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## PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

### Section 1. General administrative information

**Title of project**

Landowner Communication Program

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**BPA project number:** 20151

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

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

Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control

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**Business acronym (if appropriate)** RSBOJC

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

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

7.6B.6

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

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**Other planning document references**

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**Short description**

Provide water quality and conservation information to landowners through an expanded newsletter, new release, and workshop program. Technical assistance will be make available.

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**Target species**

Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Steelhead, Bull Trout, Cutthroat, Brown Trout, Brook Trout

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### Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

**Subbasin**  
Lower Yakima River

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input checked="" 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>
20526	Multi-Year Plan Yakima Anadromous Fish Plan

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

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>	<b>Nature of relationship</b>

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

***Past accomplishments***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>Met biological objectives?</b>

**Objectives and tasks**

<b>Obj 1,2,3</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Task a,b,c</b>	<b>Task</b>
1	Provide Written Information and Policies to Landowners	a	Prepare four newsletter per year
		b	Prepare at least three news releases per year for the news media.
2	Public and Landowner Information Workshops	a	Conduct several landowner information workshops each year
3	Distribute Copies of Video "Water, Food, and You".		Distribute to schools, environmental groups, and other targeted audiences along with a presentation

**Objective schedules and costs**

<b>Obj #</b>	<b>Start date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Measureable biological objective(s)</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FY2000 Cost %</b>
1	10/1999	10/2000			24.00%
2	10/1999	10/2000			66.00%
3	10/1999	10/2000			10.00%
				<b>Total</b>	100.00%

**Schedule constraints**

There are no known constraints if funding is make available.

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**Completion date**

2000

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**Section 5. Budget**

**FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):**

**FY2000 budget by line item**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>FY2000</b>
Personnel	RSBOJC Staff	%43	5,000
Fringe benefits		%22	2,500
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		%9	1,000
Operations & maintenance		%0	
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land,		%0	

buildings, major equip.)			
NEPA costs		%0	
Construction-related support		%0	
PIT tags	# of tags:	%0	
Travel		%0	
Indirect costs	Office overhead	%4	500
Subcontractor	WSU Consultation	%22	2,500
Other		%0	
<b>TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST</b>			<b>\$11,500</b>

**Cost sharing**

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
		%0	
		%0	
		%0	
		%0	
<b>Total project cost (including BPA portion)</b>			<b>\$11,500</b>

**Outyear costs**

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
<b>Total budget</b>				

**Section 6. References**

Watershed?	Reference
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CH2M HILL, 1975. Agricultural Return Flow Management in the State of Washington. Prepared for Washington State Department of Ecology.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Department of Ecology, 1990. Statewide Water Quality Assessment 350 (B) Report, State of Washington.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS, 1976. Sediment Transport by Irrigation Return Flows in the Lower Yakima River Basin, WASHINGTON. Open File Report 78-946.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joy, J. and Patterson, B. 1997 A suspended sediment and DDT total maximum daily load evaluation report for the Yakima River: Washington State Department of Ecology, Environmental Investigations and Laboratory Services Program, Watershed Assessment Section,

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## **PART II - NARRATIVE**

### **Section 7. Abstract**

The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) serves many landowners in Yakima and Benton Counties. The current emphasis placed on water quality improvements and conservation are relatively new concepts and will affect farm practices and costs. The RSBOJC proposes to inform its landowners of the changes and opportunities of the water quality policies through an expanded communications program as it relates to fish and wildlife. The program will consist of newsletter press releases and workshops. The workshops will encourage the landowners to protect, enhance, analyze and provide solutions to water resources problems in their community. Topics such as the impacts of water policies on farm operations and opportunities for financial assistance will be presented. The program will provide a means to inform landowners of progress being made in water quality and conservation.

### **Section 8. Project description**

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

Water conservation and water quality are priority issues in the Yakima River watershed. The increasing concern for potential salmon recovery is also of interest to many in the Yakima Valley. Approximately 80% of the mainstream Yakima River flow are diverted for agricultural irrigation with return flows that are seriously polluted. As a result, the lower Yakima River exceeds permissible state standards for DDT, ammonia and other nutrients, temperature and turbidity. The Yakima River has been listed as impaired under the Federal Clean Water Act, because of these conditions. Once abundant salmon and steelhead populations have dwindled to precariously low levels and other beneficial uses of the Yakima River water are in jeopardy. Consequently, the quality of the water in lower Yakima River is highly dependent upon the quality of these agricultural-return flows (Joy and Patterson, 1997).

This has created a need for education and information about the importance of water-quality and water conservation. The direct approach of using newsletters, news releases, and workshops is expected to be very effective. Since water quality and conservation issues will have financial impacts on farm operations, the information provided by this program will be of vital interest. By using the communications program as a means to inform landowners of sources of funding assistance, interest will be generated.

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

The RSBOJC Landowner Communication Program addresses Section 7.6B.6 of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Our program will provide the landowner with water-quality policies and data, and educational opportunities for water conservation and water-quality. The program should promote public outreach by encouraging education and protection of

the Yakima River watershed. This program supports the concept of salmon recovery through watershed restoration discussed in Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Program.

**c. Relationships to other projects**

The plan of the Landowner Communication Program is to show the relationship between water-quality and irrigation. The RSBOJC will be involving other agencies by inviting them to make presentations to show the relationship and a forum for them to disseminate information relating the restoration of the Yakima watershed.

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

N/A

**e. Proposal objectives**

It's the objective of the landowner communications program to increase the awareness of water quality and conservation issues. Implementation of the landowner communications program will consist of several elements.

**OBJECTIVE 1: Provide written information to landowners**

It proposed that four newsletters be prepared each year for distribution to all landowners. To supplement the newsletters, information will be released to the news media as events develop during the year. At least three news releases are expected to be needed each year to announce water quality developments that affect the RSBOJC landowners.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Public information workshops**

The landowner workshops are proposed as a method to make current and relevant information available. These workshops will provide landowners access to the people and programs that are available to implement water quality and conservation improvements. The workshops are intended as a mechanism to set the implementation process in motion. The RSBOJC staff is prepared to provide follow up assistance to landowners as the projects move ahead.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Distribute copies of video "Water, Food, and You".**

This is a video that was prepared by RSBOJC to provide information on our watershed and how it affects people. This video will be presented to schools and other targeted groups along with a presentation, and will promote public outreach and encourage education in the watershed. Education of the watershed is the first step to the protection and restoration of the watershed.

**f. Methods**

It is the objective of the landowner communications program to increase the awareness of water quality and conservation issues. The program will provide landowners direct

access to information that affects their farming operations and water supply. Early knowledge of regulatory and policy changes will allow the landowners to make appropriate plans and minimize any negative impacts.

The meetings will be hosted by RSBOJC. RSBOJC staff and various outside agencies will give presentations. Topics will focus on water quality and conservation.

**g. Facilities and equipment**

The planning work needed to conduct the landowner communications program is similar to the type of work regularly performed by the RSBOJC staff. It is not anticipated that it will be necessary to acquire any additional specialized equipment or facilities. The workload to implement the program will require some staff time but is not expected to require addition of a full time position.

**h. Budget**

The budget is divided into five parts. The cost of RSBOJC staff is \$5,000. The fringe benefits will total \$2,500. Supplies, material, and nonexpendable property will cost \$1,000. Office overhead will total \$500 and WSU consultation is \$2,500. The total cost will be \$11,500.

**Section 9. Key personnel**

The work will be accomplished with RSBOJC staff and a limited amount of staff from the Washington State University Extension Program and the conservation districts. The current staff supplemented by some outside assistance will absorb the workload.

**Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

The program is expected to serve as a demonstration of the benefits that can be achieved through landowner communications. This concept could be applied to many other irrigation and drainage projects.

**Congratulations!**