

Bonneville Power Administration Fish and Wildlife Program FY98 Watershed Proposal Form

Section 1. General administrative information

Title **Focus Watershed Coordination-Flathead River Watershed**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9608701

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Business acronym (if appropriate) CSKT

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

List one subcontractor per row; to add more rows, press Alt-Insert from within this table

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
See statement above			

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

10.2 B, 7.7 A & B pages 7-40 through 7-43

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

This project is related to bull trout which are currently under a proposed rule to be listed under the Endangered Species Act and to westslope cutthroat trout which have been petitioned for listing under the ESA.

Other planning document references.

Hungry Horse Fisheries Mitigation Plan (Approved by NPPC)
 Hungry Horse Fisheries Implementation Plan (Approved by NPPC)
 Montana Bull Trout Restoration Team, Status Reports
 South Fork of the Flathead River Conservation Agreement

Kerr Mitigation Plan/FERC Relicensing documents
 Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Tribal Fisheries Plan
 Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Draft Forest Management Plan
 Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Comprehensive Resource Plan
See attached bibliography (Attachment A)

Subbasin.

Upper Columbia

Short description.

This program fosters “grass roots” public involvement and interagency cooperation for habitat restoration to offset impacts to fishery resources in the Flathead watershed. Limited BPA funding can be augmented through cooperative cost-shares with other agencies and groups, donations, volunteerism and citizen initiatives. Pilot projects initiated through this program will help guide the Hungry Horse Mitigation Program by securing permits, assessing cost-effectiveness of alternative techniques and establishing site plans.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction	x	Watershed
x	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.

Bull trout, westslope cutthroat, maintains biologic diversity and genetic integrity

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9101903	Hungry Hor Mitigation/Habitat Improvements	Implements mitigation plan
9101901	Hungry Horse Fisheries Mitigation-Salish & Kootenai Tribes	Habitat restoration and monitoring; identify stream restoration projects

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Restore spawning & rearing habitat	a	Natural pioneering

		b	Selective imprint planting
		c	Establish cost-share agreements
2	Restore, protect and improve riparian habitat & water quality	a	Revegetation
		b	Riparian fencing
		c	Establish cost-share agreements
3	Produce watershed plan	a	Public meetings
		b	Inter-agency cooperation

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	05/1997	end of project	
personnel			13%
oper./admin.			10%
travel			2%
indirect			4%
2	05/1997	end of project	
personnel			13%
oper./admin.			18%
travel			2%
indirect			4%
3	05/1997	09/2000?	
personnel			13%
oper./admin			15%
travel			2%
indirect			4%

Schedule constraints.

Permitting, public scoping, interagency coordination, and cost-share funding opportunities all introduce uncertainty into the timing of project implementation. Moving ahead with several projects simultaneously ensures a continuous string of completed and ongoing projects.

Completion date.

At this stage, funding is proposed to continue through the year 2007. However, it too early in project to predict an exact completion date due in part to the potential schedule constraints listed above.

Section 5. Budget

Item	Note	FY98
Personnel		\$32,000
Fringe benefits		\$9,000
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		\$2,000
Operations & maintenance		\$11,000
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		\$7,500
Indirect costs		\$12,000
Subcontracts		
Other	Cost-share with other agencies/groups	\$26,500
TOTAL		100,000

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
Total budget	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
O&M as % of total	11%	11%	11%	11%

Section 6. Abstract

The primary goal is to use a balanced system-wide watershed approach to achieve ecosystem equity in order to reverse the downward trends in native species and protect healthy populations within the Flathead River watershed. This program fosters “grass roots” public involvement and interagency cooperation to achieve this goal.

Public scoping will be conducted by approaching existing public groups and private landowners to assess their needs and soliciting cooperation. One-on-one interviews will be used to obtain candid insights.

This program specifically fulfills the watershed approach and watershed coordination specified in sections 7.7A and B pages 7-40 through 7-43 and 10.2 B in the 1994 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. This program also complements ongoing BPA programs (see section 8).

Results will be monitored through a variety of methods depending on the restoration needs. Methods include stream length or area improved, redd counts, fish numbers, photo points, etc.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Currently, the Flathead watershed has been radically altered by hydropower and other land uses. The biological effects have become apparent relatively recently (see attached bibliography for publications relating to the condition of the watershed). Many streams in the drainage have become remarkably

unstable during the last two decades. Ecosystem changes have resulted in bull trout being warranted for listing as a threatened species and all evidence suggests that westslope cutthroat are also declining (they have been reduced to less than 10 percent of their historic range). Past legal and illegal species introductions are causing problems for the remaining ecosystems. In-kind, out of place mitigation is being proposed to offset the impacts of hydroelectric power to 72 miles of the South Fork of the Flathead River and its tributaries upstream of Hungry Horse Dam.

In order to properly address the issues above, other segments of society and other (non-BPA) funding sources must be incorporated into the solution. As stated in the 1994 Fish and Wildlife Program (section 7.7), "Comprehensive watershed management should enhance and expedite implementation of actions by clearly identifying gaps in programs and knowledge, by striving over time to resolve conflicts, and by keying on activities that address priorities." A watershed coordinator helps to initiate and facilitate efforts for addressing the issues mentioned above and pulling together a plan for mitigation.

This project was dovetailed with the Excessive Drawdown Mitigation program (project 940100) and Hungry Horse Mitigation/Habitat Improvements (9101903) and other ongoing activities so that fisheries improvement actions in the Flathead system will be conducted from a watershed perspective.

b. Proposal objectives.

This project will result in a coordinated effort toward addressing resource concerns within the Flathead River basin from a watershed perspective. Pilot projects initiated under this project will help guide the plan for fisheries and wildlife losses caused by Hungry Horse Dam construction and operation. This project will also include on-the-ground habitat improvement and protection measures toward the same goal.

Improved biological production and increased fish growth potential in the tributaries, rivers and closed basin lakes and ponds are also an expected outcome of this effort.

A Model Watershed Plan will result from the efforts of this program. This plan will provide background, identify limiting factors, areas of concern, resource issues, etc. within the Flathead River basin and implementation strategies to address each limiting factor.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

As stated above, this project complements other projects such as the Excessive Drawdown Mitigation program (project 940100), Hungry Horse Mitigation/Habitat Improvements (9101903), Hungry Horse Fisheries Mitigation (9101901), Hungry Horse Mitigation (9101904) and its sister project in the Kootenai River system (9608702). Activities are also being conducted with/by the Flathead Basin Commission and the University of Montana (see attached bibliography). All of these activities further the FWP goals of habitat restoration from a coordinated, watershed perspective.

d. Project history

As this project is in its infancy (initiated (May 1997), no project reports other than quarterly reports have been completed at this early stage of the project.

Adaptive management implications which must be addressed in management documents and procedures include documented transboundary movements of target species, the effect of predatory lake trout on target species, and the presence of discrete populations of bull and cutthroat trout in the basin.

e. Methods.

This program fosters “grass roots” public involvement and interagency cooperation to achieve the goal of habitat restoration. Public scoping will be conducted by approaching existing public groups and private landowners to assess their needs and soliciting cooperation. One-on-one interviews will be used to obtain candid insights.

When projects are implemented, pre-and post-treatment surveys will be used to compare various habitat restoration, passage improvement and offsite mitigation efforts. Photo points measure the success of revegetation and bank stabilization projects. Habitat surveys quantify shifts in cover, pool-riffle run ratio and substrate. Population assessments compare species relative abundance, population structure, and survival recruitment. Redd surveys estimate adult spawning population and describe habitat requirements. Migration counts compare strength of spawner populations.

f. Facilities and equipment.

None foreseen.

g. References.

See attachment A.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

See Section 7C.

Section 9. Key personnel

See attachment B.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

One of the primary goals of this program is to produce a cooperative watershed plan with input from various federal, state and local agencies as well as private landowners and stakeholders. This document will be available for reference and information to all local and regional interests. Currently, cooperative opportunities exist between BPA, BOR, Army Corps, USFS, MFWP, NRCS, State, County and other Tribal programs, Counties, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sporting and Conservation Groups, and British Columbia, Canada. Also, the Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead River Network, and the Lake County working group have shown great interest in cooperative work toward watershed restoration, education, workshops, etc.