

Appendix 1 – Project-specific comments

Project 8332300, Smolt Monitoring at the Head of LGR Reservoir & LGR Dam

Sponsor: IDFG

Proposed Budget: \$396,700

The proposed Fiscal Year 2000 budget is appropriate to the scope of work. We are consolidating several smolt monitoring projects. The \$396,700, less the costs for PIT tags, allocated for Fiscal Year 2000 will be transferred and allocated under project 8712700 since the operations of the Idaho fish traps by IDF&G will now be funded through the PSMFC smolt monitoring program project.

It is anticipated there will likely be \$150,000 to \$200,000 of the remaining Fiscal Year 1999 budget. This balance could either be carried forward to Fiscal Year 2000 to offset the need for new funds or transferred to the Anadromous Fish Unallocated Placeholder.

Project 8401400, Monitoring of Downstream Salmon and Steelhead at Federal Hydroelectric Facilities

Sponsor: NMFS/PSMFC

Proposed Budget: \$121,038

The proposed Fiscal Year 2000 budget is appropriate to the scope of work. A major portion of the expense for this component of the smolt monitoring is already included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2000 allocation for project 8712700. The \$121,038 allocated for 8401400 for Fiscal Year 2000 will be transferred and allocated under project 8712700 since the smolt monitoring activities at John Day and Bonneville Dams will now be funded through the PSMFC smolt monitoring project.

It is anticipated there will likely be about \$150,000 of remaining Fiscal Year 1999 allocation for project 8401400 in Fiscal Year 1999. This balance could either be carried forward under project 8712700 for Fiscal Year 2000 to offset the need for new funds or transferred to the Anadromous Fish Unallocated Placeholder.

Project 8712700, Smolt Monitoring by Federal and Non-Federal Agencies

Project Sponsor: PSMFC

Proposed Budget: \$1,870,449

The proposed Fiscal Year 2000 budget will be increased to accommodate the expanded scope of work resulting from incorporating the smolt monitoring work formerly performed by IDFG and NMFS under projects 8332300 and 8401400. Appropriate amounts of funds will be transferred to 8712700 from Fiscal Year 2000 allocations and/or carry forward Fiscal Year 1999 balances for projects 8332300 and 8401400.

Project 8740100, Assessment of Smolt condition: Biological and Environmental Interactions

Project Sponsor: USGS-BRD

Proposed Budget: \$199,046

The ISRP recommends delayed funding until USGS-BRD provides a more precise statistical analysis protocol that is supported by the sampling design and data. USGS-BRD is collaborating with the University of Washington's project 9105100 "Monitoring and Evaluation Statistical Support," which provides statistical support to Fish and Wildlife Program projects and BPA, to address this ISRP concern. USGS-BRD delivered material to project 9105100 in late July to begin the analysis.

Project 9102800, Monitoring the Smolt Migrations of Wild Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook

Project Sponsor: NMFS/NWFSC

Sponsor proposed budget: \$385,200

CBFWA proposed budget: \$325,200

The co-managers did not support Objective 4, to provide emigration, genetic, and survival information on salmon (primary) and steelhead (ancillary) juvenile populations from the Big Creek drainage of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, and relate movement information to seasonal climatic and environmental conditions within this drainage. Because objective 4 was estimated to represent about 15 percent of the total proposal costs, the funding amount approved is \$325,200. This amount is appropriate to accomplish the remaining scope of work.

Project 9106700, Idaho Water Rental: Resident Fish and Wildlife Impacts – Phase III

Sponsor: IDFG

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$119,000

CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$119,000

The purpose of the project is to evaluate and estimate the impacts to resident fish in the Snake River basin upstream of Brownlee Reservoir resulting from the release of salmon flow augmentation water. It evaluates the water management activities of other agencies.

If NMFS decides to eliminate or keep flow augmentation from the upper Snake Basin at existing levels (427,000 acre-feet), then Fiscal Year 2000 may be the last year of funding. If NMFS decides to use more water from the upper Snake for flow augmentation, then the project will likely be necessary for long term evaluation of the impacts of an entirely new flow regime. The potential for adverse impacts to resident fish and habitat is much greater with larger volumes of water used for flow augmentation. This project is the

foundation for evaluating the flow augmentation releases, allowing for more timely evaluation of impacts.

Project 9102900, Life History and Survival of Fall Chinook Salmon in Columbia River Basin

Sponsor: USGS

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$800,000

CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$744,000

The project sponsors agreed to a reduction in project funding as CBFWA recommended. The project can continue at this funding level. The ISRP commented that reports are not current. All reports for the project have been submitted and there are no other reports due. Annual Reports to BPA have been produced for the following years: 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996-97. A report for 1998 is in preparation and is due in October 1999. Research results have also been reported in separate reports to BPA (Connor et al 1997; Connor et al. 1998; Muir et al 1998; Muir et al. 1999; Smith et al. 1997). In addition, they have published four peer-reviewed journal articles and four are in the review process.

Project 20019, Evaluate Status of Pacific Lamprey in Clearwater River Drainage, Idaho

Sponsor: IDFG

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$119,000

CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$73,000

According to CBFWA comments, this is a Tier 1 project, however CBFWA and IDFG agreed to fund at a reduced level in order to accomplish other important tasks in the subbasin. The budget cut will eliminate radio-tagging work.

Project No. 20092, Inventory Wildlife Species and Populations of the Owhyhee Basin, DVIR

Sponsor: SPT

This project requests funding to inventory wildlife species and populations on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Is this consistent with the Council's wildlife program to mitigate for losses caused by construction and operation of the federal hydropower system? All loss assessments sought by the Council Program for the hydro system have been completed.

Project 9801700, Eliminate Gravel Push-Up Dams on Lower North Fork John Day River

Sponsor: North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$90,250

CBFWA Proposed Budget: 90,250

The main concern of the ISRP review is a lack of quantitative analysis of the effects on fish from push-up dams. In 2001 and beyond, monitoring and evaluation of biological effects could be built into this project or a separate project solely for that purpose if the Council agrees with the ISRP that this is an expense that is necessary for verification of the benefit of push-up dam removal.

The ISRP also mentions a concern over reliance on volunteer efforts from many entities without assurance of their participation. The involvement in this project includes partnership participation in funding and implementation by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), local resource managers and local farmers and ranchers. OWEB is paying the Watershed Coordinator's salary. Natural Resource Conservation District and Grant Conservation District Engineers are designing the pumping stations. Resource managers are members of the North Fork John Day Watershed Council and are supplying resource information, and local property owners are represented on the Council and supplying the link to their fellow farmers and ranchers.

Project 20041, Develop a Fish & Wildlife Conservation Law Enforcement Plan, DVIR

Sponsor: SPT-DVIR

Project Sponsor Funding Request: \$40,872

CBFWA Funding Recommendation: None (ISRP recommended funding for one year)

Would funding of this project be consistent with the Council's guidance for funding of law enforcement assistance?

Project 970110, Enhance and protect habitat and riparian areas on the DVIR

Sponsor: SPT-DVIR

Project Sponsor Funding Request: \$294,722

CBFWA Funding Recommendation: \$294,722

Budget includes \$20,000 to aid in Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA) work. The Tribes are eligible for Clean Water Act Section 106 grant money for additional work on the higher order programmatic UWA. The UWAs are required by the Clean Water Action Plan. The SPT contributed to the State of Nevada UWA submitted to EPA October 1, 1998. On the other hand, if a comprehensive lower order watershed assessment is intended, emphasizing fish and wildlife and integrated with the EPA UWA and the umbrella plan (20536), the statement of work should be clear in this purpose.

Project 9107100, Snake River Sockeye Salmon Habitat and Limnological Research
Sponsor: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

ISRP recommended “delay funding” until project describes that a risk assessment has been done pertaining to risks associated with altering food web structure in sockeye nursery lakes through whole-lake fertilization.

- It would be very helpful if the ISRP would describe their expectations for the food web risk assessment in more detail. Is there a particular example of one done for a U.S. or Canadian lake?

Utah State University (the Shoshone-Bannock's contractor) did a thorough laboratory and field assessment of the potential impacts of fertilization before full-scale lake fertilization was done. This completed assessment may meet the ISRP's requirements.

- Who will approve the risk assessment in order to change the “delay funding” recommendation to “fund” – ISRP, NPPC, or BPA?

Project 9505700, Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation
Sponsor: IDFG

The ISRP recommended funding for one year and that the sponsor address concerns about monitoring plans and evidence of outcome assessments and achievements. This next year is adequate time for the contractors to address these concerns in their management plans. Many of these projects have been acquired in the past year, and the Memoranda of Agreement require a management plan within two years after the project is acquired.

Project 9306200, Salmon River Anadromous Fish Passage Enhancement

The ISRP recommended funding for one year and the consolidation of three projects 9202603, 9401700, 9306200. ISRP recommends that the sponsors need to better describe their methods for selecting and prioritizing restoration efforts and for monitoring and evaluation.

Project number 9202603 is the administrative contract. Project 9401700 is the habitat contract and 9306200 is the passage contract. Project 9306200 Salmon River Passage and 9600700 Upper Salmon River Diversion Consolidation Program could be combined into one contract. These contracts are the same in scope of work. The statement of work could explain the scope of work and people working on the contract. The Salmon River Subbasin will be doing an Aquatic Ecosystem Review this next year and will address the methods for selecting and prioritizing restoration efforts and for monitoring and evaluation. Some Fiscal Year 2000 money could be needed to accomplish the Aquatic Ecosystem Review.

Project 9501300: Nez Perce Tribe Resident Fish Substitution Program

Sponsor: Nez Perce Tribe

The ISRP recommends that the project not be funded. The project is going through the Council's "Three-Step" process with particular attention to the species being targeted and the scope of the proposed reservoirs. If the Council recommends interim funding for this project a review needs to take place to determine what Fiscal Year 2000 funds need to be expended to put these projects into maintenance and monitoring until a decision can be made on the scope of this project.

Project 9600700, Irrigation Diversion Consolidations & Water Conservation; Upper Salmon River

ISRP recommends a delay of funding in order for the sponsor to demonstrate that the water savings will be secured for instream use, through filing of instream water rights and monitoring of those rights.

This recommendation may not be possible under current Idaho state law. One can accomplish water savings but cannot secure them under a water right. Fisheries benefits occur by less conveyance loss, alternating use by irrigators, and reduction in fish migration delay time. This project will be a part of the Salmon River Aquatic Ecosystem Review. Some Fiscal Year 2000 money could be needed to accomplish the Aquatic Ecosystem Review.

Project 9608600, Clearwater Subbasin Focus Watershed Program

Project Sponsor: ISCC

The ISRP recommended that funding be delayed, finding "The contractors appear to have ignored Council guidance that a watershed assessment are to be the basis for restoration efforts, and are to be completed before embarking on specific restoration project elements. No indication is given of how the projects relates to a watershed assessment, or if one exist."

The Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 contracts outline that the contractors will establish an advisory committee and conduct a watershed analyses. Some progress has occurred but there is a long way to go to accomplish the direction of the council, ISRP and the work statement deliverables. Delaying funding, however, will make it difficult to accomplish the needed because there would be no staff to work on the problem issues.

Project 9705700, Salmon River Production Program

Sponsor: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

The ISRP reported that the project is technically inadequate. The contractors have not completed the master plan of three-step process that was due last spring. Bonneville has informed the sponsor that they cannot put out any more eggs with Bonneville funding until they comply with the NEPA requirements. There could be a loss of monitoring data from the results of not funding this project.

Project 9901900, Restore the Salmon River, in the Challis, Idaho Area.

The ISRP recommended against funding the project. The sponsor is working with the University of Idaho Ecohydraulics Research Group. They have a master student in place to do a Hydrological Analysis and develop a conceptual management alternative for the enhancement of the watershed. If the second year of funding is not available in Fiscal Year 2000, the research would not be complete. This project also will be under the Salmon River Subbasin Aquatic Review.

Project 20017, Restore Habitat Within Dredge Tailings on the Yankee Fork Salmon River

The ISRP believes this project is technically inadequate. After this proposal was submitted, the agencies and tribe decided to take a more scientific approach to stream rehab. Out of these conversations, agreement that an Aquatic Review approach is needed. The University of Idaho Ecohydraulics Division has agreed to help accomplish this by providing a Master Student. This project area will be under the Salmon River Review. If this project comes out as a high priority and is funded, then the watershed group has agreed to put an Ecohydraulic student on the project to develop a conceptual alternative implementation plan

Project 8805302, 20138; NEOH – Umatilla/Walla Walla

Sponsor: CTUIR

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$6,400,000

CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$2,800,000

Bonneville understands that the actual budget amount should be \$2,132,000 including an \$122,000 for NEPA costs. The ISRP recommended against funding these projects. A spring chinook program already exists for the Umatilla, so the of building more hatchery capacity in the South Fork of the Walla Walla will turn on examination of the overall spring chinook production goals and review of adequacy of Umatilla hatchery for spring Chinook production. The projects are subject to the existing processes of Artificial Production Review and three-step processes, as well as NEPA. Design and construction can't proceed without the incremental approvals that would come as these processes are followed.

Project 20022, NEOH planning/coordination - WDFW

Sponsor: WDFW

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$12,942
CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$10,000

The ISRP recommended against funding. Depending on the guidance for continued master planning for the NEOH program, this is the project that would fund WDFW participation. The Umatilla Tribes and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are already funded for their activities.

Projects 98-007-02, 98-007-03 and 88-053-05, Operation and Maintenance of the Grande Ronde Endemic Spring Chinook Program

The above projects are component pieces of the Grande Ronde Endemic Spring Chinook Supplementation program (GRESP). Each project funds the contributing efforts of NPT, CTUIR, and ODFW, respectively, to operate and maintain and monitor and evaluate portions of the program involving adult capture, juvenile rearing and juvenile acclimation. These activities occur at Lookingglass hatchery and at the six new traps and acclimation facilities being completed in 1999 under project 9800701. (O&M and M&E for the captive brood rearing portion of this program is accomplished under 9801001.) Note that ODFW's proposal for this work was submitted under 8805305 – NEOH planning, rather than 9800704 – GRESP O&M/M&E. Nevertheless, the work, as recommended by CBFWA, remains the same. ISRP recommends funding 9800702, delaying funding on 9800703 and not funding 8805305. It should be noted that all three components are integral to this project.

Project 9601100, Walla Walla Passage Improvements

Project Sponsor: CTUIR
Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$2,840,000
CBFWA Proposed Budget: \$2,840,000

The construction costs for this project have increase since preliminary project estimates from a few years ago. Recent estimates indicate that the scope of at least three component projects has expanded markedly since that time, with a net effect that the cost to complete these projects could reach \$9,045,000. Nursery Bridge ladder has gone from \$266,000 to \$721,000 as the Corps design has progressed. Hofer Dam had been estimated at feasibility to cost about \$200,000. Now, with more detailed design and consultation with affected parties, the estimate has expanded to between \$725,000 and \$1,200,000. Similarly, the Garden City/Lowden consolidation has grown from about \$1,300,000 to \$2,700,000 as design and consultations have progressed.

The ISRP expressed concern about what progress is represented by this work. Although the selection criteria may not be apparent in the proposal, the objective has been to prioritize the worst passage conditions, given funding and schedule constraints. It should be noted that several smaller, side tributary projects exist that need improvements. Feasibility studies are underway now to identify and prioritize these. It is not clear whether funding for these projects will be requested under the Program or through other means such as Mitchell Act.

Project 9606700, Manchester Spring Chinook Broodstock

Project Sponsor: NMFS

Sponsor Proposed Budget: \$500,000

CBFWA Recommended Budget: \$450,000

According to the CBFWA the sponsor's proposed budget appears to include personnel and resources that are dedicated to the Redfish lake sockeye program. It appears that CBFWA recommended a \$50,000 reduction to address this accounting error.