

**Bonneville Power Administration Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal Form**

Section 1. General administrative information

Idaho Model Watersheds Admin./Impl. Support

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9202603

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Business acronym (if appropriate) SCC

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
N/A			

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

7.6, 7.7

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

ESA consultation done on a site specific project by project basis.

Other planning document references.

Project operates under the "Model Watershed Plan" 1995 for the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, and East Fork of the Salmon Rivers.

Subbasin.

Lemhi River, Pahsimeroi River, East Fork of the Salmon River, Salmon River

Short description.

Provide a basis of coordination and cooperation between local, private, state, tribal and federal fish and land managers, land users, land owners and other affected entities to manage the biological social and economic resources to protect, restore and enhance anadromous and resident fish habitat.

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	+	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
		X	Planning/admin.	+	Supplementation
			Enforcement	+	Wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration
			Acquisitions		

Other keywords.

Fish habitat improvement, fish passage improvement

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9306200	Salmon River Anadromous Fish Passage Enhancement, Idaho	Coordinates implementation of passage projects with Soil Conservation Districts
9401700	Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Enhancement Projects	Coordinates implementation of habitat projects with Soil Conservation Districts

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Coordinate activities for fish habitat maintenance, enhancement and restoration.	a	Meet regularly with SWCD boards and Advisory and Technical Committees to plan, approve and implement projects.
2	Coordinate activities that keep people involved in the Model Watershed process.	b	Conduct and participate in tours and seminars to further education of local participants.
3	Work with groups and individuals in the Upper Salmon Basin to investigate expansion of the MWP.	c	Meet with groups in the Upper Salmon Basin to assist with work and projects.
4	Document historical development and implementation of MWP.	d	Maintain and update progress with photos and narrative on regular basis. Follow through with all aspects of project implementation to enhance fish habitat.

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	01/1999	12/1999	40
2	01/1999	12/1999	30
3	01/1999	12/1999	10
4	01/1999	12/1999	20

Schedule constraints.

No constraints exist at this time. General project designs and draft approvals are in place.

Completion date. 2005

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel	Coordinator, part time office clerk, SCC staff support	69,000
Fringe benefits	Coordinator, part time office clerk, SCC staff support	23,000
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Office space, equipment, supplies, vehicle lease	24,000
Operations & maintenance	Information & Education	3,600
Travel	Coordinator, office clerk, SCC staff	9,000
Indirect costs	10% overhead to SCC	15,900
Subcontracts	Professional Support (Archaeology, Hatch Box Program, T&E Species Consultation, SWCD Technical Assistance)	25,000
Other	Advisory committee, Soil Conservation District Expenses	5,500
TOTAL		175,000

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003
Total budget	175,000	175,000	180,000	185,000
O&M as % of total	0	0	0	0

Section 6. Abstract

The Model Watershed Project (MWP) was initiated by the Northwest Power Planning Council in 1992 to improve chinook salmon and steelhead habitat in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, and East Fork of the Salmon River watersheds. These watersheds provide habitat for approximately 75% of the upper Salmon River anadromous fish. The goal of the project is to maintain, enhance, and restore anadromous and resident fish habitat while also achieving and maintaining a balance between resource protection and resource use on a holistic watershed management basis. This project is administered through The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and is

coordinated through the Idaho Model Watershed Project Advisory and Technical Committee in conjunction with the Lemhi and Custer Soil and Water Conservation Districts and various local, state and federal agencies. Additionally, the MWP provides a foundation for other groups such as the Lemhi County Riparian Habitat Conservation Agreement, Custer County Salmon River Conservation Plan, Idaho DEQ Basin and Watershed Advisory Groups, Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation Program, IDFG screen program and others.

The goal of the project is to maintain, enhance, and restore anadromous and resident fish habitat while also achieving and maintaining a balance between resource protection and resource use on a holistic watershed management basis. Specific habitat goals, as outlined in the Model Watershed Plan, (1995).

The coordination and administration currently funded by BPA is essential to the continuation of habitat and migration enhancement project work in the Upper Salmon River Basin along with being the glue which holds the community together with responsible resource management. This work can only happen with the cooperation of local communities, SWCD's, private landowners, NRCS, IDFG, BLM, USFWS, BoR, USFS, Tribes, NMFS, BPA and others.

Section 7. Project description

1. Technical and/or scientific background.

With the loss of anadromous fish runs in the Snake River system, habitat and migration problems have been closely scrutinized. The Model Watershed Projects were established by the NPPC to attempt to link spawning, rearing and migration habitat enhancements with current land use practices through a watershed approach. Both government agencies and resource users are very interested in anadromous fish recovery and are willing to participate in projects that accomplish these objectives.

Since 1993, over forty different habitat and passage projects have been completed with direct benefits to fish runs. These include reducing migration barriers, increasing instream flows at critical periods and improving habitat conditions for all life-stages of fish.

In the three MWP watersheds, approximately 90% of the currently occupied spawning habitat for anadromous fish occurs on private land. Working with private landowners and irrigators on "fish" projects requires local support, trust and involvement from all parties. The MWP has established these relationships and is currently implementing projects outlined in the Model Watershed Plan 1995. The project participants wish to continue making significant improvements for fish and their habitat.

b. Proposal objectives.

Coordinate between various private, local, state, and federal agencies to implement anadromous and resident fish and wildlife habitat and migration enhancement projects to minimize duplication of efforts and maximize use of limited resources.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

The MWP has direct significance to the Regional Fish and Wildlife Program. Section 7 of the 1994 FWP specifically addresses model watershed projects and their role in helping to reach the goals and objectives stated. The MWP bridges the gap between private, local, state and federal management on a watershed basis. Habitat issues such as spawning, rearing and migration habitat are being directly addressed and enhanced for anadromous and resident fish and wildlife. Specific aspects of habitat management such as sediment, bank stability, water quality, large woody debris, instream flow, riparian vegetation are being addressed on a watershed basis rather

than haphazardly.

d. Project history

The Lemhi MWP was established in 1992 with an Administration budget for coordination and support #9202603. Project contracts were later added in 1993 for fish passage #9306200 and 1994 for fish habitat enhancement #9401700. This project is highly successful due to the cooperation of local landowners, SWCD boards, government agency personnel and others. It is common to hear “we all want to see the salmon and steelhead back here and we are willing to do our part”.

The MWP Plan was finalized in 1995 and outlines habitat goals and objectives. We are currently in the implementation phase with around twenty projects per year constructed from BPA grants and other funding sources. Coordination is important to make this all come together. Without continued coordination, the projects would most likely not be implemented or fail due to poor communication and understanding.

Results are large in scope. High priority issues have been identified and resolved. These include major improvements to adult migration barriers in the lower Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Rivers and grazing management on fourteen miles of the Lemhi River and seven miles on the Pahsimeroi River. All are active spawning and rearing habitat for salmon/steelhead.

A twelve-mile plan has been developed for the most critical spawning and rearing habitat in the East Fork including bank stabilization, grazing management and irrigation improvement. Four large projects are being implemented to meet objectives on up to eight miles of stream habitat with a coordinated effort instead of piece meal. BPA funds are only part of the project implementation

e. Methods.

The MWP is based on people working together to manage resources. This only happens with effective communication, trust and a willingness to work together to carry out decisions reached by consensus. These decisions are based on committees of people with diverse expertise including local and historical as well as scientific knowledge. The MWP attempts to integrate this wealth of knowledge and put it toward reaching goals and objectives. The awareness of the people in the Salmon River Basin has greatly increased anadromous fish recovery efforts and the projects have been very successful and effective because the people believe in the MWP. The basic methods are outlined in the MWP Plan. Goals will reduce mortality and enhance spawning, rearing and migration habitat in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi and East Fork of the Salmon Rivers.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The MWP is funded for Coordination/Support including needed facilities. Other entities involved play a key role in making this process work including office space, equipment for project survey, design and construction. **Without the coordination funding and the help from the agencies and entities involved, the site-specific projects would not happen.**

g. References.

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and Bonneville Power Administration. 1995. Model Watershed Plan for the Lemhi Pahsimeroi and East Fork of the Salmon Rivers, Idaho. DOE/BP-2772, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

The Lemhi MWP was established in 1992 with an Administration budget for coordination and support #9202603. Project contracts were later added in 1993 for fish passage #9306200 and 1994 for fish habitat enhancement #9401700.

We are currently in the implementation phase with around 10-20 projects per year constructed from BPA grants among other funding sources. We want to emphasize the importance of the coordination aspect to make this all come together. **Without continued coordination, the projects would most likely not be implemented or fail in the long-term due to poor communication and understanding.**

Section 9. Key personnel

(Not yet named), Project Coordinator, Full Time

Duties: Implements “Model Watershed Plan” on a watershed scale. Works with MWP Advisory Committee and Technical Team to identify and evaluate the impacts of all proposed and implemented actions to fish habitat and fish passage projects on a watershed scale. Provide coordination and leadership in an integrated effort of watershed management on private and public lands. Works with other agencies and landowners in evaluating the impacts of all proposed and implemented actions on watershed management. Supervises office coordinator and project planner. Coordinates and manages funding and budget expenditures for MWP. Assists participants in grant proposals and funding needs for watershed projects. Prepares work plans and budgets for administration, passage, and habitat projects in coordination with the Custer and Lemhi Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Katie Slavin, Office Coordinator, ½ time or 85 hours a month.

Duties: General office duties including meeting minutes, agendas, filing, computer data entry, and correspondence. Also responsible for newsletters, news releases, and poster board display. Finalizes quarterly reports to BPA and assists with preparation of work plans and budgets.

Allen Bradbury, Project Planner, Lemhi Soil Conservation District employee (Full Time)

Duties: Assist Project Coordinator with planning and implementation of projects at all phases. Collect information and data on projects, meet with landowners or landmanagers and negotiate contracts for funding. Monitors past and on-going projects and follow-up with funding agencies and landowners.

Kathy Weaver, SCC Program Coordinator, 5% of staff time dedicated to MWS

Duties: Assist with meeting facilitation, information and education consultation and training to MWP Coordinator and Clerk.

Biff Burleigh, SCC Project Specialist, 5% of staff time dedicated to MWS

Duties: Perform liaison between SCC, SWCD’s, NRCS, and Project Coordinator. Assist Coordinator with progress reports and assess project needs as requested.

SCC Secretarial, SCC staff support clerical, Temporary, part time.

Duties: Employee is responsible for processing and paying all MWP expenses including salaries, office rent, travel, supplies, and equipment leases. All financial transactions are paid from Boise SCC office.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

The MWP has an aggressive information and education program. The MWP office publishes three newsletters per year which are mailed to all postal patrons in Lemhi and Custer counties plus many other interested parties. Three to four tours of MWP project sites are conducted which are attended by state representatives, county commissioners, interested citizens, agency personnel. All three MWP office employees participate in public speaking and presentations to elementary school children, community members, government officials, and university professors.