



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

In reply refer to:

Mr. Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director  
Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Grover:

With this letter Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is requesting Council and Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) review of two tributary habitat project proposals from the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). Because implementation of these projects would help BPA satisfy commitments under the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (BiOp), we request that the review and consideration of these proposals begin as soon as possible.

As you know, the BiOp is a 10 year operations and configuration plan to mitigate for the adverse effects of the hydro-system on the 13 listed fish under the Endangered Species Act. The Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) of the BiOp calls for BPA and other federal Action Agencies (AAs) to implement specific mitigation actions to avoid jeopardy and adverse modification of the critical habitat of ESA listed Columbia River fish.

To this end, BPA will continue to fund ongoing Fish and Wildlife Program projects that support the RPA, and develop new projects designed to contribute to hydro, habitat, hatchery and predation management activities required under the BiOp. Additionally, many of the new BiOp RPA projects will also assist BPA in meeting its mitigation obligations under the Northwest Power Act, and supplement the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. As sponsors develop narratives for these projects, we will submit them for ISRP review.

Under RPA Action 35 of the BiOp, the AAs committed to achieve habitat quality improvement targets in tributaries used by specific populations of Chinook and steelhead. The purpose of the submitted proposals is to construct on-the-ground habitat restoration actions that help the AAs meet BiOp established targets for the South Fork Clearwater and Selway populations of threatened Snake River steelhead.

1. Proposal BiOpFY10AUG-00002 *Protect and Restore the Crooked and American River Watersheds* (project number 2010-086-00) has been entered and submitted through Taurus and is ready for immediate review at <http://www.cbfish.org/Proposal.mvc/Summary/215>.
2. Proposal BiOpFY10AUG-00003 *Protect and Restore Selway River Watershed* (project number 2007-092-00) has been entered and submitted into Taurus and is ready for immediate review at <http://www.cbfish.org/Proposal.mvc/Summary/216>.

Please note that these project proposals are based on three proposals previously reviewed by the ISRP as part of the 2007-09 Fish and Wildlife Program Solicitation. The initial project proposals received final

recommendations of “not fundable” in August 2006.<sup>1</sup> The NPT did not respond to the ISRP comments at that time because Provincial funding was not available for new projects and staff was fully engaged on addressing ISRP comments for on-going projects. The NPT have considered the ISRP comments on the earlier proposals and, where applicable, included responses to those comments within the new proposals.

The NPT worked closely with the Nez Perce National Forest (NPNF) to develop these proposals. Most of the targeted steelhead population habitat is on lands managed by the NPNF and a close partnership is needed to ensure project success. The criteria and process used by the NPT and CNF to select and prioritize actions for implementation is described in the narrative. This criteria, along with information that will be obtained through project-level implementation/compliance and action effectiveness monitoring being funded separately to satisfy BiOp research, monitoring, and evaluation requirements, will be considered to ensure that adaptive management principles are applied to future implementation. Specifically, the South Fork Clearwater River Snake River steelhead population is proposed for Habitat Status and Trend monitoring by the Nez Perce Tribe DFRM Watershed Division under project number 2002-068-00 in close collaboration with Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP) and the new Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP). Although the Selway River population is not proposed for this monitoring, the “Recommendations for Implementing Research, Monitoring and Evaluation for the 2008 NOAA Fisheries FCRPS BiOp” (2010) document proposes fish in/fish out and Habitat Status and Trend monitoring in the future.

If you have questions about the project narratives, please contact Emmitt Taylor, Nez Perce Tribe Deputy Director of Watershed Division at [emmitt@nezperce.org](mailto:emmitt@nezperce.org) or (208) 621-3544. If you need any additional information from BPA please contact Kathy Fisher, BPA Habitat Program Coordinator, at [kpfisher@bpa.gov](mailto:kpfisher@bpa.gov) or (503) 230-4375.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff as we implement BiOp projects.

Sincerely,

[/s/ William C. Maslen](#)

William C. Maslen  
Director of Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Mr. Emmitt Taylor, Nez Perce Tribe  
Mr. Ira Jones, Nez Perce Tribe  
Ms. Heidi McRoberts, Nez Perce Tribe  
Ms. Stephanie Bransford, Nez Perce Tribe  
Mr. Mark Johnson, Nez Perce Tribe

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<sup>1</sup> The original proposals 2007-092-00, 2007-134-00, and 2007-142-00 are available at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/budget/2007/reviews.asp>

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