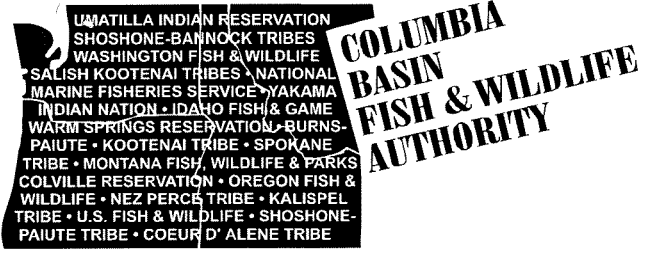


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March 22, 2002

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recommend reconsideration of funding for Project 25029, Westland Ramos Fish Habitat and Restoration Pilot Project, for \$203,000 for completion of the final design component of the project. This project was a fund-fund project in the Columbia Plateau Province that was not funded because it was a new start.

The Westland Irrigation District is requesting a second chance at funding in the Columbia Plateau Province at a lower funding level. The project sponsors have restructured their proposal to fund the project design component. This will serve as a catalyst and mechanism for accessing alternative funding sources to complete the construction, monitoring and evaluation components originally proposed in this project. Funding this request will not inherently obligate additional funding in future years. If additional funding is sought from BPA, the request would be reviewed during the next round of Columbia Plateau Province project review.

The CBFWA Members recommend consideration of this request by the NWPPC. The Anadromous Fish Committee reviewed this request and the CBFWA Members support NWPPC reconsidering funding for this project in the Columbia Plateau Province. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

For Robert Lohn, Vice Chair  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members  
Fish and Wildlife Managers  
Sarah McNary and Bob Austin, BPA  
Doug Marker, NWPPC  
NWPPC Members and Staff

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CBFWA

# 25029  
**WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Phone (541) 449-3272  
Fax (541) 449-1239

P.O. Box 416  
100 W. Coe  
STANFIELD, OR 97875

January 28, 2002

Dr. Brian Allee, Director  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority  
2501 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 200  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Sir:

The Westland Irrigation District respectfully requests that the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) reconsider the Westland-Ramos Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Pilot Project (Project No. 25029), and recommend it for a funding recommendation ("Within-Year Changes") to the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC), during the upcoming Quarterly Review.

We are specifically requesting funds (\$203,000) for completion of the final design component of the project. The project will eliminate significant problems related to adult fish passage and bed load movement that affects fisheries resources and fish facilities operations (BPA funded) in the lower Umatilla River. In the near term, funding to initiate and complete the project design will serve as a catalyst and mechanism for accessing alternative funding sources to complete the construction, monitoring and evaluation components of Phase I (dam notching), and over the long term to accomplish Phase II (channel and riparian habitat restoration to a normal form and function).

Thus, we make this request for reconsideration and recommendation by CBFWA for funding with the understanding that funding of the project design component of Phase I will not inherently obligate funding of subsequent components (Construction and M&E) as stated in our project proposal. However, we do reserve the opportunity to compete for available monies that may arise at a later date during fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

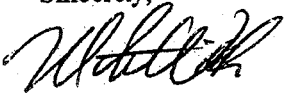
The following emphasizes project accomplishments and benefits:

1. The project has received High Priority and Agree-Fundable ratings for new projects in the Umatilla Sub-Basin from the NWPPC. This project is one of six projects short-listed as fundable by the Council (NWPPC letter, 7 November 2001, "Table 2 Council Approved Columbia Plateau FY 2002-2004 Budget/Other Proposals").
2. The project has involved and received broad stakeholders support within the Umatilla River sub-basin; this support includes that of landowners, irrigation districts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council.

3. The project addresses and resolves upstream fish passage problem at the Feed Canal Dam, which impairs adult steelhead trout and spring chinook during low and intermediate flows. Thus, the project addresses both ESA (listed steelhead trout) and BIOPS related actions.
4. The project resolves a significant, remaining fish passage issue in the lower mainstem Umatilla River, as identified in the Sub-Basin Summary (2001). It is understood that this summary is the framework of the forthcoming updated Umatilla Sub-Basin Plan, which will include the aforementioned fish passage issue.
5. Provision of the requested funds (~\$203,000) will initiate and complete the final design of the dam notching/fish passage removal component of the project. This action will provide the catalyst and mechanism for completing Phase I immediately and securing alternative funds for completing Phase I and accomplishing Phase II (channel and riparian habitat restoration to a normal form and function).
6. A funding recommendation by CBFWA during the Quarterly Review process does not obligate funding of the Construction and M&E components of Phases II, or I; but the WID does reserve the opportunity to compete for funds at a later date during Fiscal Years 2002 through 2004 Cycle.

In closing, the Westland Irrigation District extends its appreciation for your organization's reconsideration of Westland-Ramos Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Pilot Project (Project No. 25029) during the upcoming Quarterly Review process.

Sincerely,



Mike Wick, Manager  
Westland Irrigation District

C.c. U.S. Representative Greg Walden  
1404 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Senator Gordon Smith  
404 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mr. John Brogoitti  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
11 SW Byers Street  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Karl Weist  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1020  
Portland, OR 97204-1384

Mr. Tom Iverson  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1384

Mr. Ron Boyce  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
2501 SW First Avenue/ P.O. Box 59  
Portland, OR 97207

Mr. Steve Wright, Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Mr. Jay Marcotte  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Mr. John Palensky  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Howard Schaller  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
9317 Highway 99, Suite A  
Vancouver, WA 98665

Mr. Gary James, Program Manager  
Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Program  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 638  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Tim Bailey  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
73471 Mytinger Lane  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Aaron Skirvin, Program Manager  
Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Program  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 638  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Ron Costello, Fisheries and Water Resources Consultant  
NW Water Resources Advisory Services  
12614 Eagle Drive  
Burlington, WA 98233

Mr. Craig Cooper, Geologist  
Montgomery Watson Harza  
2353 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Suite 200  
Bellevue, WA 98005