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July 30, 2009

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on Project #2008-308-00, *Willamette Falls Lamprey Escapement Estimate*, a Columbia Basin Fish Accord project.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Council staff recommends that the Council support Objective 3 for implementation with the condition that full implementation of the project is dependant on a favorable review of the response requested by the ISRP for Objectives 1 and 2.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total amount associated with this Accord project equals \$1,643,178 (e.g., ranges from \$150,000 to \$201,510 per year¹) in expense funds for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2017. The Contract Request (CR-10959) associated with the project has been approved and reflects a start date of October 1, 2009 and an end date of September 30, 2010.

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.

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.

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, 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 June 3, 2009, the Council received from Bonneville a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for #2008-308-00, *Willamette Falls Lamprey Escapement Estimate*.²

The proposal was submitted to the ISRP for review, and on June 23, 2009 the ISRP provided a review (ISRP document 2009-23). The ISRP found that the proposal "Meets Scientific Review Criteria (in part)". No public comment was received on the ISRP review.

The goal of this project is to develop abundance and escapement estimates for adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls. Proposal objectives will address the lack of population information in the Willamette River and address how lamprey behavior and vulnerability to predation may affect abundance estimates. Following are the three objectives associated with the implementation of the proposal.

Objective 1 *Investigate the performance of a half-duplex PIT tag interrogator at the Sullivan Plant at Willamette Falls to detect PIT tagged Pacific lamprey for a population estimate.*

Objective 2 *Develop a protocol for long-term monitoring and index of abundance of adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls.*

Objective 3 *Create a Willamette River Pacific Lamprey Working Group to coordinate research and monitoring activities and provide technical guidance*

ANALYSIS

The ISRP found the proposal met scientific review criteria for Objective 3, but requested a response for Objectives 1 and 2. The ISRP noted that the proposal was concise and well thought out, but concluded that additional details on the methods used to investigate the feasibility of the half-duplex PIT tag census technique (Objective 1) and the protocol for monitoring and indexing abundance (Objective 2) are needed prior to fully implementing the project.

CTWSRO appreciates the review and feels the comments received are helpful and will take these items into account in providing a response to the ISRP in the near future. As the ISRP noted, the sponsor is well aware of the uncertainties associated with the implementation of the project, but appreciates the need for this worthwhile project.

² The proposal is listed in the May 2008 agreement in Attachment B, Lamprey.

Based on the ISRP review, and the confidence that the sponsor understands the need to address the items raised by the ISRP in the implementation of this project, the Council staff recommends that the Council support Objective 3 for implementation with the understanding that full implementation of the project depends on a favorable review of the response requested by the ISRP for Objectives 1 and 2.