bonneville) funding of tribal habitat restoration projects. As we discussed on August 6, Bonneville is making a transition consistent with the All-H Basin Wide Salmon Recovery Strategy, toward all Federal agencies funding their responsibilities for fish and wildlife mitigation actions, particularly when additional efforts are necessary on the lands they manage. We realize this has impacted you directly on the funding of the High Priority Squaw Creek project in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. In light of this change, we would like to work with you on arranging funding for this project but with the recognition that we are in a transition on future funding of projects done in conjunction with other Federal agencies.

As we also discussed, Bonneville would appreciate your assistance in working with the Forest Service in obtaining their budget support for projects proposed in conjunction with the Nez Perce Tribe. This will help assure their assistance in supporting fish and wildlife measures on the lands they manage, as is intended in the All-H Paper. These actions also support trust and treaty responsibilities the Department of Agriculture shares with other Federal agencies. While Bonneville has supported funding fish and wildlife mitigation work on Forest Service lands in the past, considering the new direction described in the All-H Paper, we feel it is critical for other Federal agencies to bear their ESA and trust responsibilities on lands they manage. Bonneville will consider limited cost-share opportunities where the benefits of Bonneville funded actions may be compromised if actions are not taken on Federal lands. We look forward to working with you and representatives of the Forest Service in the near future on ways to address future needs for fish and wildlife mitigation on Forest Service lands.

If you have any questions, please call me directly at (503) 230-5136. I hope we will be able to discuss this project further with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Smith".

Alexandra B. Smith
Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Mr. Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority
Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of Idaho
Mr. Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester, Region 6
Mr. Doug Marker, Northwest Power Planning Council