

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

July 30, 2009

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on Project #2008-117-00, *Rufus Woods Redband Net Pens*, a Columbia Basin Fish Accord project.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Council staff recommends that the Council support this project for implementation.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total amount associated with this Accord project equals \$2,019,879 (e.g., ranges from \$187,500 to \$304,601 per year¹) in expense funds for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2017. There is no contract established at this time for the Fiscal Year 2010 start.

BACKGROUND

In 2008-2009, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (the "Action Agencies") signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). The agreement with these Tribes and CRITFC is referred to as the Three Treaty Tribes MOA. The Action Agencies also signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT), and the states of Idaho, Montana, and Washington. These agreements are known as the Columbia Basin Fish Accords.

As set forth in the guidance document outlining the review process for the Accords, the Council recognizes Bonneville's commitment to Accord projects. The Accords do not, however, alter the Council's responsibilities with respect to independent scientific review of project proposals or the Council's role following such reviews. As with all projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program,

¹ This range includes the anticipated 2.5-percent annual inflation adjustment, beginning in Fiscal Year 2010. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget was re-distributed into Fiscal Year 2010.

Accord projects are subject to review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), and the Council provides funding recommendations based on full consideration of the ISRP's report and the Council's Program.

On July 6, 2009, the Council received from Bonneville a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for #2008-117-00, *Rufus Woods Redband Net Pens*.

The proposal was submitted to the ISRP for review, and on July 23, 2009 the ISRP provided a review (ISRP document 2009-30). The ISRP found that the proposal "Meets Scientific Review Criteria (qualified)". To date no public comment has been received on the ISRP review.

The goal of this project is to raise redband rainbow trout in net pens in Lake Rufus Woods and reduce the need for raceway space and water at the Colville Tribal Hatchery by raising redband rainbow trout broodstock off site. This would enable the Colville Tribes to raise sufficient broodstock to meet currently identified reservation redband trout planting needs without jeopardizing the incubation and rearing capacity of the Colville Tribal Hatchery for other species managed under the Resident Fish Program.

ANALYSIS

The ISRP found the proposal met scientific review criteria and commended the Colville Tribe for the proposal that will allow a transition from out-of-region- costal rainbow trout to native redband trout. The qualification raised by the ISRP addresses the need of future proposals to provide more detail linkages to the Colville Hatchery Project (i.e., Project 1985-038-00, Colville Hatchery Operation and Maintenance (O&M)).

Based on the ISRP review the Council staff recommends that the Council support this project for implementation.