

FY98

Project 97-010-00: Transition Project for PIT Tag Detection

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Project Objective:

Replace 400 kHz PIT tag interrogation system currently in use in the Columbia River Basin with 134.2 kHz, ISO-based transceiver system.

Rationale for Non-Discretionary Status:

A functional and well-maintained juvenile salmonid PIT tag detection system is fundamental to performing mainstem research, monitoring, and evaluation. This project changes out the old 400 kHz stationary monitors on the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers and replaces them with the new 134.2 kHz, ISO frequency. It also provides regional field biologists with portable (hand-held) monitors and PIT tags having the new ISO frequency for use in tagging juvenile salmonids. The ability to maintain the existing 400 kHz system for an extended period of time is extremely limited. As a result, the transition is essential to ensure the region is able to continue collecting PIT tag data. A considerable amount of time and money has been expended in developing and testing prototype monitors, and the implementation phase is about to begin. Deferring the change-over would add to the total costs, rather than decrease them.

FY98 Accomplishments:

1. Purchased, installed and tested 18 ISO stationary PIT tag monitors at MCN and JDA; results of tests will be basis for decision to make production purchase for entire system.
2. Installed fiber optics and electrical infrastructure at JDA and MCN in support of ISO system.
3. Upgraded computer platforms to support ISO system.
4. Purchased and tested new ISO PIT tags.
5. Purchased 150 ISO portable PIT tag readers for use by field personnel.
6. Completed design and specifications for an access platform at MCN.

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