

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

**Section 1. General administrative information**

**Wallowa Basin Project Planning**

**Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project** 9403900

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

Nez Perce Tribe

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

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

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

**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

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

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

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

N/A

**Other planning document references.**

- Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan - Implementation pg.

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- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations/Action Plan, Suggested Long Term Restoration Strategy, pg. 55
- NMFS 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

If the project type is “Watershed” (see Section 2), reference any demonstrable support from affected agencies, tribes, local watershed groups, and public and/or private landowners, and cite available documentation.

- Act as the Nez Perce Tribe’s liaison with Wallowa County.
- Appointed to Wallowa County’s Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Technical Committee, and Standing Committee.
- Appointed to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board, Standing Committee, and Technical Committee by the Wallowa County Court and approved by the Nez Perce Tribe.
- Alternate on the Wallowa Resources Steering Committee and Board - Wallowa Resources is closely related to Sustainable Northwest and is a private citizen group working to increase resource related jobs in Wallowa County.
- Work closely with the Wallowa County Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and private landowners.

**Subbasin.**

Grande Ronde Subbasin, Imnaha Subbasin

**Short description.**

Act as the liaison between the Nez Perce Tribe and Wallowa County. Help coordinate efforts in Wallowa County with the County Court, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, local landowners, and state and federal agencies. Help to develop action plans or comprehensive resource management plans for watersheds in the County. Help to develop and implement watershed restoration projects with monitoring in the county. Help to develop a watershed level habitat monitoring plan.

**Section 2. Key words**

Mark	Programmatic	Mark	Mark
X	Categories	_____	Activities
_____	Resident fish	_____	O & M
_____	Anadromous fish	_____	Construction
_____	_____	_____	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish	_____	X
_____	Resident fish	_____	Watershed
_____	_____	_____	Biodiversity/genetics

<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Production	<input type="checkbox"/> Population dynamics
<input type="checkbox"/> Oceans/estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring/eval.	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow/survival
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish disease
	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning/admin.	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat en-
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisitions	<input type="checkbox"/> hancement/restoration

**Other keywords.**

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

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>	<b>Nature of relationship</b>
9202601	Grande Ronde Model Watershed-Administration/Implementation/Research	Implements the model watershed program in Wallowa County
9402700	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Habitat Projects	Review projects on the Technical Committee and vote to accept projects on the Board, work with appropriate agencies and individuals in Wallowa County to develop and implement projects
9702500	Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan Implementation	This position is responsible for project development and distribution of the funds
8805301	Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project	Work closely with the development of the project in Wallowa County and help to provide quality habitat for the returning fish
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 Broodstock program

### **Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules**

#### ***Objectives and tasks***

**Taken from the SOW approved by BPA and BOR.**

<b>Obj 1,2,3</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Task a,b,c</b>	<b>Task</b>
1	Identify the Tribe's priorities/target areas within the watershed process.	a	Coordinate with the Nez Perce Tribe on a technical and policy level.
2	Participate in the development, monitoring, and updating of Comprehensive Resource Management Plans (CRMPs)/Action Plans with agencies and parties active in Wallowa County.	a	Work as Tribe-to-County liaison/representative bringing the Tribe's perspectives to the planning process.
		b	Lay out the approach for assessments (in conjunction with the GRMWP, NRCS, SWCD, ODFW, and the USFS) which identifies target areas, resource parameters, and potential restoration strategies. The assessments should fully utilize all available data, including the information from the Grande Ronde Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment project and the Lostine Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) project.
		c	Complete habitat assessments for Big Sheep Creek, Little Sheep Creek, and the Lostine River.
3	Be involved in project planning, development, and implementation	a	Coordinate with the GRMWP, NRCS, SWCD, ODFW, USFS, USF&WS, NMFS, the Wallowa County Court, and others as needed.
		b	Schedule coordination meetings as appropriate with NPT, ODFW, GRMWP, NRCS, SWCD, and the Wallowa County Court.
		c	Write Biological Assessments for instream restoration projects proposed by the NRCS, SWCD, or NPT.

		d	Assist the SWCD, NRCS, GRMWP, and county agencies with project development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Schedule coordination meetings as appropriate.
4	Participate with ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the development of the annual operating plans for the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatcheries in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins.	a	Attend two annual meetings (pre-AOP and AOP) plus in house meetings.
5	Represent the Tribe in monthly coordination meetings facilitated by the County Court.	a	Attend a monthly meeting.
6	Provide technical help as needed for the development of the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program in Wallowa County.	a	Attend interagency and in-house meetings.
		b	Work with local landowners to help provide trapping, acclimation, and hatchery sites.
		c	Develop a hatchery/natural production computer model.
		d	Provide computer modeling results.
7	Provide coordination and technical input for the Tribe on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management activities (eg. Timber sales, grazing allotments, recreation, lad swaps, culturally important plants).	a	Attend scoping meetings and project tours and provide written and oral comments as necessary.
8	Participate in the annual spawning ground surveys with ODFW, USFS, and the CTUIR.	a	Participate in spawning ground surveys as schedule will allow.
9	Represent the Tribe on the GRMWP (Board, Standing	a	Attend meetings and review documents as necessary.

	Committee, Technical Committee), the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (Standing Committee, Technical Committee, and alternate on the full committee), and the Wallowa Resources (Steering Committee and alternate on the Board).		
10	Provide oral/written comments on 404 permit applications.		Participate in the 404 permit process within the Tribe's area of interest.
11	Local landowner meetings	a	Help to coordinate meetings and establish agendas.
12	Participate in the Northwest Power Planning Council's annual and multi-year funding process.	a	Develop budget, statement of work and other products as needed.
		b	Fill out questionnaires.
		c	Attend meetings as needed.

**Objective schedules and costs**

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	ongoing		9.2
2a,b	ongoing		19.2
2c	10/97	6/98	
3	ongoing		9.6
4	11/97	1/98	1.5
5	ongoing		4.6
6	ongoing		14.2
7	ongoing		2.3
8	8/98	9/98	2.7
9	ongoing		17.3
10	ongoing		3.8
11	ongoing		7.9
12	2/97	3/98	7.7
			TOTAL 100.00

**Schedule constraints.**

1. The Tribe's priorities may change.

2. NEPA, NMFS/USF&W consultation, and fill and removal permit applications may take longer than anticipated.
3. Project opportunities may occur which were not anticipated.
4. Land owner availability for projects may change.
5. Unforeseen issues (eg. having to fill out two sets of questionnaires like this one plus a mid-year set of questions for FY98 BPA funding).

**Completion date.**

How do you put a time limit on watershed level projects with as many components as this one? One answer could be, “when salmon and steelhead are delisted”. But, as is stated elsewhere in this document, Wallowa County can not save Snake River salmon and steelhead. Another answer might be, “when no stream in the county is on the state’s 303d list and watershed conditions are as good as they can get”.

**Section 5. Budget**

***FY99 budget by line item***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>FY99</b>
Personnel		\$24,694.44
Fringe benefits		\$6,173.61
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		\$473.33
Operations & maintenance	rent, utilities, telephone, equipment lease	\$4,455.56
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		\$0.00
PIT tags	# of tags:	\$0.00
Travel	includes GSA vehicle lease	\$5,642.78
Indirect costs		\$12,313.28
Subcontracts		\$0.00
Other		\$1,560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$55,313.00</b>

**Note: This project is cost shared 50:50 by BOR.**

***Outyear costs***

<b>Outyear costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY01</b>	<b>FY02</b>	<b>FY03</b>
Total budget	\$58,224	\$61,289	\$64,514	\$67,910

O&M as % of total	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
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## Section 6. Abstract

The question is, can we live with salmon (or any other species)? 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 (Section 7) emphasizes the need to seek cooperative habitat protection and improvement with private landowners. The problem is that Wallowa County can not save the Snake River salmon because the major issues relating to salmon survival are outside of the county.

What can the County do? We will take a watershed approach, work through political boundaries, and provide the best habitat possible for the fish and other species present in the county.

How will this be accomplished? 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 through its technical committee, standing committee, 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), and
  - △ Landowner meetings.

The above efforts are expected to result in habitat projects and action plans/CRMPs. The expected benefits are healthy watersheds with shaded riparian areas and streams with cool, clean water that benefit fish and wildlife but that the residents of the county and the visitors to the county can also enjoy. This process will take decades to complete but initial benefits of improving instream flows and eliminating passage problems are

immediate

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

## **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).

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, Bonneville Power Administration, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and local land owners.

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) *Nez Perce Tribe Evaluation of the LSRCP Hatchery Production in the Grande Ronde River Subbasin-Working Paper* (Bryson 1987)
- 2) *Imnaha River Subbasin Salmon and Steelhead Plan* (NPPC 1989)
- 3) *Northeast Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Production Facilities -Draft Master Plan, Grande Ronde River* (Bryson 1990)
- 4) *Bear Creek Action Plan* (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)
- 7) *Little Sheep Creek and Big Sheep Creek CRMPs* (NRCS 1995, 1996)

**b. Proposal objectives.**

- 1) Help provide coordination of efforts within the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins.
- 2) Increase local landowner participation by providing them with sufficient information that they can continue to earn a living while providing the best possible habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 3) Help in the development and implementation of habitat projects.
- 4) Provide improved watershed and local habitat conditions.
- 5) Represent the Tribe in the various planning forums presently ongoing in the two subbasins.

Outcomes:

1. Completed watershed action plans/CRMPs.
2. Increased numbers of new landowners involved.
3. Development of new grazing and timber management plans.

4. Completed watershed restoration projects.
5. Measurable improvements in watershed habitat conditions, including water quality and quantity.

All of these are expected to result in improved habitat conditions for aquatic and terrestrial species. From above, #1 and #3 result in written plans. 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. As the number of projects increase, the number of landowners involved will increase (#2) and has, in fact, increased each year of this project. Each project requires a report, either annually or at the end of the project which will address #4. All project information is kept in a GIS format at the Grande Ronde Model Watershed office in La Grand, Or.

### **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, and the 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**

This project was initiated in 1994 to implement on-the-ground planning, coordination, and communication in Wallowa County in reference to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed program presently being funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and to implement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan. **This project is being cost-shared 50:50 by the Bureau of Reclamation.**

Previous costs:

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

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. An Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment project has been completed for the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. The

results of this study will be used to prioritize watersheds and habitat issues when planning projects. An instream flow study was initiated under this project on the Lostine River to determine the water volume needs of bull trout, chinook, coho, and steelhead for different life stages. This will facilitate working with irrigators to determine how much additional water is needed in-stream during low flow periods. The final report is presently being completed. A low flow channel project has been initiated on Bear Creek in the lower few miles to facilitate passage of adult spring chinook upstream from late July to mid-September. Private landowner meetings have been initiated in the Lostine River, Bear Creek, Big Sheep Creek, and Little Sheep Creek watersheds. Coordination meetings between 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, and Oregon Department of Forestry have been initiated to minimize duplication of effort in the various on-going activities. 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. The person funded under this project sits on all three committees.

#### 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)
- 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)

Since the inception of this project, numerous watershed restoration projects have been implemented under BPA, BOR, GWEB, and Oregon Watershed Health funding; a small minority have been instream hard structures (mostly irrigation diversions with fish bypass capabilities built in which eliminates the annual need for push-up dams).

The following projects have been implemented:

- 1) Thirty-four miles of exclosure fence have been constructed.
- 2) Sixty-six miles of riparian pasture and cross fences have been constructed.
- 3) Eighty livestock water developments have been completed to help remove and keep

cattle out of the riparian zones.

- 4) Five irrigation diversion projects have been completed which have reduced the need for pushup dams in the Lostine and Wallowa rivers and reduced the total number of structures in the Wallowa River.
- 5) Fifty-six miles of road have been obliterated, closed, or improved.
- 6) 36 stream gages have been installed on irrigation diversions in Bear Creek, the Lostine River, and the Wallowa River and in the mainstems of each stream. This constitutes all of the irrigation diversions in Bear Creek, and the Lostine River, and in the Wallowa River from Cross Country Canal to Dry Creek.
- 7) A Bear Creek low flow channel (construction will facilitate spring chinook adult passage during the late summer and will provide better overwinter habitat for various species of fish).
- 8) An IFIM study has been completed on the Lostine River.
- 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.

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. Methods.**

Participation in the various planning forums and public meetings implement Objective #1. These forums are: 1) Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, 2) Wallowa Natural Resource Advisory Committee, 3) Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District meetings, Wallowa County land and fish/wildlife manager monthly meetings, 4) Wallowa Resources, and 5) local landowner meetings

Local landowner meetings and the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District meetings are the main method of implementing Objective #2. However, many landowners with project ideas walk in off the street because they have been in communication with other landowners that have participated in previous projects.

Development of project proposals for landowners, development of the NEPA and NPPC checklists and BAs (if needed), and participation in technical committees from the :

Governors Watershed Enhancement Board, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, and Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee implement Objective #3.

On-the-ground projects plus the monitoring program relate to Objective #4. The whole project is related to Objective #5.

The progress towards meeting Objective 4 will be monitored through the following means. All irrigation diversions in Bear Creek, the Lostine River and the Wallowa River (from Cross Country Ditch to Water Canyon) have been gaged. Stream gages have also been installed in the mainstems of each stream (two in Bear Creek, three in the Lostine River, and three in the Wallowa River). 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). ODFW and the USFS perform periodic habitat surveys on federal and private lands that can be used to monitor changes over time. Efforts are underway to standardize the methods used by the two agencies.

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 only facilities are the office which includes a conference room. The Wallowa County Extension Office provides the meeting room for the Wallowa County Natural

Resource Advisory Committee. Direct project equipment includes a vehicle, 233 computer, and a 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 in the county. 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.

**g. References.**

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.

Bryson, Don, and the Northwest Power Planning Council. 1989. Imnaha River Subbasin Salmon and Steelhead Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council. Portland, Or.

Bryson, Don. 1990. Northeast Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Production Facilities -Draft Master Plan, Grande Ronde River. Nez Perce Tribe. Lapwai, Id.

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

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

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

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.

The individual in this position represents the Nez Perce Tribe on: 1) the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Board, Technical Committee, and the Standing Committee, 2) the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Technical Committee, and

Standing Committee, and 3) the Wallowa Resources Steering Committee and Board.

The individual in this position collaborates closely with the Northeast Oregon Hatchery program that is involved in developing hatchery plans for the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha river systems.

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, Implementation of the County/Tribe Plan.

## **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

- 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' Eco-system 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

Publications and accomplishments:

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**

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 is expected to be included in the above list if the landowners are willing.

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.