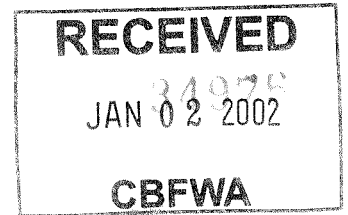




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STATE OF WASHINGTON



December 14, 2001

Mr. Frank L. Cassidy, Chair  
Mr. Tom Karier  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Karier:

The Washington State Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife are jointly submitting several project proposals for funding in the Rolling Provincial Review process for the Columbia Cascade and the Lower Columbia Provinces. We have coordinated on these proposals because they are vital for accomplishing Washington State salmon recovery objectives as well as progressing towards recovery under the Federal Endangered Species Act and implementing the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The State of Washington expects that much of the coordination of these three missions will occur at the regional level under the aegis of the Regional Recovery Boards with full participation of all of the state agencies that comprise the Washington Joint Natural Resources Cabinet. Our joint sponsorship of these proposals represents the beginnings of development of this process in Washington State. We have coordinated the development of these project proposals with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, as well as with their constituent groups in the watersheds we have focussed on. We have also coordinated them with Tribal co-managers, as appropriate.

**Columbia Cascade Province**

**Columbia Cascade Water Rights Acquisition.** The Department of Ecology intends to increase and protect instream flows to benefit at risk salmonid populations and allow stream habitat to recover. Under this proposal, Ecology will purchase or lease senior water rights in the Methow, Wenatchee, Entiat, and Okanogan Subbasins to restore and enhance instream flows where significant needs of listed fish have been identified. The water obtained through the program will be placed in the state's water trust, assuring that the water stays in the rivers and streams.

This proposal is a great opportunity to develop a partnership between BPA, NPPC, and the State of Washington and to establish a long term and effective water rights acquisition



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program throughout the Columbia Cascade Province and the Columbia River basin as a whole. BPA funding will be matched by state funds.

**Expedite establishment of a Water Cleanup Plan (TMDLs) for the Okanogan subbasin.** This project is designed to accurately assess and address water quality factors limiting anadromous species throughout the Okanogan subbasin and develop a water cleanup plan, also called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), outlining strategies to achieve water quality standards for temperature. There are serious water quality problems in the Okanogan subbasin. The subbasin summary noted that water temperature is the predominant factor influencing salmonid survival in the Mainstem of the Okanogan River. The overall success of this project is critical to the enhancement of fish populations in the Okanogan subbasin. This project will contribute information valuable to state, local, tribal, and federal water and salmon restoration actions and priorities to ensure the greatest potential benefit to salmonids.

**Steam Gaging installation and Operations in the Entiat, Okanogan, and Wenatchee subbasins.** Ecology proposes to install an accurate, fully documented, efficient, and standardized system of continuous real-time stream gages and permanent staff gages in three subbasins critical to anadromous fish, the Okanogan, Entiat and Wenatchee subbasins. The gaging networks will provide the stream flow data (with the necessary resolution) that are required to meet the objectives embodied in almost all current water and salmon initiatives and projects. In particular, this proposal will provide quantitative flow data at the subbasin level that can be used to assess the extent to which flow improvement actions (i.e., water rights acquisitions) have been taken as planned and targets for attainment of instream flows have been reached. It will also provide trend data tracking changes in flow conditions over time. This project will contribute information valuable for monitoring and adaptive management programs outlined by NMFS.

As you recall request for funding stream gaging installation and operations was submitted in FY 2001 under the BPA Action Plan solicitation process. The request was made under three proposals: 26016 Entiat Subbasin, 26017 Okanogan Subbasin, and 26029 Wenatchee Subbasin. All three proposals were reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Panel. The Panel found the proposals to be technically sound. In addition the Council approved these projects for funding under the BPA Action Plan solicitation. However, no funds were made available. At your recommendation and because all three proposals are within the Columbia Cascade Province we are resubmitting them under one request.

**Provide Analytic Foundation for Columbia Cascade Subbasin Plans.** This joint state-tribal proposal, supported by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, provides the analytical foundation required to substantially complete the aquatic assessment and management components of subbasin plans in the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan subbasins. We will refine the coarse screen EDT analysis

conducted by the NWPPC, develop working hypotheses on subbasin ecosystems, and define and evaluate alternative strategies to meet biological objectives. Sensitivity analysis will be used to evaluate the effects of uncertainty in habitat conditions and model assumptions, and to assist in the development of a prioritized list protection and restoration activities, as well as a list of research and monitoring needs. Assessment needs of critical priority will be addressed through real time allocation of project personnel.

**Comprehensive Inventory and Prioritization of Fish Passage and Screening Problems in the Wenatchee and Entiat Subbasins.** A watershed based inventory of all fish passage barriers and unscreened or inadequately screened water diversion in the Entiat and Wenatchee subbasins, results will be used in the EDT analysis.

**Columbia Cascade Subbasin Pump Screening Project** initiates a systematic pump-screen mitigation program, and provides reassessment, design, and corrections to meet current fish screening criteria in the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee river subbasins during the next four years.

**Fabricate and Install Three New Fish Screens on Wenatchee River Diversions**

**Evaluate productivity of hatchery and wild steelhead and spring chinook in supplemented tributaries of the upper Columbia River.** This study will provide information essential to relieving some significant data gaps that challenge the success of the region's salmon recovery efforts. This study will contribute information valuable to promoting effective salmon recovery efforts in the upper Columbia River and the Columbia River Basin as a whole.

**Restore Passage in Beaver Creek Drainage to Benefit Spring Chinook, Steelhead and Bulltrout.** Passage in this important drainage within the Methow subbasin is currently blocked by a number of culverts and dams located on private property (additional barriers exist on federal lands). This project proposes to restore connectivity and access by removing passage barriers and restoring important riparian and stream habitat.

**Hanan-Detwiler Passage Improvements.** Complete passage improvements within a side channel of the Entiat River associated with the Hanan-Detwiler irrigation diversion, to provide 100 percent protection from mortality and/or injury for all species and life stages of anadromous and resident salmonids, including listed bull trout, spring chinook, and steelhead.

**Replace Rockview Diversion with Well and Restore Surrounding Instream Habitat on Big Valley Ranch.** The existing diversion and bypass channel located on the Big Valley Ranch recently acquired by WDFW in the Methow, provide rearing and/or

overwintering value to spring chinook and steelhead. This project proposes to remove the screen and headgate, fill in the area and re-plant it with native vegetation, remove the existing check dam, and enhance the channel with instream structures.

**Acquire Land with Water Right Near Chiliwist Creek and Develop Acclimation Site for Summer Chinook and Summer Steelhead.** This parcel on Chiliwist Creek also lies adjacent to the Okanogan River land acquisition and associated water right will benefit habitat by protecting the water resource from consumptive uses, and by preventing further degradation of habitat. WDFW will construct a 10,000 cubic foot spring chinook and steelhead acclimation pond to provide a valuable lower river acclimation and release site.

**Protect Rare Columbia River Frontage Property Through Acquisition of Dole Northwest Inc. Beebe Orchard Property and Associated Water Rights.** Acquire a unique "at-risk" property that includes over a mile of shoreline on the Columbia River mainstem. The 227-acre property, the Dole-Beebe property, is comprised of two parcels located just east of Chelan, one is adjacent to the Chelan Hatchery complex. It includes 6,000 feet of very rare low-bank Columbia River frontage, featuring some of the last remaining, largely undisturbed, mainstem riparian habitat. Purchase will secure two important water rights for 25 cfs (of which WDFW currently uses 4 cfs for its Chelan Hatchery).

### Lower Columbia Province

**Establish a Water Cleanup Plan (temperature TMDL) for the Lewis subbasin.** This project is designed to accurately assess and address water quality factors limiting anadromous species in the Lewis Subbasin and develop a water cleanup plan, also called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) outlining strategies to achieve water quality standards for temperature. There are serious water temperature problems in the East Fork of the Lewis impacting salmonid survival in the subbasin. The project will accurately assess the sources of heat, and recommend strategies to lower the summer temperature to healthy ranges. The overall success of this project is critical to the enhancement of fish populations in the Lewis Subbasin. This project will contribute information valuable for use in the EDT analysis and for developing a regional salmon recovery plan.

**Steam Gaging Installation and Operations in the Lewis, Salmon/Washougal, and Gray/Elochoman Subbasins.** Ecology proposes to install an accurate, fully documented, efficient, and standardized system of continuous, real-time stream gages and permanent staff gages in three subbasins critical to anadromous fish, the Lewis, Salmon/Washougal, and Gray/Elochoman subbasins. The gaging networks will provide quantitative flow data at the subbasin level that can be used to assess the extent to which flow improvement actions have been taken as planned and targets for attainment of instream flows have been reached. It will also provide trend data tracking changes in flow conditions

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over time. Further, this proposal provides reliable data and valuable information in support of local and regional efforts such as EDT modeling, subbasin planning, regional salmon recovery planning and adaptive management decision-making.

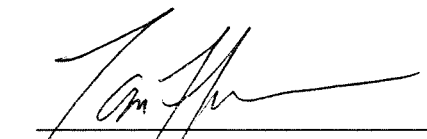
**Re-introduction of Lower Columbia River Chum salmon into Duncan Creek; BPA Project No. 2001-053-00.** The monitoring and evaluation segment of an on-going project: determining the success of the recently restored spawning channels. If necessary, jump-start the population by brood stock collection from adjacent areas.

**Select Area Fishery Evaluation Project; BPA Project No. 199306000.** An ongoing project to develop and enhance fisheries in the lower Columbia River, utilizing hatchery stocks. Monitor and evaluate rearing effects on habitat at net pen sites. Three agencies (WDFW, ODFW, Clatsop Economic Development Council) jointly implement this project.

The level of coordination that we were able to achieve for this submission provides a more integrated approach to development of salmon recovery projects for the State of Washington. It has also provided us with insight into areas that will need to be improved for the next round of project development. We expect to use the subbasin planning process to develop improved procedures for coordination, in concert with the regional recovery boards.

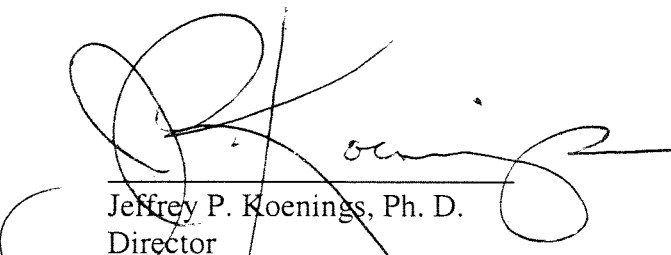
For the present, we believe that you will find these projects meritorious, and worthy of the Council support. Should you have any questions concerning these projects, please do not hesitate to contact us or our key staff working on this project submission, Bill Tweit at WDFW (360) 902-2723 and Hedia Adelsman at Ecology (360) 407-6222 .

Sincerely,



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Tom Fitzsimmons  
Director  
Department of Ecology



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Jeffrey P. Koenings, Ph. D.  
Director  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

cc: Curt Smitch, Special Assistant