

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
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FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

April 6, 2011

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Members of the Independent Scientific Review Panel

RE: Submission of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Master Plan for the Crystal Springs Hatchery Facility and Satellite Facilities.

Esteemed Colleagues,

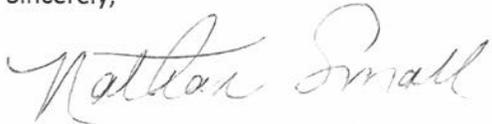
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, McMillen LLC and Dan Warren and Associates (Crystal Springs Preparation Team) have worked diligently to prepare the enclosed draft Master Plan for the Crystal Springs Hatchery Facility and Satellite Facilities (Master Plan) for review and approval by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) and the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). As a Fish Accord partner and active co-manager of fish resources in the Columbia River basin, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes strive to implement programs that protect, preserve and enhance natural resources throughout the Snake River basin. The enclosed Master Plan proposes a hatchery management framework and accompanying facilities that will meet Tribal fisheries' goals and regional demand for additional production capacity.

The Crystal Springs Preparation Team is composed of an interdisciplinary group of experts who were specifically selected for their particular knowledge in the field of artificial production, with several members of the team contributing to or participating as members of the Hatchery Scientific Reform Group (HSRG). The draft Master Plan represents a significant effort on behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to set reasonable goals and objectives for artificial production that contributes to the preservation of traditional fishing practices in two significant tributaries to the Salmon River that have experienced severe declines in productivity and abundance.

The Crystal Springs Preparation Team, using guidance from the Tribes, developed this draft Master Plan for formal review under the NPCC Three-Step Review Process. As a Step 1 document, the draft Master Plan has built in an expected variance in both design and cost, with the goal of approval to proceed with the remaining review process and eventually to construct the proposed facilities. Using a combination of conceptual design techniques for the facility and a thorough review of the available scientific information, the Crystal Springs Review Team has proposed a management framework that increases abundance in the short term and a series of biological triggers that, if met, will eventually contribute to the overall conservation efforts in the Salmon River sub-basin.

The Crystal Springs Preparation Team eagerly awaits the opportunity to discuss each facet of the draft Master Plan with the review team and to answer any question or comment regarding the proposed program. As a conceptual plan there is a significant amount of flexibility designed into the program so that meaningful comments can easily be incorporated into the design and production objectives. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes respectfully request that this document be carefully reviewed in a timely manner to avoid any unnecessary delays in the project schedule and to ensure adequate time to respond to review comments. If there are any questions regarding the draft Master Plan, please contact the individuals below and thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan Small".

Nathan Small, Chairman
Fort Hall Business Council, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Crystal Springs Preparation Team contact information:

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

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