

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

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

SUBJECT: Council decision on Project #2008-109-00, *Resident Fish Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)*, a Columbia Basin Fish Accord project.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Council staff recommends that the Council support this project for implementation conditioned on the favorable review of the statistical power analysis as identified by the ISRP (ISRP document 2009-44).

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The total amount associated with this Accord project equals \$2,209,095 (e.g., ranges from \$283,039 to \$304,601 per year¹) in expense funds for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2017. The Contract Request (CR-120973) associated with the Project has been approved and reflects a start date of December 1, 2009 and an end date of November 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.

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

¹ This range includes the anticipated 2.5-percent annual inflation adjustment.

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 July 9, 2009, the Council received from Bonneville a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from the CCT for #2008-109-00, *Resident Fish Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)*.

The goal of this project is to identify possible factors which limit rainbow trout production within the San Poil Subbasin by examining spawning and winter ecology among life histories. Specific project objectives include identification of spatiotemporal patterns in movements and spawning areas among life histories, and the identification of overwintering areas of rainbow trout to determine optimal areas for habitat protection and enhancement.

The proposal was submitted to the ISRP for review, and on August 5, 2009 the ISRP provided a review (ISRP document 2009-34). The ISRP members requested additional information before they could determine if the proposal met scientific criteria.

On September 30, 2009 the Council received a response from the CCT, and on October 29, 2009 the Council received the final review from the ISRP (ISRP document 2009-44). The ISRP found that the proposal "Meets Scientific Review Criteria (Qualified)." No public comment was received on the ISRP reviews.

ANALYSIS

The ISRP found the proposal met scientific review criteria and stated that the data this project collects could be of value for developing management strategies for rainbow trout in the San Poil. The qualification raised by the ISRP addresses the need for a statistical power analysis demonstrating that the proposed sample sizes for the radio-tagging components of the project will be sufficient to achieve project objectives. The ISRP requested that this analysis be reviewed by the ISRP before beginning the radio-tagging. In addition, the ISRP provided other comments intended to benefit and strengthen the proposal's study design as part of implementation.

In an initial discussion with the CCT, they agree with the ISRP that the study design would benefit from a power analysis. At this time the CCT is arranging this analysis through Project #1991-051-00, *M&E Statistical Support For Life-Cycle Studies*² and work with Dr. John Skalski of the University of Washington to complete the analysis for ISRP review.

The Council staff recommends that the Council support the project for implementation with the condition that the power analysis of the study design, as identified by the ISRP (ISRP document 2009-44), is favorably reviewed prior to initiating the radio tagging associated with this project.

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² This project develops statistical methods for monitoring and evaluating salmonid recovery plans and provides added-value analyses and statistical support on regional fisheries issues in the Fish and Wildlife Program.