

**Bonneville Power Administration  
Fish and Wildlife Program FY98 Proposal Form**

**Section 1. General administrative information**

**Title** Implement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce  
Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan

**Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project** 9702500

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**  
Nez Perce Tribe

**Business acronym (if appropriate)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

Name Don Bryson  
 Mailing Address 201 W. North Street, Rm 113  
 City, ST Zip Enterprise, Or 97828  
 Phone (541) 426-0119  
 Fax (541) 426-3140  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Subcontractors.**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>City, ST Zip</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>
Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District	201 W. North Street, Rm 113	Enterprise, Or 97828	Cynthia Warnock

**NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.**

7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 7.7A, 7.7B, 10.2B.1,

The project supports a healthy Columbia Basin, maintains biological diversity, and provides needed habitat protection.

**NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.**

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**Other planning document references.**

This is a joint project administered by the Nez Perce Tribe and the Wallowa County Court. The Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan that this project helps to implement was developed by a committee made up of representatives from the County government, the Nez Perce Tribe, federal and state agencies, local landowners (including ranching and timber interests) and the environmental community. The Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee has input into the expenditure of the funds.

Other planning document references are:

- 📖 Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan - Implementation pg. 101
  - 📖 Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations/Action Plan, Suggested Long Term Restoration Strategy, pg. 55
  - 📖 Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon - Approach to Recovery, pg.V-1-6
  - 📖 Wy Kan Ush Me Wa Kush Wit - Recommendations, Vol. 1 pg. 5A-2
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**Subbasin.**

Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins

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**Short description.**

Maintenance and/or restoration of salmon habitat through cooperative and voluntary methods is a stated goal in the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan . The Plan documents habitat problems in Wallowa County and suggests solutions. Funding of this project will help to implement the Plan.

**Section 2. Key words**

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish		Construction	X	Watershed
	Resident fish		O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other	X	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement		Wildlife habitat en-
			Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

Other keywords.

### Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9403900	Wallowa County Planner	This project is responsible for coordinating project #9702500 with the Wallowa County Court.
8805301	Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project	Fish need good habitat which this project will help to supply.
9604400	Grande Ronde Basin Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Working to improve habitat conditions in the Lostine River, one of the streams included in the Captive Brood program.

### Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Obj 1,2, 3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Implement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan.	1	Determine equipment needs for watershed monitoring and purchase needed items, either solely are in part through project funds.
		2	Determine which projects are appropriate for this funding and fund them solely or as part of a cost share.
		3	Determine which expenses associated with implementing the County/Tribe Plan are appropriate for funding with project funds.
		4	Work with local landowners to develop habitat projects that will improve watershed conditions.
		5	Foster watershed stewardship through

			education.

**Objective schedules and costs**

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	ongoing		100.00

**Schedule constraints.**

1. NEPA is required on federally funded projects.
2. NMFS/USF&W consultation may be needed and Biological Assessments will be needed.
3. Fill and Removal Permits may be needed.
4. Project opportunities may occur which were not anticipated.
5. Land owner availability for projects.
6. Unforeseen issues.

**Completion date.**

When salmon, steelhead, and bull trout are delisted.

**Section 5. Budget**

***FY98 budget by line item***

Item	Note	FY98
Personnel		\$0.00
Fringe benefits		\$0.00
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		\$4,000
Operations & maintenance		\$0.00
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		\$0.00
PIT tags	# of tags:	\$0.00
Travel		\$0.00
Indirect costs		\$2,500
Subcontracts		\$10,000.00
Other		\$33,500.00

<b>TOTAL</b>		\$50,000.00
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**Note:** All projects will have a minimum 25% cost-share.

***Outyear costs***

<b>Outyear costs</b>	<b>FY99</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY01</b>	<b>FY02</b>
Total budget	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
O&M as % of total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Section 6. Abstract**

The Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan (County/Tribe Plan) was developed by a local ad-hoc committee comprised of the County Court (government), Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, local landowners (including ranching and timber interests), U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the environmental community. The Committee analyzed all watersheds in Wallowa County for habitat problems and ranked the problems as a high, medium, or low priority, or as needing study. A list of possible solutions was developed for each problem identified. The committee recognized that watershed health could only be achieved if the watershed was treated as a whole (ie. from ridge top to ridge top).

This project is to help implement the County/Tribe Plan. As such, there is close coordination between the County Court and the Tribe on prioritizing expenditures from this project. A Natural Resource Advisory Committee has been established, with an associated technical committee, that reviews issues relating to natural resources and advises the Court.

The objectives and expected outcomes for this project are: 1) foster watershed stewardship through education, 2) work with local landowners to develop habitat projects that will improve watershed conditions, and 3) provide watershed conditions suitable for salmonids in Wallowa County.

The FWP concepts that this project supports are: 1) a healthy Columbia Basin, 2) maintain biological diversity, and 3) provide needed habitat protection.

Monitoring will consist of uniform monitoring protocols (ODEQ and EPA), with equipment being shared by the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, County Extension, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Forest Service. A comprehensive watershed level monitoring program is being developed for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program and all projects will have a monitoring component.

The process of restoring watersheds will take decades to complete but initial benefits of improving instream flows and eliminating passage problems are immediate

**Section 7. Project description**

**a. Technical and/or scientific background.**

The Grande Ronde River subbasin was historically an important producer of anadromous fish, including: chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), sockeye (*O. nerka*), coho (*O. kisutch*), and steelhead (*O. mykiss*). All of these species were present in the Wallowa River. Early fall chinook (which spawned from mid-September through October), sockeye, and coho are now extinct. The remaining populations are at severely depressed levels when compared to historical levels. The Imnaha River also produced chinook, coho, and steelhead, of which coho are extinct and fall chinook may now be strays from the mainstem Snake River. Spring/Fall Chinook populations are seriously depressed. No sport harvest on chinook has occurred in Wallowa County since 1974. The Nez Perce Tribe has closed the County's streams to Tribal harvest. Summer steelhead harvest has been hatchery only in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins since the mid-1980s.

The major causes of the loss of anadromous fish production in Wallowa County are: habitat destruction (both in-basin and out-of-basin), lower Columbia and ocean fishing pressure, turn-of-the-century in-basin hatchery programs, and dam construction on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Carmichael and Boyce (1986) summarized spring chinook production potentials for streams in the Wallowa drainage and estimated the loss in production potential due to in-basin habitat degradation. The decline in production potential since the late 1950s was estimated to be 20 percent in the Lostine River and Bear Creek and 70 percent in the Wallowa River and Hurricane Creek. No estimate was made for Prairie Creek or the Imnaha subbasin and the Wenaha River was felt to be unchanged. No estimates were made for steelhead streams. Habitat condition trends are generally stable but target fish species are declining.

Quality habitat is essential for continued existence of Snake River salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. It is imperative that local landowners be involved in the decision making process so that they will have ownership in the solutions. The big underlying assumption for habitat issues in Wallowa County is that local landowners, when provided with sufficient information, can make land management decisions that will allow them to continue to earn a living while providing habitat for fish and wildlife. *The Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993) emphasizes the need to work in the entire watershed (ridge top to ridge top), not just stream bottoms and that political boundaries should not dictate what can be accomplished.

These concepts are expressed in the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993), the *Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations-Action Plan* (Grande Ronde 1994), Section 7 of the *Columbia River Basin Fish and Wild Program* (NPPC 1994), Chapter V, Section 1 of the *Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon* (NMFS 1995), and Chapter 5, Recommendations in the *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi-Wa-Kish-Wit* (CRITFC 1995).

Wallowa County falls within the high to moderate range for Composite Ecological Integrity Ratings according to the Status of the Interior Columbia Basin, Summary of

Scientific Findings (USFS 1996) which implies that habitat “fixes” will be less expensive now than later if habitat conditions are allowed to deteriorate. It is expected that this project will result in an upward trend in watershed habitat conditions and instream survival for fish with benefits for wildlife. Mainstem passage may not improve which could negate the benefits of increased survival from egg-to-smolt. Ocean and estuary survivals can depend on large scale climatic effects which may improve or decrease survival.

Key Project Personnel:

Publications:

- 1) *Bear Creek Action Plan* (Bryson 1995)
- 2) *Lostine Habitat Assessment* (Bryson 1995)

Participation:

- 1) *Upper Grande Ronde River Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan* (USFS 1992)
- 2) *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993)
- 3) *Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations-Action Plan* (Grande Ronde 1994)
- 4) *Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project* (Mobrand Biometrics 1997)
- 5) *Lostine River Instream Flow Study-Draft* (R2 Resource 1997)
- 6) *Bear Creek Fish Enhancement-Wallowa County, Oregon* (Reckendorf 1996)

## **b. Proposal objectives.**

Objectives and outcomes:

1. Completed watershed restoration projects.
2. Increased numbers of new landowners involved.
3. Improved water quality and quantity.
4. Measurable improvements in watershed habitat conditions.

## **c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.**

Quality habitat is essential for continued existence of Snake River salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. It is imperative that local landowners be involved in the decision making process so that they will have ownership in the solutions. The big underlying assumption for habitat issues in Wallowa County is that local landowners, when provided with sufficient information, can make land management decisions that will allow them to continue to earn a living while providing habitat for fish and wildlife. *The Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993) emphasizes the need to work in the entire watershed (ridge top to ridge top), not just stream bottoms and that political boundaries should not dictate what can be accomplished.

This project is split between planning, coordination, habitat assessments, and project implementation. It is unlikely that project implementation will be successful over the long term without good planning, assessment, and coordination. This position coordinates with the Wallowa County Court, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa County Extension Service, Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Section 7, pg 7-1 of the FWP (NPPC 1994) emphasizes the need to work with local communities, the need for coordination between the public and private sector, the utility of developing a model watershed program, and the need to work with existing local and regional programs rather than creating new processes. The *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993) emphasizes the need to work at the watershed level and across ownership lines. In the “outline for Implementation section (page 101), the need to develop the Natural Resource Advisory Committee is described. The *Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations-Action Plan* (Grande Ronde 1994) states in the Introduction (pg 1-2) Goals (pg 3), and Model Watershed Organization (pg 4-6) the need to work with the local community and to work at a watershed level, not just in the riparian zone. In the Suggested Long-Term Restoration Strategy section (pg 55) the need for an interdisciplinary approach to watershed level analyses and the importance of M&E and adaptive management. The *Wy-Kan-Ush-Me-Wa-Kush-Wit* (CRITFC 1995) (pg 5A-2) describes the need to “Employ voluntary, multi-stakeholder collaborative approaches to protect, restore and monitor natural resources and to resolve natural resource conflicts”. In the *Proposed Recovery Plan for the Snake River Salmon* (NMFS 1995) Approach to Recovery section (pg V-1-6), they state “An ecosystem approach that emphasizes integrated Federal and Non-Federal land management is needed”. All of the above documents emphasize the need for collaborative and coordinated efforts across property lines and the need to work at a watershed level.

Equipment purchased under this project will be shared with the Wallowa SWCD, the Wallowa Extension Office, ODFW, and the USFS. There is close cooperation between this project and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed project (#9202601 and #9402700). Habitat projects can be coordinated with the NEOH program (#8805301) and the Captive Brood Project (#9604400).

**d. Project history**

**THERE ARE NO ATTACHED SPREAD SHEETS**

This project originally was numbered 5520900 (Wallowa/Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan Implementation) and started in 1997. No reports other than quarterly and project reports are expected from this project. Project monitoring will determine if the projects need to be modified to achieve expected outcomes.

The County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe, through this project, subcontracted with the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District to provide staff to help facilitate the operation of the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee in its efforts to implement the County/Tribe Plan. The help will entail taking and publishing minutes and sending out meeting notices and agendas for the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee. There may be a need to attend other types of meetings and to operate monitoring equipment used in the field.

Part of this budget was used in the spring to purchase Oregon certified seed, in cooperation with ODFW, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, BPA, and local landowners) to reseed areas along the Washington/Oregon border that had slumped during the January 1, 1997 rain on snow event. The purpose was to reduce the potential for noxious weeds from establishing populations in Wallowa County.

Part of the budget will be used to finalize the Lostine IFIM document.

Part of the budget was used to contract with Beak Consultants to help the County prepare documentation and testimony for the public meeting in Boise, Id. on the proposed Bull Trout listing and to prepare for a meeting with NMFS and USF&WS in preparation for pursuing a county wide Habitat Conservation Plan.

Part of the budget each year will be committed to funding low cost ( 100-1500 dollars) projects for which no funding presently exists. Examples of the types of project which would be considered are: we buy the watering trough and plumbing and the rancher installs it to provide off-stream watering for livestock, we buy and deliver the rock and the rancher uses it to develop a hardened crossing for livestock, or we buy the riparian plants and the landowner plants and maintains them. In other words, we will develop numerous low cost projects which cumulatively could have a measurable and positive effect on the watershed.

**e. Methods.**

Projects will generally be located in focus areas developed by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed and will be developed using the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan (Wallowa County 1993) and the Wallowa County portion of the Eco-System Diagnosis and Treatment project (Mobrand 1997).

All projects have a monitoring component and a watershed level monitoring plan is being developed for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. Temperature monitoring conforms to ODEQ standards and other monitoring conforms to EPA protocols (EPA 1993).

The big underlying assumption for habitat issues in Wallowa County is that local landowners, when provided with sufficient information, can make land management decisions that will allow them to continue to earn a living while providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Other assumptions are that local residents do not control what happens downstream from Wallowa County and that Wallowa County residents can not save chinook salmon in the Snake River basin nor can they insure that any salmon will survive to return to the county. Another assumption is that environmental attributes found in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins will improve from implementation of this project which will benefit fish and wildlife. However, mainstem passage may not improve which could negate the benefits of increased survival from egg-to-smolt.

A major uncertainty is that a lack of success in returning salmon to the watersheds could discourage people from continuing to participate. Other uncertainties are that some projects may not perform as expected and that natural events such as floods or fires may damage or destroy habitat restoration projects or overshadow any improvements in habitat conditions resulting from the projects. Many projects may not show significant changes in habitat conditions for several years which makes mid-course corrections difficult.

**f. Facilities and equipment.**

The Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation Service office and computer are provided for the project. Monitoring equipment may be purchased if a need is shown to exist in the County. Most of the equipment needed for the project already is owned by either the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa County Extension, ODFW, or the USFS.

**g. References.**

Type here (provide answers in paragraph form)

Bryson, Don. 1995. Bear Creek Action Plan. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.

Bryson, Don. 1995. Lostine River Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.

Bryson, Don. 1998. Big Sheep Creek Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.

Carmichael, Rich and Ron Boyce. 1986. U.S. v Oregon Grande Ronde River Spring Chinook Production Report. ODFW. La Grande, Or.

Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission. 1995. *Wy-Kan-Ush-Me-Wa-Kush-Wit-Spirit of the Salmon*. Portland, Or.

Environmental Protection Agency. 1993. Monitoring Protocols to Evaluate Water Quality Effects of Grazing Management on Western Rangeland Streams. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Seattle, Wa.

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. 1994. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations-Action Plan. La Grande, Or.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1995. Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon. Portland, Or.

Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1995. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Big Sheep Creek. Enterprise, Or.

Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1996. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Little Sheep Creek. Enterprise, Or.

Mobrand Biometrics, Inc. 1997. Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project. Vashon, Wa.

R2 Resource Consultants, Inc. 1997. Lostine River Instream Flow Study-Draft. Redmond, Or.

Reckendorf & Associates. 1996. Bear Creek Fish Enhancement-Wallowa County, Oregon. Salem, Or.

Wallowa County. 1993. Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan. Enterprise, Or.

## **Section 8. Relationships to other projects**

This project is a cooperative effort by Wallowa County and the Nez Perce Tribe and will benefit from the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee's Technical Committee and Standing Committee . This project is supervised by the individual employed under project #9403900.

The two hatchery programs (NEOH-8805301 and the Captive Broodstock program-960440) will benefit from improvements in the habitat resulting from projects implemented under this program.

Focus watersheds identified by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program's Technical Committee along with the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan and the Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment Project will help guide project selection.

## Section 9. Key personnel

No FTEs are associated with this project.

DONALD R. BRYSON

EDUCATION: University of Washington

B.S Biological Oceanography 1970

B.S Fisheries 1973

B.A Zoology 1973

EXPERIENCE:

NEZ PERCE TRIBE 7/87 to present

- Presently the position name is *Wallowa Basin Planner*. The job involves representing the Nez Perce Tribe as a member of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board of Directors and Technical and Standing Committees, the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) as an alternate and on the NRAC's Standing and Technical Committees, and also as a member of the Wallowa Resources Steering Committee and as an alternate on the Board. The position also works closely with State and Federal agencies, the Wallowa County Court and Planning Department, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, and various public forums. The job entails working with local landowners to develop fisheries habitat projects and Watershed Action Plans/ Comprehensive Resource Management Plans, and to develop watershed habitat analyses working with local management agencies. Coordination between all local forums is essential for the successful completion of this project.

- Initial duties were to be involved in all habitat issues relating to the reservation and ceded lands of the Nez Perce Tribe. This territory includes six major river systems, three states, and nine national forests in three regions. This took coordination with various federal and state agencies and other Tribes. The duties were subsequently increased to include writing an evaluation of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery program in the Grande Ronde River, the Subbasin Plan for the Imnaha River, and the initial phases of the Grande Ronde Hatchery Master Plan under the N.E. Oregon Hatchery master planning process. All of these watersheds are in northeast Oregon. Participated on four public ad hoc committees organized by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to develop management plans for two Wild and Scenic River segments and one study stream in Northeast Oregon and a management plan for the lower Grande Ronde River in Washington. I was also contracted out to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to write a fisheries monitoring plan during the last two months of the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Tepee Butte Fire salvage.

Participated with the Wallowa County government, State agencies, local residents and industry, and conservationist to develop the Wallowa County - Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan. Participated in the development of the Union and Wallowa Counties' Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Project with Mobrand Biometrics to provide technical support for planning relating to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed project and local planning.

- Previous employers:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Quinault Indians
- U.S. Forest Service

Participated in the following publications:

- 1) *Upper Grande Ronde River Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan*
- 2) *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan*
- 3) *Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations-Action Plan*
- 4) *Bear Creek Action Plan*
- 5) *Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project*

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

Local landowner meetings are presently being held in the Bear Creek, Lostine River, Big Sheep Creek, and Little Sheep Creek watersheds. These meetings provide a forum for providing and discussing information and have resulted in the development of an Action Plan for Bear Creek and CRMPs for Big Sheep Creek and Little Sheep Creek.

There are monthly coordination meetings between the County Court, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa SWCD, NRCS, ODFW, USFS, ODF. These coordination meetings are held to keep the various agencies and entities informed of new information and of activities occurring in the County and to eliminate the overlap of activities where desirable. This helps to utilize scarce resources in the most economical fashion.

There is close coordination with the County Court and Planning Department through participation on the County Natural Resource Advisory Committee and its associated Standing Committee and Technical Committee.