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January 6, 2000

Mr. Tod Maddock, Chairman
Northwest Power Planning Council
601 22nd Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501

Dear Mr. Maddock:

In our letter of October 28 to you, we acknowledged the good work of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and their contribution to the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia Basin fish & wildlife project prioritization process. Planning and implementing a comprehensive set of fish, wildlife, and habitat enhancement projects for the DVIR and Owyhee Basin is a high priority for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (Tribes).

In their evaluation of FY2000 projects, the ISRP (October 8, 1999) elegantly articulated the rationale to fund the five new Shoshone-Paiute Owyhee Basin proposals under a unified title:

The proposals provide a strong rationale that funding be awarded to initiate the native fish and wildlife program that these 5 proposals present, because of: 1) the absence of any current wildlife or resident fish survey or management programs, 2) the total blockage of the Owyhee by Hell's Canyon Dam, and 3) the presence of potentially strong native stocks of redband trout in the Owyhee Subbasin. Further, since the current proposal solicitation and review process is under consideration of change, the important basic sub-basin survey work that is proposed could go undeveloped while the region develops a new proposal solicitation process. Funding for the development of a fish and wildlife inventory and subbasin plan in the Owyhee would further the proposed strategy to emphasize eco-province planning and peer review, which the ISRP supports.

The ISRP went on to say: "*Collectively, the proposals contain innovative projects of high programmatic value*" ... and that "*The work outlined in the 5 DVIR proposals will address the 4 criteria proposed by the Council for highest priority of recommendation ...*".

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes are in agreement with the ISAB – that the Owyhee Basin proposals are supported by the objective evaluation criteria developed by the Council, and that these proposals should be considered as an integrated group of coordinated projects.

Project ID	Owyhee Subbasin Proposals -- Project Title	Budget
	Develop Management Plan & Assess Fish & Wildlife Of The Owyhee Basin, DVIR	Umbrella
20040	Develop a Fish & Wildlife Management Plan for the Owyhee Basin, DVIR	\$22,411
20041	Develop a Fish & Wildlife Conservation Law Enforcement Plan, DVIR	\$40,872
20094	Assess Resident Fish Stocks Of The Owyhee Basin, DVIR	\$220,799
20092	Inventory Wildlife Species & Populations Of The Owyhee Basin, DVIR	\$185,985
20093	Evaluate the Feasibility for Anadromous Fish Reintroduction in the Owyhee	\$56,851
TOTAL		\$526,918

Initially project proposals were to be written with the umbrella concept. Our Tribes were never directed by NWPPC staff to amend, redesign, or further justify these proposals. Our Tribes have recently been informed by NWPPC staff that only *research projects* will be considered for approval for funding during the next Council meeting in Tacoma. Our Tribes request to have adequate time during the Council meeting in Tacoma to further justify our projects since Council staff has not requested any further information.

We believe that initiating a comprehensive Owyhee Subbasin research plan in fiscal year 2000 is essential to the Tribes ongoing projects. We agree that continued multi-year funding should be based on the development of detailed research protocols integrated into a comprehensive DVIR / Owyhee Basin management plan. Work during the first year will include the development of scientifically valid sampling designs and monitoring protocols for each study component, as well as methods for linking baseline survey and inventory work with a long-term strategic plan for the Owyhee Basin. The Owyhee Subbasin plan will be formulated to insure consistency with the Columbia Basin framework currently under development by the Council.

Sincerely,




Marvin Cota,
Tribal Council Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

cc:

Bob Lohn, Director of Fish & Wildlife, NPPC
Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority
Sarah McNary, Director of Fish & Wildlife, BPA
Guy Dodson Sr., Director of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

Habitat Parks, Fish
and Game

Memo

To: Guy Dodson Sr. Director
From: Vincent Pera 
Date: 01/07/00
Re: Call with Rayolla Jacobson

In a call with Rayolla Jacobson (NWPPC Boise staff) on January 6, 2000, Rayolla informed me that all of the 42 projects considered new and innovative will NOT be funded for FY2000.

During this call she also informed me that our 5 projects were not considered part of the 42 projects. Also, it appears that our five projects are not going to be funded either. Rayolla stated that the Power Planning Council is going to pull the "research" projects out of the 42 projects and call for those projects to submit proposals for funding. The funding will be for one (1) year at \$250,000.

She did not seem to be sure where our projects fell exactly. She suggested we get a meeting with central staff, Bob Lohn, and Brian Allee to figure out where our proposals stand and what our options are for funding.

In conclusion it appears we are not getting any additional funding for FY2000. I think it is in our best interest if we both attend the upcoming NWPPC meeting in Tacoma on January 11,12 2000. If you have any questions please let me know.