
PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

Section 1. General administrative information

Title of project

Coordinate/Facilitate Watershed Project Planning/Implementation

BPA project number: 9901200
Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy): 12/1999 **Multiple actions?**

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District

Business acronym (if appropriate) Ki-Yak

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name	<u>Brenda McMurray</u>
Mailing Address	<u>32 N. 3rd Street, Suite 222</u>
City, ST Zip	<u>Yakima, WA 98901</u>
Phone	<u>(509) 576-7883</u>
Fax	<u>(509) 576-7893</u>
Email address	<u>h2oinfo@nwinfo.net</u>

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses
7.0B.4, 7.6A.1, 7.6B.1, 7.6B.2, 7.6B.3, 7.6B.4, 7.6B.5, 7.6B.6, 7.6C

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

Other planning document references

Documented support for this project comes from Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council members who represent their agencies and documented plans (see Section 6) of their agencies through attendance at monthly YRWIC meetings. Support includes: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. EPA, U.S.D.A. NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. BLM, U.S. Dept. of Army, Yakama Indian Nation, WA Dept. of Ecology, WA Dept. of Transportation, WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. of Natural Resources, WA Governor's Salmon Recovery Team, WSU Cooperative Extension, WA Conservation Commission, Education Services District 105, Yakima County, Benton County, Benton Conservation District (CD), North Yakima CD, South Yakima CD, Kittitas County CD, Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District, Tri-County Water Resource Agency, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District, Roza Irrigation District, City of Yakima

Short description

Enhance Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council's cooperative efforts to implement Yakima River Watershed projects and activities which are compatible with biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife.

Target species

Mid-Columbia River Steelhead, existing Chinook Salmon populations, Bull Trout

Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin

Lower Mid-Columbia Subbasin (Yakima Subbasin)

Evaluation Process Sort

CBFWA caucus	Special evaluation process	ISRP project type
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input checked="" 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.

Project #	Project title/description
20526	Multi-Year Plan Yakima Anadromous Fish Plan

Other dependent or critically-related projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Past accomplishments

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1996	Creation of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) by the former watershed planning unit of the Yakima Basin, the Yakima River Watershed Council (YRWC). Integration of YRWIC as technical advisory group to the YRWC established.	
1997	YRWIC develops initial list of habitat and salmon recovery related projects taking place in the Watershed, prioritizes resource needs of four subarea basins, identifies gaps where projects are needed.	

1998	YRWIC meets monthly despite closure of YRWC. Broadens relationships with state salmon recovery efforts, a new local watershed planning unit, and the Watershed Information Center. Establishment of criteria for ranking watershed projects underway.	
1999	Futher develop project ranking and habitat restoration/enhancement implementation processes (under proposal FY 99-01200)	

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Build cooperative interagency partnerships to benefit wild salmonid populations/watershed & ecosystem health/ and other wildlife species.	a	Hold regular YRWIC group, steering, and funding committee meetings.
		b	Expand membership of YRWIC through meetings with agencies currently not involved and encourage their participation.
		c	Ensure members are kept up to date on YRWIC activities and other watershed related activities through regular communications produced by the Watershed Information Center (email lists, meeting minutes and other publications)
		d	Maintain YRWIC ongoing and planned project lists to assist in identifying matching funding, technical resources, or other assistance needs.
		e	Maintain facilitation of the YRWIC in a neutral structure through a non-agency entity such as the Watershed Information Center.
		f	Develop information systems for sharing technical and other pertinent data with each other. This will accomplished by using existing agency efforts (such as GIS layers) and the Watershed Information Center database.
2	Identify and implement Yakima River Watershed habitat restoration, water quality, and water quantity projects and activities which are compatible with the biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife.	a	Establish science based criteria for ranking project proposals for implementation and funding by looking at existing project criteria used by federal, tribal, state and local agencies and limiting factors analysis of the basin.
		b	Develop evaluation system for projects which considers: cost effectiveness,

			partnerships and collaborative efforts, and long term viability of project to improve watershed health.
		c	Maintain and update the YRWIC project matrix through the Watershed Information Center. The matrix is used to identify gaps where certain projects need to take place in the watershed.
		d	Anticipate funding sources and deadlines by preparing a list of Yakima River Watershed projects which are needed to restore salmonid populations and that meet YRWIC standards. Make this list available to any agency who needs it.
		e	Seek independent review of project criteria developed by the YRWIC.
3	Act as technical and regulatory advisory body to support a number of ongoing and anticipated watershed planning and salmon recovery efforts in the state and throughout the region.	a	Enhance limiting factors analysis with supporting documentation. Collaborate this effort with salmon recovery and watershed planning projects currently underway.
		b	Seek local watershed planning community based group for feedback on projects proposed by the YRWIC. Provide criteria developed by the YRWIC to the TCWRA for watershed plan implementation.
		c	Communicate the role and function of the YRWIC to regional and state planning and funding efforts and assist these efforts by representing the YRWIC approved projects and criteria.
4	Expand public information sharing to enhance greater community understanding of public sector habitat, water quality and water quantity activities	a	Publish the activities of the YRWIC on the Watershed Information Center's webpage.
		b	Provide a public forum for information sharing either through a public meeting or public service announcement campaign. Coordinate this effort with ongoing communication efforts of other agencies.
		c	Publish regular updates of YRWIC activities in H2oInfo - the Watershed Information Center's monthly update.
5	Evaluate and monitor effectiveness of YRWIC activities.	a	Develop a means to evaluate the effectiveness of project implementation through the YRWIC process.
		b	Adapt YRWIC roles and functions to meet changing and evolving resource issues.

Objective schedules and costs

Obj #	Start date mm/yyyy	End date mm/yyyy	Measureable biological objective(s)	Milestone	FY2000 Cost %
1	1/2000	12/2002			25.00%
2	1/2000	12/2000		X	35.00%
3	1/2000	12/2002			15.00%
4	1/2000	12/2000			20.00%
5	1/2000	12/2000		X	5.00%
Total					100.00%

Schedule constraints

None

Completion date

This is an ongoing project

Section 5. Budget

FY99 project budget (BPA obligated): \$75,000

FY2000 budget by line item

Item	Note	% of total	FY2000
Personnel		%45	31,837.00
Fringe benefits	(20% of Personnel)	%9	6,367.00
Supplies, materials, non- expendable property		%15	10,500
Operations & maintenance		%17	12,000
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		%0	0
NEPA costs		%0	0
Construction-related support		%0	0
PIT tags	# of tags: 0	%0	0
Travel		%4	2,500
Indirect costs	6 % of all items listed above	%5	3,792
Subcontractor	Accounting Related	%5	3,500
Other		%0	0
TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST			\$70,496

Cost sharing

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development	Watershed Information Center database and information systems and related office facilities	%13	11,000
		%0	
		%0	
		%0	

Total project cost (including BPA portion)	\$81,496
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Outyear costs

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
Total budget	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000

Section 6. References

Watershed?	Reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nez perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama Tribes, July 1996, Wy-Kan-Us-Mi-Wa-Kish-Wit: Spirit of the Salmon. The Columbia River Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan, Portland, OR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration, April 1990, Yakima-Klickitat Production Project; Environmental Assessment. VS6-PGA-8467K. Portland, OR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1998, Salmonid Stock Inventory 1998, Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent Scientific Group. September 1996, Return to the River: Restoration of Fishes in the Columbia River Ecosystem; Portland, OR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, 1995, Yakima River Basin Water Quality Plan: Volumes 1 - 4, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, Yakima, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group, April 1998, Basin Conservation Plan for the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program: Report to the Secretary of Interior, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yakima, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Systems Operations Advisory Committee, September 16, 1998, Draft Report on Biologically-Based Flows for the Yakima River Basin, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yakima, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joy, J. and Patterson, B, July 1997, A Suspended Sediment and DDT Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation Report for the Yakima River, WDOE 97-321, Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Feb. 1994, Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, "President's Forest Plan", WA D.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington State Joint Natural Resources Cabinet, September 25, 1998, Extinction is Not An Option - A Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon, Governor Gary Locke's Office, Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, September 10, 1997, Final environmental impact statement for the Wild Salmonid Policy, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee of Protection and Management of Pacific Northwest Anadromous Salmonids, 1996, Upstream: salmon and society in the Pacific Northwest, 95-51662, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Program, June 29, 1998, Ecology's 1998 list of impaired and threatened water bodies 303(d) list, Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA

PART II - NARRATIVE

Section 7. Abstract

This proposal is to support ongoing and developing efforts of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) to implement Yakima River Watershed projects and activities which are compatible with the biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife. Degraded habitat and environmental conditions of the Yakima River Watershed require both passive and active restoration efforts to be underway. Cooperation between water and land resource managers of the Yakima River basin is crucial and the YRWIC works to avoid duplication of efforts, maximize cost-benefits, and ensure habitat and watershed restoration efforts meet measured success. The objectives of the YRWIC are closely aligned to the habitat goals and habitat policies of the 1994 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Success of the YRWIC will be measured by active agency participating and achieving improved watershed health.

Section 8. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background

Once a prolific producer of anadromous fish in the Columbia River System, the 6,155 square mile Yakima River Watershed now supports limited wild salmonid populations. The Mid-Columbia population of steelhead is proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Limited populations of Spring Chinook and Fall Chinook currently exist. Summer Chinook and Sockeye are extinct in the watershed. Seven of nine area native populations of Bull Trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Yakima River and approximately 50 of its main tributaries are listed as impaired water bodies on Washington State's 303(d) list under the Clean Water Act.

Predominant land uses in the Yakima River Watershed include irrigated agriculture, urbanization, timber harvesting and grazing. Intensive and widespread habitat degradation has resulted from these land use activities. Low instream flows, degraded water quality including high water temperature, high sedimentation and pesticide residue levels from agricultural run-off, lack of salmonid juvenile rearing and over-wintering habitat, fish migration barriers, land-use conversion, and inadequate flood management have all contributed to watershed and ecosystem degradation and decline of wild salmonids.

A variety of federal, tribal, regional, state, and local government efforts have been and are currently underway to address Yakima River Watershed declining salmonid and trout species populations. These efforts range from large scale operations plans such as the US Bureau of Reclamations Yakima River Water Enhancement Project to on-farm implementation of best management practices. Each agency has internal objectives and goals it must meet and works within it's agency to meet funding, organizational support and other resource demands to accomplish these initiatives. However, especially in regards to watershed and ecosystem related activities, many agency objectives and goals overlap with other agencies and entities. To have each agency operate separately without coordination with others results in redundancy of efforts, lost opportunities in shared resources to support activities, and implementation of projects that do not meet certain standards to achieve long term watershed and ecosystem health.

Given the declining populations of wild salmonid and trout species in the basin and the large amount of agency activity taking place to address this issue, a group like the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) is necessary to improve current watershed conditions. The YRWIC was formed in 1996 by agencies willing to work in a collaborative and cooperative effort to address key natural resource issues facing the Yakima River Watershed.

Documentation and research performed by each agency is brought to the YRWIC and acts as the knowledge base of which to move forward on. As outlined in Section 6, these documents reflect not only research performed, but also large-scale agency programmatic efforts underway to restore watershed and ecosystem health. More than 20 agencies are represented in the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council. Technical and policy managers from these agencies bring their expertise to the YRWIC forum.

Agency internal plans and research, as well as consideration for other watershed and regional activities are used to guide the YRWIC in identifying:

1. Main problems facing watershed and ecosystem health in the Yakima River watershed and Columbia River basin.
2. Ways of improving watershed problems.
3. Current on-the-ground watershed and habitat enhancement activities and projects (such as habitat restoration and water quality monitoring, etc).
4. Objectives that current activities are trying to achieve.
5. Places where work is not being performed but is required.
6. Ways to support activities and policies of agencies.
7. Criteria needed to rank proposed project prior to implementation.
8. Alternative means of improving watershed health (passive versus active restoration activities).
9. Processes currently in place to evaluate successful project implementation.
10. What funding and other collaborative support is needed to accomplish desired and required watershed improvement efforts.

b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs

Since its inception in 1996, the YRWIC has built a framework for building interagency relationships and sharing information for the purposes of improving the entire Yakima River Watershed ecosystem health. This framework is based on existing efforts of agencies and other entities in the basin rather than building a new layer or structure. The rationale behind the YRWIC is to use technical and policy expertise available from federal, tribal, regional, state and local agencies and move forward in implementing more complete habitat and watershed improvement efforts. Some of the objectives of the YRWIC are clearly aligned with the 1994 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

- 7.6A.1 Ensure human activities affecting production of salmon and steelhead in each subbasin are coordinated on a comprehensive watershed management basis.
- 7.6B.1 Improve and maintain coordination of land and water activities to protect and improve the productivity of salmon and steelhead stocks. The Council encourages local cooperation and coordination to address habitat protection and improvement and to resolve problems created by competing missions. The Council encourages private parties to be proactive and to work cooperatively with resource managers to maintain and improve habitat.
- 7.6B.2 Develop and implement procedures to ensure compatibility and compliance with the Council's habitat goal, policies and objectives. Implement and require compliance with state, federal, local and tribal laws, regulations and policies relating to Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead habitat regulation and management.
- 7.6B.3 Give highest priority to habitat protection and improvement in areas of the Columbia Basin where low or medium habitat productivity or low pre-spawning survival for identified weak populations are limiting factors. Give priority to habitat projects that have been integrated into broader watershed improvement efforts and that promote cooperative agreements with private landowners.
- 7.6B.4 For actions that increase habitat productivity or quantity, give priority to actions that maximize the desired result per dollar spent. Also, give higher priority to actions that

have a high probability of succeeding at a reasonable cost over those that have great cost and highly uncertain success.

7.6B.5 Provide elevated or new funding necessary for the successful and timely implementation of the items listed in this section. Funding sources for implementing provisions of the habitat section should include, but not be limited to, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Bonneville Power Administration, other relevant federal agencies, all relevant state agencies, local governments, private landowners, resource users and tribes. Cost and effort sharing is encouraged.

7.6B.6 Encourage the involvement of volunteers and educational institutions in cooperative habitat enhancement projects. Promote public outreach and encourage education in watershed and resource management and protection throughout the basin.

7.6C Coordinated Habitat Planning

Therefore, the Council urges all parties in a watershed to undertake, collectively and voluntarily, the habitat assessment and restoration actions needed to achieve watershed conditions that meet the habitat objectives set forth below, or locally-adopted, subbasin-specific objectives that are functionally equivalent in terms of biological consequences, with these regional objectives. (Use locally adopted & developed watershed plans, existing and future watershed assessments, collaboration)

c. Relationships to other projects

The key to the effectiveness of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) is its inter-relationship with other federal, tribal, regional, state and local Yakima River Watershed projects and activities. The YRWIC will continue to identify additional projects and programs to be involved with.

Each agency in the YRWIC brings both large and smaller scale projects to have the YRWIC participate in. Many times, agencies will ask the YRWIC to assist in evaluating or review their projects for endorsement. As the YRWIC project evaluation criteria is further developed, the YRWIC will be able to adopt these standards to either support or suggest improvement on proposed projects or programs. Additionally, being involved in, or having knowledge of as many projects as possible, the YRWIC looks at these efforts in a collective (watershed based) sense and evaluates what might overlap with other efforts, what might be redundant or missing from project proposals.

The basic concept of the YRWIC is for agencies to bring forward the work they are doing and help outline what still needs to be done and who can do it. By its very nature, the YRWIC is fully integrated into ongoing federal, regional, state and local agencies projects. Large scale project and plans such as the implementation of Wy-Kan-Us-Mi-Wa-Kish-Wit: Spirit of the Salmon to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Systems Operations Advisory Committee Report on Biologically-Based Flows for the Yakima River Basin are considered. YRWIC identifies issues these plans present then integrates them into how YRWIC will implement projects. Additionally, projects such as Washington Department of Ecology's Lower Yakima Total Maximum Daily Load outlines current needs already addressed within WDOE but which need the support of multiple entities, including private landowners, to reach the TMDL goals.

Some key projects and activities are closely linked to the YRWIC. One key project that has assisted the YRWIC in moving forward is the Watershed Information Center, a Washington State funded grant project designed to collect, store and disseminate information about key watershed related activities and programs. Acting as a neutral entity, the Center performs information management functions for the YRWIC as well as providing project coordination and information sharing support. The Watershed Information Center will

assist the YRWIC in fulfilling the goals of this project proposal through maintaining a database of YRWIC participants, projects and gap analysis information, and by providing meeting facilitation and coordination functions. The YRWIC is an integral entity for supplying the Center with information on projects, publications, funding and activities. In turn, the Center provides the YRWIC the kinds of information and tools it needs to evaluate current activities and plan for the future.

As Washington State watershed planning efforts continue under the Washington Department of Ecology, a new planning unit - the Tri-County Water Resource Agency -has taken on Yakima River watershed planning activities. The YRWIC continues to function as a technical assistance body for local watershed planning efforts and coordinates with the new local citizen's based planning unit. Representatives of the Tri-County Water Resource Agency (TCWRA) are participating in the YRWIC effort and assist in steering committee responsibilities. As TCWRA further develops its planning objectives, the YRWIC remains steady in enhancing its standards for project implementation and evaluation. By using these standards, TCWRA can avoid creating its own and separate project implementation criteria. The YRWIC also can receive volunteer and community members' feedback on their proposed projects by working with the TCWRA planning unit.

Salmon recovery efforts through the Governors Salmon Recovery Team and the Washington State Conservation Commission are closely linked to the YRWIC. Current and future goals of the YRWIC will be:

1. Invite area coordinators of salmon recovery related processes to participate in the YRWIC.
2. Provide initial limiting factors analysis developed by the YRWIC to salmon recovery area coordinators.
3. Be involved in enhancing limiting factors analysis with documentation.
4. Develop link between limiting factors analysis and YRWIC project ranking criteria.
5. Seek review by State salmon recovery coordinator of limiting factors analysis and project ranking criteria and integrate suggestions.
6. Seek independent review of limiting factors analysis and project ranking criteria and integrate suggestions.
7. Link limiting factors analysis and project ranking criteria to local watershed planning efforts.

d. Project history (for ongoing projects)

YRWIC is an informal organization of state, federal, local and tribal agencies which have internal directives and interest to work on watershed environmental issues - with a focus on anadromous fish. The Yakima River Watershed Council (YRWC) - a grassroots community based organization with the goal of preparing a water resource plan for the watershed - first convened the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) in 1996. The YRWC had no governmental entities as members, but recognized the need to involve state, federal, tribal and local agencies to act as technical and regulatory advisors to their planning process. The YRWIC was organized to meet this need and from 1996 - July 1998 the Watershed Council helped facilitate YRWIC's formation, education, meetings and activities. YRWIC evolved its structure and organized itself to be a consensus-based group whose goal is to cooperatively identify and conduct projects to improve watershed health. Focus of the group is on anadromous fish restoration by improving habitat, water quality, water conservation and instream flow.

In 1997 the YRWIC members identified watershed and habitat related activities their agencies were working on in the Yakima Basin to form a project matrix and gap analysis. The group identified four key subbasins of the watershed and then listed projects by type (habitat, water quality, or water quantity). Also identified were critical perimeters for each subbasin that projects needed to achieve in order to achieve watershed health. Those parameters that were not being dealt with through current projects then gave the group knowledge of gaps of need in the basin. This process is evolving and flexible. The YRWIC continues to adapt this matrix to current resource demands and needs.

In 1998 the Watershed Council submitted a FY 98 and FY 99 project proposal to the Northwest Power Planning Council and the Bonneville Power Administration for support of the Interagency Council. Those projects received approval for funding. However, in the summer of 1998, due to statewide watershed

planning efforts, the Yakima River Watershed Council dissolved and a new watershed planning unit was formed. Despite this, the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council (YRWIC) persists and is actively engaged in activities of cooperation and coordination for watershed and natural resource management. Currently, the YRWIC is functioning under BPA project proposal #9901200 Coordinate/Facilitate Watershed Project Planning/Implementation as sponsored by the Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District. Facilitation of YRWIC meetings and information sharing is taking place through the Watershed Information Center, a water quality project established in 1996 for the Yakima Basin. The Center's established systems for project coordination and information sharing assist in maximizing the effect of the YRWIC. The coordination between the Center and the YRWIC increases flow of information about watershed projects and reduces redundancy of efforts. Additionally, interagency participation in YRWIC is high and the group moves forward in expanding its scope of work. The assistance of each YRWIC member ensures the forum is successful. The YRWIC meets monthly to accomplish its initiatives and a steering committee of YRWIC members meets regularly to guide work products of the group. A grants/funding committee also is engaged in identifying sources of support for habitat and watershed related projects.

e. Proposal objectives

Objectives of this proposal build on past activities of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council and position the Council to work effectively to achieve its goal - improving the health of the Yakima River Watershed.

Objective 1:

Build cooperative interagency partnerships to benefit wild salmonid populations/watershed & ecosystem health/ and other wildlife species.

Objective 2:

Identify and implement Yakima River Watershed habitat restoration, water quality, and water quantity projects and activities that are compatible with the biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife.

Objective 3:

Act as technical and regulatory advisory body to support a number of ongoing and anticipated watershed planning and salmon recovery efforts in the state and throughout the region.

Objective 4:

Expand public information sharing to enhance greater community understanding of public sector habitat, water quality and water quantity activities

Objective 5:

Evaluate and monitor effectiveness of YRWIC activities.

f. Methods

Methods used for achieving proposal objectives are based on past activities of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council and needs that may arise in the Yakima River Watershed in the future. The framework for the YRWIC proposal remains flexible to allow for changing conditions of the watershed.

Methods for achieving objectives listed in item "e" include:

Objective 1:

- ◆ Hold regular YRWIC group, steering committee and fund committee meetings.
- ◆ Expand membership of the YRWIC through meetings with agencies currently not involved. Encourage their participation.
- ◆ Keep members up to date and YRWIC activities and other watershed related activities through regular communication. This communication will be produced through the Watershed Information Center

who acts as a resource for watershed related activities in the Yakima River basin. Products will include email list serves, meeting minutes, monthly publications.

- ◆ Maintenance of YWRIC project list. This list includes ongoing and planned projects YWRIC agencies are involved in. The regular maintenance of this list will be facilitated through the Watershed Information Center. The list is used to assist the YRWIC in identifying matching funding, technical resources or assistance needs of projects.
- ◆ Maintain facilitation of the YRWIC as a neutral structure by having the Watershed Information Center - a non-agency - assist in its day to day needs.

Objective 2:

- ◆ Establish science-based criteria for ranking project proposals for funding and endorsement by the YRWIC. By looking at existing project criteria used by federal, tribal, state and local agencies the YRWIC will develop its framework for getting projects implemented that achieve high results for the resource. Additionally, limiting factors analysis for the Watershed will be studied to ensure ranking criteria addresses these factors.
- ◆ Develop evaluation system for projects which will consider: cost effectiveness, utilization of partnerships and collaborative efforts, and long term viability of projects to improve watershed health.
- ◆ Continue to maintain and update the YRWIC project matrix through the Watershed Information Center. The matrix is a useful tool for the YRWIC in identifying gaps where projects are needed in order to address specific watershed health concerns.
- ◆ Examine funding sources for implementing needed projects and activities. By anticipating deadlines of funding sources, the YRWIC will develop a list a YRWIC "endorsed" projects. This will ensure these projects meet the objective of improving watershed health and are compatible with the biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife.
- ◆ Seek independent scientific review of project criteria developed by the YRWIC to ensure its compatibility and validity with programs such as the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Objective 3:

- ◆ Enhance limiting factors analysis for the Yakima River watershed by adding support documentation. This effort will be in collaboration with State salmon recovery and watershed planning efforts.
- ◆ Seek local volunteer/community based watershed planning group for feedback on projects proposed by the YWRIC for implementation. This will coincide with current watershed planning efforts. The YRWIC will provide the criteria they develop for project evaluation to the watershed planning group TCWRA.
- ◆ Communicate the role and function of the YRWIC to regional and state planning and funding efforts. This will be accomplished by having YRWIC representation at related meetings and events. The goal is to provide YRWIC as a tool for helping implementing large-scale habitat and watershed restoration efforts.

Objective 4:

- ◆ The activities of the YRWIC will be published on the Watershed Information Center's webpage.
- ◆ A public forum for sharing information will be developed in conjunction with ongoing communication efforts of other agencies. Public meetings or a public service announcement campaign will be implemented.
- ◆ Regular updates of the YRWIC will also be profiled in H2oInfo - a regularly published publication of the Watershed Information Center. This publication reaches local and state elected officials, community members, the media, as well as agencies working in areas outside the Yakima River Watershed.

Objective 5:

- ◆ Develop a means to evaluate the effectiveness of project implementation through the efforts of the YWRIC.
- ◆ Adapt YWRIC roles and functions to meeting changing and evolving resource issues of the basin.

g. Facilities and equipment

Efforts of the Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council are accomplished using Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District and Watershed Information Center facilities and equipment. These facilities are modern, adequate and suitable office environments which allow for performance of this proposal. Additionally, existing facilities of agencies involved in the project are often utilized. This proposal involves the utilization of enhanced communications and computer equipment, but these are not major purchases.

h. Budget

Costs for continuing project 9901200 are based on past costs for project implementation and projected costs for YWRIC activities.

The needs of the YRWIC are reflected in the costs outlined this project proposal. Cost sharing potential for the FY2000 are somewhat reduced from past proposals due to:

1. Many start up costs for the YRWIC have already been absorbed and donated as in-kind service by the Watershed Information Center. The Watershed Information Center is a water quality based project who's objective is to facilitate water quality related information sharing in the Yakima River Basin. A good portion of the Center's efforts in 1998 were targeted to assisting the YRWIC (setting up project lists, maintaing project matrix, facilitating meetings, etc). The Center's funding comes from the Washington Department of Ecology grant funds - totaling \$175,000.00. By fiscal year 2000, these funds will be exhausted. No other agencies or organizations have been able to provide full administrative and facilitation functions of the YRWIC and therefore the Watershed Information Center has taken on these functions in addition to its original project goals and objectives.
2. Initial project support was offered by the Yakima River Watershed Center. This entity no longer exists and is unable to provide project support.

Budget Items Include:

Personnel:	46% of project budget = \$31,837.00 (.75 FTE - Watershed Information Center coordinator / .25 FTE secretarial support)
Fringe Benefits:	9% of project budget = \$6,367.00 (20% of Personnel)
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property:	14% = \$10,500.00 (website and computer related expenses, office supplies and incidental expenses)
Operations and Maintenance:	17% of project budget = \$12,000.00 (Meeting facilitation, meeting space, and public communication expenses)
Travel:	4% of project budget = \$2,500.00 (representation of YRWIC in regional and state resource related forums)
Indirect Costs:	6% of all items listed above = \$3,792.00
Subcontractor:	5% of project budget = \$3,500.00 (Accounting related expenses)
Total Project Costs:	100% of project costs: \$69,436.00

Section 9. Key personnel

Key personnel for accomplishing the goals of this proposal includes all Yakima River Watershed Interagency Council local and regional policy/technical managers and staff. The 15 member board of Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District (Ki-Yak RC & D) will oversee this project and will provide key staff from Ki-Yak RC & D and the Watershed Information Center to facilitate implementation of the project. Below are brief resumes of Brenda McMurray, Coordinator of the Watershed Information Center, and David Myra, Coordinator of Ki-Yak RC & D.

Brenda P. McMurray

Coordinator, Watershed Information Center, December 1996 - Present. Duties include the implementation and coordination of a water quality information center project for the Yakima River Watershed. Facilitates development of information systems - such as database and website development - for disseminating project information. Maintains contact with those working in the Yakima River Watershed on water quality and related projects.

Previous Experience: 10 years professional experience in marketing, public relations and communications field with private and public agencies and organizations.

Education: Bachelors of Science in Industrial Communications.

Dave Myra

Coordinator, Kittitas-Yakima Resource Conservation and Development District 1994 - Present. Duties include implementation of RC & D state goals into local land conservation, water management, community development and environmental projects and programs through coordination of a variety of interests and entities. Tasks include coordination of projects to meet Ki-Yak board objectives, facilitation of elected officials or staff meeting with elected officials or staff, facilitation of Ki-Yak Board meetings, provide assistance to start new projects or maintain existing efforts,

Previous Experience: 1974 - 1984 service with U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Yakima, Kittitas and Klickitat Counties and South Yakima Conservation Service.

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences, Post-graduate work in Biology, Geography, Resource Management, and Land Use Planning

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

The YRWIC will utilize the communications effort currently developed by the Watershed Information Center and develop any new tools necessary to complete its objectives. Of new development will be public information outreach efforts including development of website (through the Watershed Information Center) and holding public information forums. Information used by the YRWIC will primarily come from the existing database of the Watershed Information Center. This database allows for information sharing through hard copy or electronic transfer (email and the web). Additionally, activities of the YRWIC will be featured in H2OInfo - a monthly publication of Yakima River Watershed activities and related issues.

Technical information, such as GIS layers and raw data from monitoring efforts, will be identified as well as the source for these types of information. Efforts of the YRWIC will involve the formation of GIS layers as they correspond to watershed projects (by location and type). This information will be transferred to the YRWIC webpage on the Watershed Information Center's web site. Additional extraction of technical resource information will take place on an as needed basis utilizing the resources of YRWIC participating agencies.

Congratulations!