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July 28, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wild Committee members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

**SUBJECT:** Follow-up RME/AP review action for Project #1998-007-04, *Grande Ronde Spring Chinook on Lostine/Catherine Creek/ Upper Grande Ronde Rivers*.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Council staff recommends that the Council support this project for implementation. The qualification raised by the ISRP (ISRP document 2001-20), however, must be addressed as part of the implementation of Programmatic Issues #4, *Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and effects of artificial production actions*.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The proposed action will address the condition placed on this project as part of the RM&E/AP category review recommendations.

### BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The Council confirms the recommended expense budgets for the project as defined in Bonneville's implementation plan for Fiscal Years 2012<sup>1</sup>.

### BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2011, as part of the Council decision for projects in the categories of research, monitoring and evaluation, and artificial production (RME/AP Review), the Council did not provide a recommendation for Project #1998-007-04, *Grande Ronde Spring Chinook on Lostine/Catherine Creek/ Upper Grande Ronde Rivers*.

The purpose of this project is to integrate the Program's artificial production activities with the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan program in the Grande Ronde subbasin, utilizing Lookingglass Hatchery to create an integrated supplementation program. These activities include holding and spawning adults, rearing juveniles, monitoring fish health, and contributing towards monitoring natural production using redd counts of Catherine Creek, Lostine River, and Upper Grande Ronde stocks.

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<sup>1</sup> Bonneville's Funding decision (July 15, 2011) reflects \$212,016 in Fiscal Year 2012.

The project proposal originally was submitted as part of the category review. The ISRP requested a response as part of their preliminary review (ISRP document 2010-33). Due to personnel changes at ODFW, a response was not received as part of the review deadline associated with the RME/AP Review. When this issue was identified, a response was submitted and on February 18, 2011 the ISRP provided its review (ISRP document 2011-3). The ISRP found that the proposal did not meet scientific review criteria.

Because no response or information was received, the Council on June 8, 2011 provided a “no recommendation” and the following comments as part of the RME/AP Review.

*On February 18, 2011 the ISRP found that this project did not meet science review criteria (ISRP document 2011-3). Sponsor did not provide a response during the categorical review*

On June 10, 2011 the Council received a submittal from ODFW intended to address the issues and concerns raised by the ISRP (ISRP document 2011-3). On July 20, 2011 the ISRP provided its follow-up review (ISRP document 2011-20) stating that the project “*Meets Scientific Review Criteria (Qualified).*”

## **ANALYSIS**

While the ISRP determined that the project met scientific criteria, the panel commented that the following three qualifications should be addressed prior to the next project review by the co-managers of the artificial production projects in the Grande Ronde subbasin (i.e., LSRCP and Fish and Wildlife Program):

- Develop an experimental design to evaluate whether supplementation is providing an increase in natural-origin adults in treatment streams,
- Develop a design to evaluate whether there is a “cost” to population productivity from supplementation, including the evaluation of possible density-dependent effects, and
- Develop a decision framework to guide efforts to recover these populations and to develop alternative strategies if supplementation is not working in order to provide fish for harvest obligations.

These qualifications seem to complement the intent and principles<sup>2</sup> of the Council’s Programmatic Issues #4, *Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and effects of artificial production actions* as part of the June 2011 RME/AP Review decision. The Council RME/AP Review decision recommends, as defined in the Programmatic Issue, that the federal agencies design and implement an umbrella approach to the monitoring and evaluation of artificial production effectiveness and effects. The Council outlines the need for a regionally coordinated umbrella project for the ongoing collection of monitoring information and the evaluation and

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<sup>2</sup>As defined, one of the principles for the implementation of Project #1993-056-00 in the RME/AP Review decision states: *In a second main focus for this effort, the Team should be clear about what analytical techniques it will use or suggest be used to evaluate this information, as well as any large-scale experimental designs that the team recommends as necessary to address critical uncertainties. The team should also develop and recommend a clear approach for how the evaluation results should be regularly reported and used to guide production reform and improvement activities.*

reporting on hatchery effects and effectiveness. Multi-agency efforts appear to be under-way to respond to the Council's request with the Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Strategy (ASMS), and the newly defined Bonneville/NOAA project aimed precisely at this need, consistent with the ASMS (i.e., Columbia River Hatchery Effects Evaluation Team (CRHEET), Project #1993-056-00). Unfortunately, the CRHEET project<sup>3</sup> is still under development and not enough is known yet of the details to be able to assess whether and how it will serve the need. The federal agencies sponsoring the CRHEET project are deferring the beginning of this effort until Fiscal Year 2013 giving the Council and others time to participate in an effort to define expectations associated with this hatchery evaluation project.

Based on the principles as outlined in the Council decision (i.e., Programmatic Issues #4) and the implementation of a hatchery evaluation team guided by these principles staff anticipates that the federal agencies will address the qualifications raised by the ISRP for the current artificial production projects in the Grande Ronde Subbasin..

The Council staff recommends that the Council support this project for implementation based on the ISRP review and the understanding that the implementation of Programmatic Issues #4 will address the qualification as raised by the ISRP.

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<sup>3</sup> As part of the RME/AP Review the Council provided a “no recommendation” recommendation for this project with the following comment - *Council believes this is the process described in programmatic recommendation #4 for hatchery effects evaluation. Council may recommend this work once the process is fully developed and reviewed by ISRP and Council.*