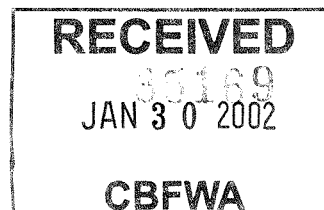


WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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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

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