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January 13, 2011

Mr. William C. Maslen
Manager, Fish and Wildlife Division
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council's decision on a Columbia River Fish Accord proposal. This recommendation was made by the Council at its meeting on January 12, 2011.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status of this Council action. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting in January.

ESA Habitat Restoration, Project #2008-903-00

On June 29, 2010, the Council received a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT), #2008-903-00, *ESA Habitat Restoration* for science review and on July 23, 2010 the ISRP provided their preliminary review (ISRP document 2010-25). The ISRP requested additional information in the form of a revised proposal augmented by a point-by-point response to the ISRP's concerns.

On August 13, 2010 the Council received a response from Bonneville, and on November 15, 2010 the Council received the final review from the ISRP (ISRP document 2010-39). The ISRP found that the proposal "Meets Science Review Criteria (Qualified)." To date, no public comment has been received on the ISRP reviews.

The goal of this project is to inventory, assess, plan, and implement habitat type actions to address limiting factors identified in the Upper Salmon River Subbasin, primarily in the Upper Salmon Watershed and the Middle Salmon-Panther Watershed. The proposed habitat restoration actions are intended to address sediment delivery, restore riparian function, improve stream temperatures, and improve passage for all life stages of anadromous and resident fish in priority areas of the Salmon River Subbasin.

The ISRP was impressed with the amount of effort that went into the revised proposal addressing concerns expressed in the preliminary ISRP review. At the same time the Panel felt that additional detail is needed in the proposed inventory and assessment actions outlined in objectives 1 and 2 of the proposal. The ISRP expressed this concern in the “Qualification” that recommends in particular that some type of cost-benefit or cost effectiveness analysis be incorporated to assist in priority setting for the project as a whole. But the ISRP also stated that this qualification can be incorporated and considered in future reviews (likely as a component of a Salmon River subbasin geographic review) and need not occur now prior to implementation.

Based on the ISRP review and the quality of the revised proposal the Council supports this project for implementation.

Sincerely,

Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

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