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March 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

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

At your meeting in April, Council staff will review the requests and schedule associated with a funding adjustment request for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2012. This agenda item will be for review and discussion only and no Committee action is requested. After an opportunity for comment, the request will come back to the Committee and Council for a decision at the May meeting.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, Bonneville and the Council formed a budget oversight group (BOG) to conduct a budget tracking process. A principal role of the BOG is to validate whether the requests are a reschedule¹ or within-year request (i.e., scope change, budget change, scope/budget change, and new request). 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 meets monthly to review change requests and to track the fiscal year budget and then uses quarterly reviews to initiate a process to establish which budget adjustment requests can be met with the available funding in the current fiscal year project budget². This process also includes a public comment period.

Three requests were reviewed by the BOG during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2012. These three requests are seeking a decision in May (see Attachment 1). Based on staff review and comment received, the staff will bring to the Committee and the Council a recommendation at the May meeting.

¹ Reschedules are project work task or tasks, as reviewed and approved, that are aligned from one fiscal year to another.

² The balance for the within-year placeholder at the end of the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2012; Bi-Op Placeholder @ \$1,866,311 (out of \$2,000,000), and Non-Bi-op Placeholder @ \$815,000 (out of \$1,000,000).

Following is a brief summary of the project requests.

Quarterly

- **Project #1983-436-00, Umatilla Passage Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**

The Bonneville Power Administration and Westland Irrigation District are requesting \$100,165 in expense funds to complete repair to the Stanfield Irrigation Diversion (river mile 33.3) fish return pipe and restore the stream bank to protect the private land along the Umatilla River. The extensive stream bank erosion and damage to the fish return pipe occurred during high water events in the spring of 2010³ and 2011.⁴ As you may recall, this project had a request in the first quarter of 2012 to implement emergency measures to prevent further damage.⁵

The main objective of the project is to increase adult and juvenile migrant survival to Chinook and coho salmon, as well as ESA listed mid-Columbia steelhead, by operating and maintaining ladders, bypasses, screen sites and trap facilities on the Umatilla River

In an effort to complete the repair initiated last fall, sponsors request additional instream work to remove the old rip-rap and pipe and restore and armor the stream bank. Also, it is important to note that the property of the private landowner who granted access easement for the passage facility needs protection from further erosion.

The current budget associated with the project does not have the capacity to address this repair.

- **Project #1992-061-03, Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)**

The Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) is requesting \$190,000 in expense funds to provide cost share with the Avista Corporation and the U.S Forest Service (USFS) to complete a restoration project on the Lower St. Joe River. The proposed restoration project adjoins the 62 acre Lower St. Joe wildlife mitigation parcel that was secured by the project in 2007.

Avista Corporation owns 62 acres directly adjacent and upstream of the IDFG parcel. The Shadowy St. Joe Campground which is upstream to the Avista parcel is managed by the USFS. The campground has a developed public access site with parking and restroom facilities. In the past, both the Avista and IDFG parcels, were cleared of forests and wetlands and grazed. In addition, Miesen Creek was ditched (i.e., channelized) directly into the St. Joe River.

³ Initial bank erosion in June 2010 peak flow 4,400cfs.

⁴ Continued bank erosion and return flow pipe damage in December and January 2011, peak flow ~10,000cfs. Return pipe broke in April 2011.

⁵ At the December 2012 BOG meeting, the \$30,689 request was discussed. The BOG determined that it met the threshold criteria of less than 10% of the project budget and less than \$75,000. The BOG recommendation was sent to the BOG management and they approved the threshold request on December 6th.

The within year request would provide an opportunity for IDFG to assist in a restoration project in collaboration with Avista Corporation and the USFS. The amount requested exceeds⁶ the Council's recommended *five-year not-to-exceed* expense planning budget amount (i.e., FY2010-FY2014) for proposed work as recommended to Bonneville as part of the Wildlife Category Review.

The request provides an opportunity to restore a floodplain area, address a channelized section of Miesen Creek, and increase habitat diversity.

- **Project #2012-005-00, *Siletz Tribe Coordination***

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) is requesting \$12,022 in expense funds to initiate coordination activities during Fiscal Year 2012. As you are aware this CTSI proposal is currently part of the Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Category Review.

The proposal will be part of the recommendation that the Council will provide to Bonneville in association with regional coordination for Fiscal Year 2013 and beyond. The CTSI is requesting support prior to the decision associated with the categorical review to participate in the quickly evolving activities associated with the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Process and the Willamette Biological Opinion.

⁶ Based on: average annual expense per year was \$698,703 as defined in the Wildlife Category Review (total per FY2010-2014 @ \$3,493,515) with the current working budget (contracted) is \$725,772.

Attachment 1: Within-year project funding adjustments received as part of the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2012.

Type	Project #	Project Title	Sponsor	FY 2012 Budget (BPA)	Request	Status
Quarterly						
	1983-436-00	Umatilla Passage Operations and Maintenance (O&M)	BPA/Westland Irrigation District	\$521,989	\$100,165	May decision
	1992-061-03	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation-Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)	IDFG	\$725,772	\$190,000	May decision
	2012-005-00	Siletz Tribe Coordination	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	NA	\$12,023	May decision