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## PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

### Section 1. General administrative information

**Title of project**

Wallowa Basin Project Planner

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**BPA project number:** 9403900

**Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy):** 10/1999  **Multiple actions?**

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**

Nez Perce Tribe

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**Business acronym (if appropriate)** NPT

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

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

7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 10.2C

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

N/A

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**Other planning document references**

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

All of the above plans, developed by Federal and State agencies, Tribes, local governments, and landowners, support the concepts and activities of BPA Project #9403900 (Wallowa County Planner).

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**Short description**

Act as the liaison between the Nez Perce Tribe and Wallowa County. Help coordinate efforts in Wallowa County between the Tribe, County Court, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, local landowners, and state and federal agencies.

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**Target species**

chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout

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**Section 2. Sorting and evaluation****Subbasin**

Grande Ronde, Imnaha

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**Evaluation Process Sort**

<b>CBFWA caucus</b>	<b>Special evaluation process</b>	<b>ISRP project type</b>
Mark one or more caucus	If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both	Mark one or more categories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anadromous fish <input type="checkbox"/> Resident fish <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation & management <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat acquisitions

**Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects**

***Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships.*** List umbrella project first.

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>

***Other dependent or critically-related projects***

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>	<b>Nature of relationship</b>
9202601	Grande Ronde Model Watershed	Implements project 9202601 in

	Administration	Wallowa County and shares other project information.
9402700	Grande Model Watershed Project Implementation	Member of the Technical Committee which determines technical competence of project proposals and the Board which decides on the project's fundability.
9702500	County/Tribe Plan Implementation	Manages project 9702500.
8805301	Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project	Provides technical advise and the habitat/natural production tie.
9604400	Grande Ronde Basin Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Provide technical advise and the habitat/natural production tie.

## Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

### *Past accomplishments*

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1994	Bear Creek Action Plan.	
1995	Lostine River Habitat Assessment.	
1995	Combined three irrigation diversion structures on the Wallowa River into one structure with built in fish passage. This eliminated three annual pushup dams.	Yes
1996	Converted annual push-up irrigation diversion structure into a permanent structure with built-in fish passage on the lower Lostine River.	Yes
1997	Converted three annual push-up irrigation diversion structures into permanent structures with built-in fish passage on the lower Lostine River.	Yes
1997	Constructed a low flow channel in the lower three miles of Bear Creek to facilitate late season passage of spring chinook to the spawning grounds.	Yes
1994	Seven stream gages were installed at irrigation diversion structures in Bear Creek.	
1995	Twenty-nine stream gages installed at irrigation diversion structures in the Lostine and Wallowa rivers. Five additional gages were installed on the	

	mainstems of Bear Creek and the Wallowa and Lostine rivers and two abandoned USGS gages were reinstalled.	
1996	Completed the Eco-System Diagnosis and Treatment project for Wallowa County.	
1997	Completed the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology study on the Lostine River.	
1998	Revised the hatchery/natural production computer model to include a sliding scale involving Oregon's Wild Fish Policy as per the dispute resolution settlement stemming from the 1993 spring chinook run in the Imnaha River.	
1995	Forty-six habitat projects approved in Wallowa County through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in 1994-1995	Still being determined
1996	Nineteen habitat projects approved in Wallowa County through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.	Still being determined
1997	Eleven habitat projects approved in Wallowa County through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.	Still being determined
1998	Ten habitat projects approved in Wallowa County through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.	Still being determined

***Objectives and tasks***

<b>Obj 1,2,3</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Task a,b,c</b>	<b>Task</b>
1	Implement the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in Wallowa County.	a	Participate as a Board member, Standing Committee member, and Technical Committee member, representing the Nez Perce Tribe.
		b	Act as the Wallowa Basin Project Planner counterpart to the Union County planner that works directly for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.
2	Implement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan.	a	Participate as the Nez Perce Tribe's representative on Wallowa County's Natural Resource Advisory

			Committee, and its associated Standing Committee and Technical Committee.
		b	Participate in the development, monitoring, and updating of Comprehensive Resource Management Plans and Action Plans and developing individual Land Management Plans with parties active in Wallowa County, as called for in the County/Tribe Plan.
3	Facilitate coordination, cooperation, communication, and planning between Wallowa County and the Nez Perce Tribe, within Wallowa County, and between Wallowa County and Union County.	a	Coordinate with the Nez Perce Tribe on a technical and policy level.
		b	Work as Tribe-to-County liaison/representative bringing the Tribe's perspectives to the planning process.
		c	Coordinate with the GRMWP, NRCS, SWCD, ODFW, USFS, BLM, BOR USF&WS, NMFS, the Wallowa County Court, and others as needed.
		d	Represent the Tribe in monthly coordination meetings facilitated by the County Court.
		e	Participate in and facilitate local landowner meetings.
4	Facilitate project planning and development.	a	Develop habitat project proposals as needed, working with landowners and appropriate agencies and entities.
		b	Participate in the GRMW's, GWEB's, and Wallowa County NRAC's Technical Committee forums and the GRMW Board.
		c	Provide coordination and technical input for the Tribe on USFS and BLM activities (eg. Timber sales, grazing allotments, recreation, land swaps, culturally important plants)

			and on USCOE/State 404 permit application.
5	Facilitate project implementation and monitoring.	a	Write Biological Assessments for habitat restoration projects proposed by the NRCS, SWCD, private landowners, or NPT.
		b	Complete NEPA compliance checklists as needed.
		c	Complete USCOE/State 404 permit applications as needed.
		d	Insure that all on-the-ground projects include a project specific monitoring plan.
		e	Participate in the development of a watershed level and basin level monitoring plan for Wallowa and Union counties.
		f	Participate in the annual spawning ground surveys with ODFW,USFS, and the CTUIR.
6	Provide technical help as needed for the development of the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program in Wallowa County and the on-going operation of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery program in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins.	a	Attend interagency and in-house meetings as needed.
		b	Revise and expand the hatchery/natural production model as needed.
		c	Provide computer modeling results as needed.
		d	Participate with ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on the development of the Annual Operating Plan for the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery program.

**Objective schedules and costs**

Obj #	Start date mm/yyyy	End date mm/yyyy	Measureable biological objective(s)	Milestone	FY2000 Cost %
1	4/1994				15.20%
2	4/1994				16.50%
3	4/1994				17.10%
4	4/1994		Improved water quality, quantity, and watershed habitat conditions in Wallowa County	Wallowa County streams removed from the State's 303d list.	24.80%
5	4/1994		Improved water quality, quantity, and watershed habitat conditions in Wallowa County	Wallowa County streams removed from the State's 303d list.	21.20%
6	1/1997	12/2003	Increased salmon and steelhead returns to Wallowa County streams.	Fish production facilities constructed in Wallowa County	5.20%
				<b>Total</b>	200.00%

**Schedule constraints**

1. NEPA, NMFS/USF&W consultation and fill and removal permit applications may take longer than expected.
2. Project opportunities may occur which were not anticipated.
3. Land owner availability may change.
4. Unforeseen issues.

**Completion date**

When all streams in Wallowa County are off the State's 303d list and salmon and steelhead are delisted.

**Section 5. Budget**

**FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):** \$55,313

***FY2000 budget by line item***

Item	Note	% of total	FY2000
Personnel	1.25 FTEs	%45	26,580
Fringe benefits		%11	6,616
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		%2	1,451
Operations & maintenance	office rent and utilities	%4	2,379

Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)			
NEPA costs			
Construction-related support			
PIT tags	# of tags:		
Travel		%5	3,134
Indirect costs		%18	10,795
Subcontractor			
Other	telephone, training, vehicles, etc.	%12	7,080
<b>TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST</b>			<b>\$58,035</b>

**Cost sharing**

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
Bureau of Reclamation	½ of total budget	%50	58,035
<b>Total project cost (including BPA portion)</b>			<b>\$116,070</b>

**Outyear costs**

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
<b>Total budget</b>	\$61,089	\$64,305	\$67,689	\$71,252

**Section 6. References**

Watershed?	Reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1987. Nez Perce Tribe Evaluation of the LSRCP Hatchery Production in the Grande Ronde River Subbasin-Working Paper. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Id.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1990. Northeast Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Production Facilities -Draft Master Plan, Grande Ronde River. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Id.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1995. Bear Creek Action Plan. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1995. Lostine River Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1998. Big Sheep Creek Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmichael, Rich and Ron Boyce. 1986. U.S. v Oregon Grande Ronde River Spring Chinook Production Report. ODFW, La Grande, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission. 1995. Wy-Kan-Ush-Me-Wa-Kush-Wit-Spirit of the Salmon. CRITFC, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. 1994. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations-Action Plan. GRMWP, La Grande, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobrand Biometrics, Inc. 1997. Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project. Mobrand Biometrics, Inc., Vashon, Wa.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Marine Fisheries Service. 1995. Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon. NMFS, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1995. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Big Sheep Creek. NRCS, Enterprise, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1996. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Little Sheep Creek. NRCS, Enterprise, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1990. Imnaha River Subbasin Salmon and Steelhead Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. 1990. Grande Ronde Salmon and Steelhead Subbasin Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R2 Resource Consultants, Inc. 1997. Lostine River Instream Flow Study. R2 Resource Consultants, Redmond, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reckendorf & Associates. 1996. Bear Creek Fish Enhancement-Wallowa County, Oregon. Reckendorf & Associates, Salem, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Forest Service, ODFW, CRITFC, CTUIR, NPT, and OSU. 1992. Upper Grande Ronde River Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker City, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. 1996. Status of the Interior Columbia Basin-Summary of Scientific Findings. USFS and BLM, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wallowa County and the Nez Perce Tribe. 1993. Wallowa Count/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. Wallowa County, Enterprise, Or.
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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## PART II - NARRATIVE

### Section 7. Abstract

The overall goals and objectives of this project are to show that resource use, healthy economies, and healthy eco-systems are compatible and to provide quality habitat for natural production of salmonids.

The FWP concepts that this project supports are: 1) a healthy Columbia Basin, 2) maintain biological diversity, and 3) provide needed habitat protection. The FWP (Sections 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, and 10.2C) emphasize the need to seek cooperative habitat protection and improvement with private landowners. This project takes a watershed approach and works through political boundaries.

Coordination is a key element in the successful accomplishment of the above objectives. This project provides coordination through the following avenues:

- 👍 works with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program through its various committees and Board,
- 👍 coordinates within Wallowa County through:
  - ⦿ monthly coordination meetings between managers in the county,
  - ⦿ the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee ,
  - ⦿ Wallowa Resources (affiliated with Sustainable Northwest),
  - ⦿ Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, and
  - ⦿ Landowner meetings.

The above efforts are expected to result in public education, habitat projects, action plans/CRMPs, timber and grazing management plans, increased salmon returns, and removal of streams in Wallowa County from the State's 303d list. This process will take decades to complete but initial benefits of improving instream flows and eliminating passage problems will be immediate.

All habitat projects have a monitoring component and a watershed level monitoring plan is being developed through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. Monitoring coordination is essential and will consist of: 1) uniform monitoring protocols proposed by ODEQ and EPA (EPA 1993), 2) sharing equipment, and 3) a comprehensive watershed level monitoring program.

## **Section 8. Project description**

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

The Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins are located in the extreme N.E. corner of Oregon. 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, summer and 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. Native summer steelhead populations are also seriously depressed. Summer steelhead harvest has been restricted to hatchery only in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins since the mid-1980s. Spring and fall chinook, summer steelhead and bull trout are presently listed under ESA. This elevates the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins' importance relative to subbasins that do not have listed species.

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.

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. As it is, most streams in Wallowa County are listed on the State's 303d list. It is expected that this project will result in an upward trend in watershed conditions, removal of Wallowa County's streams from the State's 303d list, improved instream survival for fish, and benefits for wildlife.

The Wallowa County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe (Wallowa County 1993) established a public ad-hoc committee in 1992 to develop the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan* (County/Tribe Plan). The Plan was completed in 1993. The committee operated on a consensus basis and was composed of representatives from: the local community, agriculture, grazing, business, labor, large land owners, small woodlands, the timber industry, environmental community, Wallowa County Court (local government), the Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The county was divided into watersheds and the watersheds were further broken into segments along land use or land-form boundaries. The watershed segments were then analyzed for water quantity and quality issues and various stream structure issues. Problems were identified and possible solutions for the problems were also identified. Information from the Imnaha Subbasin

Plan (NPT 1990) and the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan (ODFW 1990) was used in developing the County/Tribe Plan.

The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) was viewed as the first step in an ongoing *coordination, planning, and project implementation* process which this project is designed to do. The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) is a county wide habitat assessment and it was understood that watershed action plans or Comprehensive Resource Management Plans, developed with the landowners in the individual watersheds, would follow. These plans would be more site specific than the County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) and would in turn lead to site specific analysis, project development, and implementation.

From the beginning, it was recognized in the County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) that watersheds had to be viewed as a whole and that, where possible, solutions should be applied to the headwater reaches and uplands first, that political boundaries should not dictate what could be accomplished. This would help to minimize the probability that an unresolved upland or headwater issue would destroy lower elevation or lower stream fishes. Adaptive management principals should guide the process This project endorses and applies these principals. This does not mean, however, that projects will not be implemented in the lower reaches of streams if the projects address critical limiting factors (e.g. migration or over winter habitat). These types of projects may not persist over the long term but are essential in the short term.

In April 1992, the Grande Ronde Basin was accepted by the Northwest Power Planning Council as a Model Watershed project in Oregon. A Board of Directors, composed of local representatives, Tribes, and agency personnel involved with the multiple uses of natural resources within the subbasin, was formed to coordinate policy for the development, implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of the Model Watershed Program. In addition, a Technical Committee and Standing Committee were also formed to facilitate carrying out the Model Watershed Program's mission. The Grand Ronde Basin was expanded to include not only the Grande Ronde River subbasin but also the Imnaha River subbasin and all tributaries in Wallowa County that drain directly into the Snake River, with a total combined area of approximately 5,265 mi<sup>2</sup>.

The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) was incorporated into the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations-Action Plan (Grande Ronde 1994). This is one of the ties between this project which is located in Wallowa County and the overall Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.

Money and manpower are limited commodities in the Columbia Basin. Wasted effort equals money that could have been spent on fixing fish and wildlife habitat problems. The previous situation was that individual agencies implemented projects without watershed level planning and often without coordination with other agencies or managers. Projects often fixed effects and not problems. The need for coordination was clearly shown when three different agencies had thermographs at the mouth of the Grande Ronde River.

Coordination and planning are also important mechanisms that can help to prevent the scenario where ten different people knock on the same door a half hour apart proposing to do the same or different projects on the same piece of ground. One of the purposes of this project is to facilitate that coordination and planning, thereby reducing or eliminating wasted efforts and money.

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. Without local landowner buy-in to projects implemented in the different watersheds, the probability of persistence over time is poor.

The following anecdote describes the results of this type of coordination effort. A few years ago during a grazing tour, the rancher was describing the effects he saw in the riparian zone and stream related to the exclusion fence that had been constructed a few years earlier. Suddenly he stopped and said, "You know, five years ago I never would have believed that a rancher would be standing along side a stream talking about riparian conditions and stream conditions, let alone with members from the County Court, the Nez Perce Tribe, the timber industry, and the environmental community standing around listening." People in Wallowa County are developing a better understanding of how watersheds work and their relationship to those watersheds. This is an ongoing educational process that this type of coordination/planning project helps to facilitate.

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

Section 7, pg 7-1 of the FWP (NPPC 1994) emphasizes the need to work with local communities, the need for co-ordination 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 County/Tribe 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 are identified. 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), it is stated "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.

All of the above plans, developed by Federal and State agencies, Tribes, local governments, and landowners, support the concepts and activities of BPA Project 9403900 (Wallowa Basin Project Planner).

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**c. Relationships to other projects**

The combined area covered by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program equals 5,265 mi<sup>2</sup>, covers two counties, and is larger than most other Model or Focus watersheds or Watershed Council areas. One individual can not adequately cover the entire area. The Wallowa Basin Project Planner position implements the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (BPA project #s 9202601 and 9402700) in Wallowa County and sits on all of the committees relating to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (e.g. Board, Standing Committee, and Technical Committee). This representation on the Model Watershed=s committees, plus regular communications between the Wallowa County and Union County offices, provides maximum coordination opportunities while eliminating duplication of effort. The Wallowa Basin Project Planner also acts as the counter part to the Union County Project Planner, who works directly for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, by developing project proposals in Wallowa County and developing needed Biological Assessments and NEPA check lists for those proposals.

The individual in this position collaborates closely with the Northeast Oregon Hatchery project (BPA # 8805301) that is involved in developing hatchery plans for the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Innaha river systems and the Captive Brood project (BPA #9604400). This collaboration consists of technical advice and coordinating habitat projects with hatchery facilities and release streams. The Nez Perce Tribe made a presentation to the Northwest Power Planning Council on the tie between this project (Wallowa Basin Project Planner) and the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program being planned for Wallowa County. This presentation occurred at the April 22, 1997 meeting in Portland.

The individual in this position is responsible for coordinating between the Nez Perce Tribe and the Wallowa County Court in the expenditure of funds from BPA project #9702500 (County/Tribe Plan Implementation).

Equipment purchased under this project will be shared with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, Wallowa SWCD, the Wallowa Extension Office, ODFW, and the USFS.

**d. Project history (for ongoing projects)**

This project was initiated in 1994 to implement the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in Wallowa County and the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan through on-the-ground planning, coordination, and communication.

Previous costs:

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
\$64,000.00	\$48,282.00	\$48,165.00	\$49,920.00	\$50,000.00	\$55,313

**This project is being cost-shared 50:50 by the Bureau of Reclamation.** Since the inception of this project, numerous watershed restoration projects have been implemented with funding from: Oregon’s Watershed Health and Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board programs, ODFW, USFS, BPA, and BOR; a small minority have been instream hard structures and most of these have been irrigation diversions with fish bypass capabilities built in (eliminating the annual need for push-up dams). Watershed Action Plans/Comprehensive Resource Management Plans are being written for salmon streams in the county through a public participation process. To date, these include an Action Plan for the Bear Creek watershed (tributary to the Wallowa River) and Comprehensive Resource Management Plans for Big Sheep Creek (tributary to the Imnaha River) and Little Sheep Creek (tributary to Big Sheep Creek). A habitat assessment for the Lostine River has also been completed.

Private landowner meetings have been initiated in the Lostine River, Bear Creek, Big Sheep Creek, and Little Sheep Creek watersheds. Meetings subsequent to development of the Action Plan/CRMPs are used to discuss implementation of the plans and to provide yearly updates. Meetings in lower Joseph Creek are scheduled to begin in 1999.

Coordination meetings between the County Court, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation Service, Wallowa County Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program have been initiated to provide coordination and to minimize duplication of effort in the various on-going activities within the county. The meetings are not closed to any one else who wants to participate. The County has also established a Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) to advise the County Court on natural resource issues. The NRAC has a technical committee which advises the Planning Department and a Standing Committee which advises the County Court. The person funded under this project sits on all three committees.

The following projects have been implemented in Wallowa County since 1994 (the start of this project):

- 1) 47 miles of enclosure fence, 17.5 miles of riparian pasture fence, and 78 miles of cross fence have been constructed. These fences are designed to control livestock access to live water, thereby reducing localized effects to the stream channel and riparian zone.
- 2) 206 livestock water developments have been completed. The stock water developments provide cattle with alternatives to drinking directly from the streams and are

included as part of the fencing projects. The general consensus today is that limiting livestock access to streams will benefit the riparian zone and stream corridor and that this will equate to benefits to fish and wildlife.

3) 6 irrigation diversion projects have been completed which have reduced the need for annual pushup dams in the Lostine and Wallowa rivers and reduced the total number of structures in the Wallowa River. The five irrigation diversion projects reduced the number of push-up dams by seven. One project consolidated three diversions into one and all structures have built in fish passage facilities. Push-up dams frequently did not pass migrating fish upstream during low flows whereas these projects will provide passage. More of these projects will be completed as funds and willing landowners are available.

4) All of the irrigation diversions in Bear Creek, the Lostine River, and the Wallowa River from Cross Country Canal to Dry Creek have been gaged (with the cooperation of the irrigators) plus gages have also been installed in the mainstems of each stream (43 gages).

5) Roads are considered to be one of the major causes of sedimentation in streams. The 62 miles of roads which have been obliterated, closed, or improved should show a significant reduction in sediment production. Research at the Intermountain Research Station in Boise, Id. has shown that graveling a native surface road will reduce erosion by 70% and that a bituminous surface will reduce erosion by 97%.

6) The Bear Creek Low Flow Channel project is specifically designed to improve upstream migration conditions for spring chinook during mid to late summer low flow conditions. This will provide access to late running fish that hold up in the Wallowa River and make a late season run to the spawning grounds.

7) The Grande Ronde Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment (GREDT) project covers both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. Spring chinook were used for the analysis and all limiting factors, in-basin, were modeled. Critical life history pathways were identified and plotted. The priority for selecting projects under the GREDT are: 1) protect existing critical pathways, 2) fix existing but damaged pathways, and 3) restore lost pathways. The GREDT is one of the tools used to select and fund projects.

8) An Instream Flow Incremental Methodology project has been completed for the Lostine River. The results of the IFIM project (flow needs for chinook, steelhead, coho, and bull trout at various life stages) will be used by the individual employed on this project to discuss with the irrigators on the Lostine River possible ways to improve flows during critical low flow summer months.

9) A comprehensive land use plan (timber management and grazing) has been completed for a 10,00 acre property located in the Bear Creek and Lostine watersheds. This plan emphasizes long term sustainability of the resources, including fish and wildlife.

## **PROJECT REPORTS AND TECHNICAL PAPERS**

1. Quarterly Project Reports
2. *Bear Creek Action Plan* (Bryson 1995)
3. *Lostine River Habitat Assessment* (Bryson 1995)
4. *Big Sheep Creek Habitat Assessment* (Bryson 1998)
5. *CRMP for Big Sheep Creek* (NRCS 1995)
6. *CRMP for Little Sheep Creek* (NRCS 1996)

7. *Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project* (Mobrand Biometrics 1997)
8. *Lostine River Instream Flow Study* (R2 Resource 1997)
9. *Bear Creek Fish Enhancement-Wallowa County, Oregon* (Reckendorf 1996)

Monitoring and evaluation of resource parameters and projects is expected to provide local landowners and land managers with sufficient knowledge to make land use decisions that benefit fish and wildlife while not impairing the landowner's ability to earn a living or the land managers ability to manage. Landowners are changing some of their land use practices because of this project and project monitoring and watershed level monitoring will show the long-term effectiveness of the on-the-ground projects.

**e. Proposal objectives**

Objectives 1-5 in Section 4 (pgs. 4-6) are expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. Completed watershed action plans/CRMPs.
2. Development of new grazing and timber management plans.
3. Completed watershed restoration projects.
4. Increased landowner involvement.
5. Improved water quality and quantity, resulting in removal of Wallowa County streams from the State's 303d list.
6. Measurable improvements in watershed habitat conditions.
7. Increased egg-to-smolt survival.

Objective 6 in Section 4 is expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. New salmon and steelhead production facilities in Wallowa County.
2. Increased numbers of salmon returning to watersheds in Wallowa County.

All of these are expected to result in improved habitat conditions for aquatic and terrestrial species. From above, #1 and #2 result in written plans. Each project requires a report, either annually or at the end of the project which will address #3. As the number of projects increase, the number of landowners involved will increase (#4) and has, in fact, increased each year of this project. Project specific and watershed monitoring will produce information relative to #5. The USFS and ODFW perform periodic habitat assessments of the watersheds in Wallowa County which will also address #5. All project information is kept in a GIS format at the Grande Ronde Model Watershed office in La Grand, Or. Projects 8805301 and 9604400 are responsible for their own reports which covers #6.

**f. Methods**

**Assumptions:**

1. Resource use, healthy economies, and healthy eco-systems are compatible.
2. It is unlikely that project implementation will be successful over the long term without good planning, assessment, and coordination.

3. When viewing a watershed as a connected environment, it is unlikely that a project implemented in the watershed will have adverse effects on species existing in the watershed unless the intent of the project is to have an adverse effect (e.g. star thistle elimination).
4. Environmental attributes found in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins will improve from implementation of this project which will benefit fish and wildlife.

**Methods:**

1. Use the County/Tribe Plan and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed's Operations-Action Plan as a county wide habitat assessment.
2. Coordinate project planning, implementation, and monitoring with the Wallowa County Court, Wallowa SWCD, Wallowa County Extension Service, Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, ODFW, ODF, ODEQ, USFS, BLM, BOR, BPA, NRCS, NMFS, USF&WS, and local landowners.
3. Coordinate within county through various forums, including but not exclusive to: monthly managers meetings which are chaired by the County Court, the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee meetings (Standing and Technical committees), Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District monthly meetings, and ongoing local landowner meetings in four watersheds (two in the Imnaha and two in the Wallowa drainages).
4. Coordinate between Wallowa and Union counties through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.
5. Watershed planning and project development occurs on a watershed (ridge top to ridge top) basis, not just in stream bottoms, without regard for political boundaries.
6. Develop CRMP/Watershed Action Plans through local public ad-hoc involvement.
7. Utilize the Grande Ronde Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment (GREDT) concepts for selecting project areas. The GREDT concepts are: 1) protect existing critical life history pathways, 2) fix existing but damaged life history pathways, and 3) restore lost life history pathways.
8. Utilize focus areas for chinook and steelhead established by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed's Technical Committee to direct watershed project activities. Projects outside of the focus areas, however, won't be ignored if a willing landowner comes forward with a project proposal.
9. Develop Biological Assessments on a project-by-project basis and complete other NEPA documentation as needed.
10. Use the Wallowa County NRAC's and Grande Ronde Model Watershed's technical committees to review watershed projects for technical competence and applicability.
11. Use project monitoring results to direct adaptive management. Not all projects will produce the expected results. Monitoring will provide the information needed to change the design of this project and future projects.

**Monitoring:**

1. All watershed projects have a monitoring component specific to the project. Some of the results from projects, however, may be too small to be detected at the individual project level.
2. A watershed level and subbasin level monitoring plan is being developed through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed program. This will provide a standardized process to monitor the incremental and cumulative effects of many small projects on a watershed or basin level.
3. Photos will be pre and post project completion. Follow-up photos may be necessary depending on the type of project (e.g. riparian restoration). Photos should be taken at the same location and time of day with the same camera, type of film, and camera settings. It is also preferable that light conditions be the same. This will necessitate good field notes.
4. Habitat assessment methods used by ODFW and the USFS (Hankin and Reeves methodology) are being standardized. These surveys will be used to monitor habitat trends over time.
5. Irrigation diversion gages and stream gages installed in Bear Creek, the Lostine River, and the Wallowa River (between the Cross Country Canal and Dry Creek) will provide information on water use and hydrology. This information will be used to work with irrigators to develop projects that will improve water quantity at critical low flow times and areas within the watershed.
6. Temperature monitoring conforms to ODEQ standards and other monitoring conforms to EPA protocols (EPA 1993). ODEQ requires that thermographs be calibrated against thermometers calibrated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology if the data is to be used to remove streams from the State's 303d list. EPA (1993) lays out protocols for monitoring stream temperature and shade, nutrients, bacterial indicators, stream channel morphology, stream bank stability, substrate and fine sediment, pool quality, streamside vegetation, establishing permanent photo points, and biomonitoring (benthic macro invertebrates and fish communities).
7. ODFW, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the USFS conduct annual spring chinook and summer steelhead spawning ground surveys. These surveys can be used to monitor population trends over time.

**Expected Results:**

1. Removal of streams in Wallowa County from the State's 303d list.
2. Overall improvement in watershed condition in all watersheds.
3. Improved egg-to-smolt survival for salmonids.
4. Increased returns of salmon to Wallowa County.
5. Increased landowner understanding of watershed processes.

**Uncertainties:**

1. Local residents do not control what happens downstream from Wallowa County and 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.

2. Mainstem passage may not improve which could negate the benefits of increased survival from egg-to-smolt.
3. Ocean and estuary survivals can depend on large scale climatic effects which may increase or decrease survival.
4. A lack of success in returning salmon to the watersheds in Wallowa County could discourage people from continuing to participate.
5. Some projects may not perform as expected or natural events such as floods or fires may damage or destroy the projects or overshadow any improvements in habitat conditions resulting from the projects.
6. Many projects may not show significant changes in habitat conditions for several years which makes mid-course corrections difficult.

**Project Tracking:**

1. The Wallowa SWCD and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program will track project completion and develop reports.

**Permanent files:**

1. Permanent files of projects sponsored by the Wallowa SWCD will be kept in their office.
2. All project reports will be submitted to the GRMW Program office for inclusion into their GIS data base.

**g. Facilities and equipment**

One individual is employed on this project but if it was not for the coordination and staff time provided by 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, and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, this project would not accomplish its goals.

The only facilities are the office. Equipment includes a 233 computer with 64 RAM and a 6.6 gigabyte hard drive, a 3/4 ton 4x4 pickup, and a 35 mm camera. A DR2010 Water Quality Lab from HACH, various types of continuously recording thermographs, flow meters, and ISCO sediment samplers are available in the county. Additional monitoring equipment may be purchased if a need is shown to exist. Most of the equipment needed for the project already is owned by either the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa County Extension, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW, or the USFS. The Natural Resource Conservation Service provides engineering expertise.

**h. Budget**

“Personnel” covers the salary of one professional employed full time on this project. The office manager salary is covered equally by four separate projects operating out of the Enterprise, Or. office. There are, therefore, 1.25 FTEs paid from this budget.

“Fringe benefits” are calculated at 25 % of the salary line item.

“Supplies” calculated at 2.5% of the total budget are reasonable.

“Operations & maintenance” are broken out as rent and utilities. Utilities are shared equally by each budget in the Enterprise office. Rent is shared on the basis of the number of employees paid out of each budget.

“Travel” covers all expenses for travel outside of Wallowa County associated with this project. Per diem rates are based on Federal rates.

“Indirect costs” are calculated as 22.9% of the total budget excluding any subcontracts.

“Other” expenses include vehicles, telephone, training (includes professional meetings and symposia), and equipment (lease/purchase and repair and maintenance).

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

Don Bryson, 1 FTE

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

Represent the Nez Perce Tribe in the following forums: Grande Ronde Model Watershed program (Board and associated committees), the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee and its associated committees, and the Wallowa Resources Steering Committee and as an alternate on the Board.

Facilitate coordination within Wallowa County and between the County and the Nez Perce Tribe and Union County. Coordination between all local entities is essential for the successful completion of this project.

Work with local landowners and local management agencies to develop and implement fisheries habitat projects and Watershed Action Plans/ Comprehensive Resource Management Plans, and to develop watershed habitat analyses.

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 Union and Wallowa counties= Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment Project with Mobrand Biometrics to provide technical

support for project planning relating to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program and local planning efforts.

Wrote 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. 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. Contracted out to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to write a fisheries monitoring plan for the Tepee Butte Fire Environmental Impact Statement.

- Previous employers:

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

Publications and accomplishments:

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

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

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program provides the forum to maintain coordination and information flow between Wallowa and Union counties. 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. Lower Joseph Creek will be included in the above list if the landowners in 1999.

There are monthly coordination meetings between the County Court, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa SWCD, NRCS, ODFW, USFS, and 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 between this project and the County Court and Planning Department through participation on the County's Natural Resource Advisory Committee and its associated Standing Committee and Technical Committee.

**Congratulations!**