

From: Fritsch, Mark
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: F&W Plus; F&W State Staff
Subject: FW: ISRP review of the Yakama Nation's Project, **Rock Creek** Fish and Habitat Assessment (#2007-156-00)

Please find attached the most recent ISRP review (ISRP document 2012-4) associated with Project #2007-156-00, **Rock Creek Fish and Habitat Assessment**.

On February 2, 2012, the Council received a revised narrative from Bonneville and the Yakama Nation for Project #2007-156-00, **Rock Creek Fish and Habitat Assessment**. The response was intended to address the ISRP's concerns raised as part of their previous reviews (ISRP documents [2010-33](#), [2011-19](#)). The goal of this project is to address recovery needs associated with Middle Columbia River steelhead. The assessment phase of this project has been gathering information on summer steelhead, habitat conditions, limiting factors, and defining a prioritized list of anticipated restoration actions.

The attached ISRP review provided a meets scientific review criteria – in part (qualified) recommendation. The “in part” recommendation is associated with the genetic work, and the ISRP stated that the work is not justified. The qualification aspect of the review requests additional information and analysis for incorporation into reports and plans to assist in the implementation of the anticipated restoration actions.

Based on the ISRP review the project is not at a point for a decision to proceed beyond its current recommended scope (i.e., FY 2007 – 2009 project reviews) and therefore there is no need to bring this review for a decision to the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

In regards to the “in part” recommendation, the ISRP stated that the genetic work associated with the project was not justified (i.e., DELV-3: Assessment of the genetics of the steelhead population). The genetic work was initially reviewed and recommended, as part of the FY 2007 – 2009 review, and is currently in its fifth and final year for sample collections. The intent of this five-year effort is to capture annual variability in the adult and juvenile genetic composition in the different reaches and tributaries of **Rock Creek**. This information will be important in identifying priority spawning and rearing habitats/areas for native **Rock Creek** steelhead, as the information relates to use by out-of-basin strays (straying of non native hatchery steelhead is a prominent problem in this part of the Columbia River Basin). Even though this work is an important component of population characterization, it does not comprise a large portion of the field effort or budget (\$12,000 in FY 2011), and the FY 2012 contract will be the last year for the collection of genetic samples. Based on the investment to date and that the information collected by this “deliverable” is important in the identification of priority areas for restoration in **Rock Creek** to benefit the native steelhead, and that this is the last year for this effort it appears reasonable that this deliverable (i.e., DELV-3: Assessment of the genetics of the steelhead population) not continue beyond the FY2012 contract.

In discussions with the Yakama Nation the necessary reports and plans to assist in the implementation of restoration actions will be available for ISRP review and a Council recommendation in early 2014.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks, Mark