NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL

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June 29, 2001

Sarah McNary
Director
Fish and Wildlife Division - KEW
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ms. McNary,

At its June 27 meeting in Pendleton, Oregon, the Northwest Power Planning Council reviewed project proposals submitted for the Bonneville Power Administration's "Action Plan" solicitation. The Council considered the recommendations of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) of the project proposals which were presented in ISRP report 2001-7 on June 21, 2001.

The Council recommends that Bonneville fund the following projects:

Project ID	Title	Sponsor	Subbasin	Request
26006	Trout Creek 2001Streamflow Enhancement	Oregon Water Trust	Deschutes	$133,500
26007	John Day Basin Streamflow Enhancement Project, Summer 2001	Oregon Water Trust	John Day	$73,340
26028	Supplement Flows in Buck Hollow Creek	Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District	Deschutes	$22,826
26011	Improve Stream Flow and Passage for Simcoe Creek Steelhead	Yakama Nation	Yakima	$767,143
23019	Trout Creek Culvert Replacement	USFS	Deschutes	$128,000
23020	Badger Creek Culvert Replacement and Road Closure Projects	USFS	Deschutes	$87,000
23024	Hancock Springs Passage and Habitat Restoration Improvements	YN	Methow	$49,941
26001	Restore Passage Lower Lemhi / Salmon Rivers	State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation	Salmon	$380,000

Project ID	Title	Sponsor	Subbasin	Request
26014	Design, Fabricate, And Install New Huntsville Mill Fish Screen	WDFW	Walla Walla	$255,292
26030	Touchet River Flow Acquisition	Washington Water Trust	Walla Walla	$115,524
26002	Acquire Lostine River water rights	Nez Perce Tribe	Grande Ronde	$150,000
26015	Methow Basin Screening	WDFW	Methow	$250,000
26027	Lake Roosevelt/Colville Tribes Emergency Fish Restoration	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation	Lake Roosevelt	$262,240
23013	Locate, Mark, and Removal of Lost "Ghost" Fishing Nets in Selected Columbia River Reservoirs: A Feasibility Study	CRITFC	Columbia Gorge	$86,109
23028*	Increase Naches River In-stream Flows By Purchasing Wapatox Water Right	YN	Yakima	$4,000,000
23044	Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screening Project.	COY	Yakima	$1,657,500
26020	Holliday Ranch Easement	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	John Day	$5,026,800
26038	Acquire Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Union Gap Reach and Wenas Basin, Yakima River Basin, Washington	Reclamation	Yakima	$3,000,000
26033	Okanogan Watershed Land and Water Rights Acquisition	Colville Confederated Tribes	Okanogan	$3,437,000
26025	LP Ranch Acquisition	Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District	Umatilla	$1,468,042
26026*	Transfer Lemhi Water Users (L-6 to Salmon River (S-14)	State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation	Salmon	$2,860,000

This list represents the "A" and "B" rankings of the ISRP's review. The major distinction in the rankings was the ISRP's view of the immediacy of the benefits to fish under the solicitation criteria. The Council found that the "B" proposals are sound for implementation outside of the provincial review process though their benefits will chiefly occur after this year. The Council also

added to the list land acquisition projects which the ISRP review ranked as "fundable" but were a policy decision to fund in this solicitation process.

The Council recommended that proposal 26036, *Chumstick Creek (North Road) Culvert Replacement,* be deferred to the Columbia Cascade provincial review after closely reviewing a recent within-year reallocation request for the same proposal. The Council staff's recommendation in that decision was that the context of provincial review is necessary to devote the substantial funding requested for a culvert replacement project. The Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee agreed with the staff recommendation in the same meeting where it reviewed Action Plan proposals.

Projects 23028 and 26026 were conditionally approved subject to response by the sponsors to the ISRP comments and further ISRP review. These were rated "defer to provincial review" and "do not fund" respectively. The Council recommended these projects because the ISRP found that they met the solicitation criteria, and because it appears likely that the sponsors will be able to supply the necessary information to satisfy the concerns noted in the ISRP's Action Plan Proposals review. Further, the Council conditionally recommends these projects because, notwithstanding some technical questions, the ISRP report indicates that the projects are likely to provide substantial immediate benefits. In the case of proposal 23028, the ISRP's review of the proposal in the Columbia Plateau provincial review asked for additional information from the project sponsors of quantitative estimates of fish benefits but said, "The project would clearly provide immediate and presumably substantial benefits to fish and wildlife..." (ISRP 2001-6, p. 87). Proposal 26026 promises to supply additional water for fish flows in the Lemhi River (13 cfs) through transfer from the Salmon River. The ISRP report said, "This proposal may offer a water transfer that will benefit fish in the Lemhi while doing minimal harm in the Salmon and could be especially beneficial if the Lemhi instream flow is increased immediately in 2001." The ISRP's questions centered on a need for additional information about potential impacts to the Salmon River. The Council was recently provided a letter from the the chief of fisheries for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game that addressed those issues. We are asking the ISRP to review that response.

We have also provided a brief opportunity for sponsors of the remaining projects to respond to the ISRP review and comments for one further consideration by the ISRP. This is the standard procedure in the provincial review process and has been beneficial to the understanding of proposals. The Council cautioned that this opportunity does not guarantee Council recommendation or Bonneville funding even if the final ISRP review is positive. We have asked project sponsors to provide their responses by July 12. Once the ISRP has commented on the additional responses from proposal sponsors, the Council will make final funding recommendations to Bonneville.

The Council strongly encourages Bonneville to immediately begin contracting for the projects identified above. The Action Plan initiative was founded on a goal of providing *immediate benefits* to fish and wildlife affected by the power emergency response. The projects identified above were developed with that as a defining objective, and rose to the top of the list in their ability to provide direct and immediate benefits in the ISRP and Council reviews conducted to date. Immediate implementation of these projects will maximize their benefits, and begin the process of mitigating impacts resulting from the power emergency operations. Although it is possible that the

Council may make additional project recommendations after the response review ("fix-it loop") for the remaining projects is completed, we would encourage you to not delay the implementation of the currently recommended projects.

Sincerely,

Bob Lohn
Director
Fish and Wildlife Division