



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

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Feb #3

February 1, 2001

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

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) is pleased to forward to the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) the recommendations of the region's fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes regarding proposals submitted in response to the November 2000 solicitation for High Priority projects. The CBFWA's specific recommendations are included in the enclosed report and can be characterized in the following way:

1. The CBFWA agency and Tribal co-managers identified two groups of High Priority projects among the proposals those primarily habitat-oriented projects that met the NWPPC's criteria; and, those, often aimed at collecting necessary information, needed to start other critical actions. In its October 2000 request for comments, the NWPPC identified several categories of actions that need to commence in FY 2001. The CBFWA clarified these High Priority categories in their comments and feel that the current solicitation addresses only part of the region's High Priority needs.
2. The CBFWA found the NWPPC's criteria to be helpful in identifying the proposals that are High Priority for FY 2001 funding. The CBFWA focused on the first three criteria to separate proposals into groups. A number of proposals to collect information or conduct monitoring were not judged to have an immediate benefit to fish survival but are nonetheless necessary first steps toward accomplishing other critical actions. As such they were judged to be High Priority.
3. The only exception to the consensus recommendations relates to Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) project #23082, Protect Fish Habitat through Education and Enforcement. This project cannot be ranked at this time pending resolution of implementation issues that need to be coordinated between CRITFC, Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon State Police (OSP) regarding its linkage to ODFW project #23079. The final ranking for project #23082 will be resolved prior to CBFWA's February 15, 2001 revised High Priority recommendations to the NWPPC.

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr.
February 1, 2001
Page 2

Numerous proposals appeared at first to present in lieu issues (in the sense of Section 4h of the Northwest Power Act). However, the CBFWA's interpretation was that if the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has funded similar activities in the past, then these issues go away.

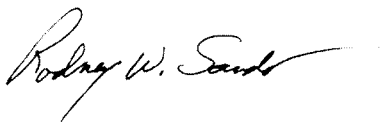
Proposals to acquire lands or easements presented several issues, prompting considerable discussion among the co-managers. We did not reach conclusions in these discussions, except to note that the region needs clearer guidelines for such acquisitions. The CBFWA would like to discuss such guidelines with the NWPPC as soon as possible.

Finally, the CBFWA would like to acknowledge the needs of those fish and wildlife managers whom lost fish and wildlife resources to the hydropower system in areas blocked by dams. These needs to mitigate for the hydropower system should not be lost in the effort by the NWPPC and BPA to address endangered anadromous species. Essentially, regional costs to fulfill BPA's responsibilities for fish and wildlife will amount to more than NWPPC's recommendation for the High Priority category.

If you have questions please call Brian Allee or Tom Giese at 503-229-0191.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodney W. Sando, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Cc: NWPPC Members and Staff
Sarah McNary and Robert Austin, BPA
Brian Allee, CBFWA