

Tom Karier  
Chair  
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

James A. Yost  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes  
Vice-Chair  
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

January 4, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

**SUBJECT:** Quarterly Review of Within-year Project Funding Adjustments for Implementation

### PROPOSED ACTION

At your meeting on January 15, 2008, Council staff will review the schedule and timeframe associated with the funding adjustment requests for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008. This agenda item will be for review and discussion only and no committee action is requested. After an opportunity for comment, these requests will come back to the committee and Council for a decision at the February meeting.

### BACKGROUND

The Bonneville Power Administration, the Council, and the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority have formed a budget oversight group (BOG) to conduct a budget tracking process. A principle role of the BOG is to validate whether the requests are a reschedule or within-year request (i.e., scope change, budget change, scope/budget change, reschedule, and new request) and to place the within-year requests into one or more of the sorting categories (1-5). Reschedules are forwarded to Bonneville for assessment and funding as funds become available, and within-year requests are also forwarded to Bonneville for recommendation on the availability of funds as identified at the quarterly reviews.

The BOG uses the quarterly reviews to initiate a prioritization process to establish which budget adjustment requests can be met with the available funding in the current fiscal year project budget. This process also includes a public comment period.

On December 26, 2007, the Council received a letter from Bonneville summarizing the within-year requests being considered during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008 (see Attachment 1).

Of the 13 requests reviewed by the BOG during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008, 10 requests will need a decision in February. As outlined in the attached table (see Attachment 2), one request was addressed as part of the Council recommendation associated with the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Program Review, one request is currently under ISRP review (i.e., CSMEP) and the remaining request did not require any action (i.e., determined not to be a scope change).

The requests are categorized by category (1 - 5) per the BOG review. Based on staff review and comment received, the staff will bring to the committee and the Council a recommendation at the February meeting.

**Attachment 1: Letter received on December 26, 2007 from Bonneville regarding within-year funding adjustments associated with the Quarterly Review.**



**Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 26, 2007

In reply refer to:

Mr. Tony Grover  
Fish and Wildlife Division Director  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Grover:

In accordance with the Budget Oversight Group (BOG) process, the BOG recently conducted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 first quarterly review of within-year budget and/or scope modification requests. Through this process, we are now initiating the 14-day public comment period on these requests. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will consider any public comments received by January 16, 2008, before developing our tentative decisions which will be discussed at the February Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) Meeting. BPA has provided a synopsis of all requests below.

The BOG process incorporates the following criteria to categorize the project requests:

**Category**

- 1. Emergency** - Acts of God or the unforeseen loss of mechanical infrastructure that necessitates an extraordinary action to avoid the imminent loss of fish or wildlife resources; imminent threat to human health or safety.
- 2. ESA Commitment of BPA** - A new or ongoing project that directly implements actions committed to by the Action Agencies to implement biological opinions. New projects will be reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), BPA and the Council prior to BPA funding.

**3. Project Integrity** - Actions necessary for the project, though not of an emergency nature, to avoid the loss of a previous project investment; including major project review (i.e. step review) that would:

- a. Jeopardize the performance of the entire project; or
- b. Jeopardize the performance of a discrete task or objective of the project causing:
  1. Adverse biological consequences to the project; or
  2. The loss of monitoring and evaluation data;

**4. Lost Opportunity** - New or ongoing projects that respond to a limited opportunity to benefit the fish and wildlife resource and that opportunity will be permanently lost if the requested budget increase and associated work is not approved. "Lost opportunity" constitutes a highly scrutinized status and does not necessarily constitute an automatic approval.

**5. Other** - Any project not deemed by the BOG to fall into the four categories defined above. The loss of capability to administer the project also falls into this category. Examples of this type of request might include a cost-of-living increases or increases in indirect rates. Because these costs should be addressed through project contracting, it is unlikely that these projects would receive a high priority in the quarterly review process.

---

## Project Funding Requests

### Category 3a

**Project Number:** 2001-028-00

**Project Name:** Banks Lake Fishery Evaluation

**Contractor:** Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

**BPA-COTR:** Greg Baesler

**Budget Amount:** \$18,500 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Banks Lake Fishery Evaluation Project requested funding at the October BOG meeting to collect adult Kokanee for otolith mark identification and disease testing for brood stock feasibility. The month of October is the only window of opportunity to collect marked adults for this broodyear.

The BOG did not elevate this request to the BOG Management Group. The window for the need has elapsed. Therefore, no action is needed.

**Project Number:** 1988-053-07

**Project Name:** Hood River Production O&M – Warm Springs/ODFW

**Contractor:** Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation

**BPA-COTR:** Sarah Branum

**Budget Amount:** \$150,000 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Hood River Production Project requests funding to construct a 1,250 ft. long berm to protect the Parkdale Fish Facility from Middle Fork Hood River flood events. The Parkdale Fish Facility is located west of Parkdale, Oregon, and provides incubation and adult holding facilities for the Hood River Production Program. The facility is adjacent to the Middle Fork of the Hood River. Flooding and debris flows occurred in the Middle Fork during a November 2006 flood that threatened the facility. As a result of these floods, the Middle Fork abandoned its historic channel and started flowing in a newly formed channel closer to the facility. The immediate instability of the area and stream channel aggradation following this historic flood is thought to have increased the potential for the Parkdale Fish Facility to be damaged in subsequent flooding.

As part of the revised Master Plan process, HDR/Fishpro surveyed the area to determine whether the location was suitable for continued use and provide alternatives for protection of the facility. A working group of professional hydrologists/geomorphologists reviewed HDR's report and recommended construction of the berm to protect the facility from future high water events. Because the Middle Fork's channel aggraded during the November flooding, the likelihood of high-water flooding events has greatly increased.

### **Category 3b1**

**Project Number:** 1995-057-00

**Project Name:** Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation

**Contractor:** Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (IDFG)

**BPA-COTR:** David Byrnes

**Budget Amount:** \$130,000 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation project is requesting funds to purchase irrigation equipment. Two irrigation pivots need to be replaced to irrigate habitat for wildlife and waterfowl at Deer Parks WMS. Without irrigation, vegetation maintained for habitat would not be available for wildlife and waterfowl. There was money for one replacement in FY06 but the money was transferred and used for construction of shop/maintenance facility that was under budgeted from estimates. The second replacement is a hydraulic pivot that no longer can be repaired and parts are unavailable.

### **Category 3b2**

**Project Number:** 1997-004-00

**Project Name:** Resident Fish Stock Status above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams

**Contractor:** Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

**BPA-COTR:** Lee Watts

**Budget Amount:** \$45,000 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Resident Fish Stock project is requesting funds to purchase telemetry equipment as well as additional personnel costs associated with conducting redband trout life history & habitat use studies. WDFW would like to conduct radio telemetry studies of redband trout in Little Spokane River and upper Lake Spokane to: identify spawning areas, migration

corridors, and seasonal adult rearing areas and characterize habitat conditions; identify life history diversity and associated habitats.

**Project Number:** 1992-026-04

**Project Name:** Life Studies of Spring Chinook and Steelhead in Grande Ronde Subbasin

**Contractor:** Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

**BPA-COTR:** Greg Baesler

**Budget Amount:** \$158,000 ('08), \$282,400 ('09)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Life Studies of Spring Chinook and Steelhead in Grande Ronde Subbasin project is requesting funds for personnel, fringe, overhead, supplies to continue operating rotary screw traps in the Minam River and upper Grande Ronde River. BPA's funding decision is to fund the project at \$820,000 in FY07, \$656,000 in FY08 and \$557,600 in FY09. These reductions in funding will compromise experimental design to evaluate the effectiveness of the spring Chinook salmon supplementation program in the Grande Ronde Subbasin. If funding remains reduced to \$656,000 in FY08, ODFW will not be able to continue to monitor the production of spring Chinook salmon and steelhead smolts from the Minam and upper Grande Ronde rivers to evaluate the success of spring Chinook salmon supplementation in the Grande Ronde subbasin. The upper Grande Ronde River has been supplemented with hatchery-produced spring Chinook salmon since the first adults returned in 2002, and ODFW has been monitoring the smolt production of spring Chinook salmon since 1993. ODFW has been monitoring the spring Chinook salmon smolt production from the Minam River since 2000. Smolt production and other key life history attributes measured during the supplementation period will be compared to those measured before supplementation in the same stream and also to the reference stream (Minam River) to evaluate the success of supplementation in the Grande Ronde Subbasin.

**Project Number:** 2003-114-00

**Project Name:** Acoustic Tracking for Survival

**Contractor:** Kintama Research Corporation

**BPA-COTR:** Tracy Yerxa

**Budget Amount:** \$387,397 ('08), \$130,515 ('09)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Acoustic Tracking for Survival project is requesting funds for 2 parts.

- (1) To support an additional listening line to allow the existing POST array to measure the survival of acoustically tagged Snake & Yakima River smolts at Astoria Bridge in 2008 & 2009. This will more clearly distinguish freshwater survival and lower estuary residence from subsequent ocean effects, by sub-dividing survival into two additional segments—from Bonneville Dam to Astoria (freshwater survival below the hydrosystem, or “estuary” survival), and Astoria to Willapa Bay (initial ocean survival). The detection efficiency of the Astoria Bridge line in 2007 was 93%—extremely good—but the operational results in 2007 showed that it is infeasible to support the deployment of the Astoria Bridge line within the existing POST budget;
- (2) To support new measurements that will allow the design of a dual frequency version of the POST array in 2008. A new very small acoustic tag manufactured by Vemco is nearing commercial production. This tag is as small as other commercially available acoustic tags,

but operates at a different frequency (180KHz) intermediate between POST's current frequency (69 KHz) and that of other small tag systems now in use (300-420 KHz). The critical difference is that this frequency is usable in seawater, and will allow the existing POST array to be extended to allow seamless measurement of movements and survival of fall Chinook, Coho, and sockeye >90~95 mm FL (fork length) in the ocean, and permit direct assessment of the relative role of the ocean and freshwater on survival of smolts smaller than currently possible. If the ocean plays an important role in determining the survival of Columbia R salmon smolts, then a technical means of directly distinguishing between in-river and ocean effects on salmon returns is critical to many Columbia River policy decisions. The measurements conducted in this proposed work will allow the objective design of the least-cost dual-frequency array and a clear specification of the costs needed to answer these policy questions.

### **Category 5**

**Project Number:** 1994-042-00

**Project Name:** Trout Creek Habitat Restoration O&M

**Contractor:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)

**BPA-COTR:** Jamie Swan

**Budget Amount:** \$73,452 ('08), \$73,452 ('09)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Trout Creek Habitat Restoration project is requesting funds for fencing equipment, PIT tags for M&E work and additional personnel costs associated with supporting on-the-ground habitat restoration work. BPA funding for this project has been stable for the past 5 years. Current funding level will result in limited O&M on existing habitat work and will delay implementation of on the ground projects. Additionally, basin wide and project level M&E data collection will be conducted at a severely reduced level. Several M&E tasks help to assess success for on the ground cooperative projects from Jefferson County SWCD (project # 199802800). This project is in the process of determining the ESA listed fishery population response to a recently installed large scale habitat project along with fishery population response to basin wide ongoing habitat work. Biological data gathered to assess these changes needs to be conducted annually to increase data integrity and will lead to an earlier assessment of population changes and help to determine the degree of success of the various types of habitat work.

**Project Number:** 2003-036-00

**Project Name:** Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP)

**Contractor:** Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority (CBFWA)

**BPA-COTR:** Tracy Yerxa

**Budget Amount:** \$484,000 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The CSMEP project is requesting funds to: analyze/interpret data; develop RM&E methods and designs; produce inventory or assessment; and regional coordination. BPA funded the project at approximately one-half the proposed and recommended level (\$500,000 in FY2008). CBFWA is requesting an additional \$484,000 in order to work on the following tasks:

- Complete detailed strengths and weakness assessments of existing abundance monitoring information for anadromous fish populations above Bonneville Dam that has yet to be assessed by CSMEP.
- Assess and develop alternative status/trend monitoring designs
- Review StreamNet's metadata inventories and Develop (with StreamNet) a protocol to update and maintain the stock viability databases
- Apply CSMEP recommendations within a regional M&E framework

At the current funding level, CSMEP efforts will be limited to completing the on-going analyses and reports. This project is currently under ISRP review.

**Project Number:** 1991-019-01

**Project Name:** Hungry Horse Mitigation-Flathead Lake

**Contractor:** Salish & Kootenai Confederated Tribes

**BPA-COTR:** Cecilia Brown

**Budget Amount:** \$0, Scope change

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The Hungry Horse Mitigation-Flathead Lake project is requesting a scope change to reinstate the work element "Remove or Relocate Predaceous Animals" to conduct semi-annual fishing contests. That work element was introduced in the '07-'09 proposal as a critical component of mitigation because predation by lake trout in Flathead Lake is reducing native trout and jeopardizing the full range of mitigation programs designed to benefit native fish. The Tribes have used non-BPA funding to build a rapidly growing program to increase the harvest of lake trout by utilizing the angling public through semi-annual fishing contests. In 2007 these contests generated a harvest of 22,000 lake trout at relatively low cost. The reduction of lake trout in Flathead Lake is critical to bull trout restoration efforts currently being conducted by the State and the Tribes. No new funds are requested. The contractor would redistribute the existing approved funds from all other WE's to conduct the fishing contests.



**The following are NEW requests:**

**Proposal Name:** Capture, Marking, Hazing and Removal of California Sea Lions at Bonneville Dam

**Sponsor:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)

**Budget Request:** \$290,632 ('08), \$250,000 ('09)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** Under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, ODFW, WDFW and IDFG have requested authority from the Secretary of Commerce (NMFS) to lethally remove individual California sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on T&E Salmonids in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam. After reviewing the States' request, the NMFS Pinniped Task Force recommended that lethal removal authority be granted. NMFS is currently reviewing the Task Force Report and preparing recommended actions for the States. The ability to capture, permanently mark and identify individual sea lions preying on Salmonids is a prerequisite to lethal removal. Sea lion removal actions are expected to take place over the next 5-6 years. This proposal requests funds to construct, place and operate sea lion tagging equipment at Bonneville Dam so that predation losses may be reduced through removal of known predatory sea lions. The project will also improve evaluations of the effectiveness of non-lethal hazing through observations of individually marked predators exposed to hazing tactics. Tagging and tracking sea lions in the river below Bonneville Dam will provide additional information on predation losses within 5 miles of the dam, which are currently unavailable.

**Proposal Name:** Sea Lion Predation Rate Estimation and Non-lethal Hazing

**Sponsor:** Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

**Budget Request:** \$302,623 ('08), \$258,000 ('09)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** This project proposes to conduct non-lethal boat based sea lion hazing in collaboration with Oregon, Washington, and the Corps. Specific methods will include seal bombs, cracker shells, and rubber bullets. Techniques will be consistent with those used in 2006. Hazing would occur for approximately 6 hours per day, 5 days per week. A 3 person crew will be used and consist of a boat operator, a hazer, and a data recorder. Data on each sea lion encounter will be recorded including time / duration of the encounter, species, location, and predation. The proposal also includes adapting video fish counting technology developed to enumerate sea lions and salmon predation. A video system would be deployed to observe river surface activities in measured areas of the river. Software will scan recordings and select times when water surface disturbances are detected. Technicians would then review these time periods and note sea lion presence and predation activities. An additional video system would be deployed within the Corps observation area to evaluate the video system.

**Proposal Name:** East Birch Water Association

**Sponsor:** East Birch Creek Water Association (Art Falk, Land Owner)

**Budget Request:** \$15,000 ('08)

**Funding Type:** Expense

**Explanation of need:** The East Birch Creek Water Association is requesting funds for excavation costs to remove 1,000 cubic yards of stream bed material which in return will re-establish grade level along 825 feet of East Birch Creek to correct width-depth ratio and maintain flows in established stream channel. The overall goal with this project is to contribute to the increased natural production of wild anadromous Salmonids in the Umatilla Subbasin, through improved riparian and fish habitat conditions. The corrected grade level will prevent deposition within existing stream channel and prevent flooding to adjacent private lands. Project allows for side channel flows at bank full events.

### **Summary**

In summary, the total expense funding requested by project sponsors in **FY2008** is **\$2,036,604** (\$1,428,349 within-year, \$608,255 new projects) and **FY2009** is **\$994,367** (\$486,367 within-year, \$508,000 new projects); the total of capital funding requested is \$0. Please feel free to contact either Greg Dondlinger at 503-230-5065 or me at 503-230-5549 for further information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William C. Maslen  
Director of Fish and Wildlife

cc: (Electronic mail)

Mr. Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Ms. Patty O'Toole, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Mr. Karl Weist, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Ms. Stacy Horton, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Ms. Joann Hunt, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Mr. Kerry Berg, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Mr. Brian Lipscomb, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Mr. Tom Iverson, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Mr. Binh Quan, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

**Attachment 2. Within-year project funding adjustments received as part of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008.**

Category	Project #	Project Title	Sponsor	FY 2008 Budget (BPA)	Request 2008/2009	Status
<b>3a</b>						
	2001-028-00	Banks Lake Fishery Evaluation Project	WDFW		\$18,500	Addressed 11-12-07 <sup>1</sup>
	1988-053-07	Parkdale O&M - Hood River Production Program	CTWSRO		\$150,000	February Decision
<b>3b1</b>						
	1995-057-00	Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation	IDFG		\$130,000	February Decision
<b>3b2</b>						
	1997-004-00	Resident Fish Stock status Above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams ( no. 1997-004-00)	WDFW		\$45,000	February Decision
	2003-114-00	POST Acoustic Tracking for Survival of Columbia R Salmon Smolts	Kintama Research Corporation		\$517,912/ \$28,727	February Decision
	1992-026-04	Investigate Life History Of Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead in the Grande Ronde Subbasin	ODFW		\$158,000/ \$282,400	February Decision
<b>5</b>						
	1994-015-00	Idaho Fish Screening Improvement	IDFG		\$0, scope	BOG denied, not a scope change
	2003-036-00	Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP)	CBFWA		\$484,500	Under ISRP review
	1994-042-00	Trout Creek Habitat Restoration Project	ODFW		\$73,452/ \$73,452	February Decision
	1991-019-01	Hungry Horse Mitigation-Flathead Lake	CSKT		\$ 0	February Decision
	New	Sea lion Predation Rate Estimation and Nonlethal Hazing	CRITFC		\$302,623/ \$258,000	February Decision
	New	Capture, marking, hazing and removal of California sea lions at Bonneville Dam	PSMFC, ODFW, WDFW, IDFG		\$290,632/ \$250,000	February Decision
	New	East Birch Water Association	East Birch Creek Water Association		\$15,000	February Decision

w:\mf\ww\fy2008\requests\010308quarterlybocgovernmemo.doc

<sup>1</sup> The request was addressed as part of the Council recommendation regarding the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Program Review at \$263,595 per year Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009.