

W. Bill Booth
Chair
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

December 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Kerry Berg
Montana Staff Member

RE: Presentation by natural Solutions on Innovative Project "Physical and Biological Field Testing of a Flow Velocity Enhancement System (FVES).

Natural Solutions . . . A Dam Site – Better! LLC was one of five companies chosen in January 2008, for BPA funding under the Innovative Projects program. The Natural Solutions test utilized 90 acoustic-tagged smolts, which were tracked by an acoustic detection array (16 hydrophones) positioned across the reach by USGS personnel. The question was whether a Flow Velocity Enhancement System could effectively guide smolt to a trap deployed in the Cowlitz River, just upstream from Riffe Lake. An unusual debris load prevented NS from deploying its river trap during the time the smolts were released. However, Dr. Charles Coutant was able to draw an analysis of the FVES influence on smolts from tracking data from USGS. He will present his analysis at the December Council meeting. (Careful use of the BPA funds allowed NS to conduct a similar test this summer, utilizing radio-tagged fish from a study conducted for Tacoma Power.)