

## Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 6, 2002

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Mr. Frank L. Cassidy, Chairman  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1020  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

Enclosed are our funding decisions on the Columbia Plateau Province fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery proposals submitted through the Northwest Power Planning Council's (Council) Provincial Review. As you recall, on October 16, 2001, we sent you our comments on these proposals for your consideration as you developed funding recommendations to Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) for funding in fiscal years (FY) 2002 through 2004. In developing our comments, we focused our review on new proposals and on-going projects intended to benefit anadromous fish and bull trout. Our review also attempted to integrate the fish and wildlife mitigation needs identified in the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program with the needs of Bonneville regarding implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) 2000 Biological Opinions on the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).

We hope that our initial comments were helpful to the Council. On November 8, 2001, the Council adopted their funding recommendations and on December 3, 2001, they were posted on the Council's web site.

Since that time, my staff has reviewed the Council's recommendations and had several discussions with Council staff regarding project-specific issues. We concur with the vast majority of Council recommendations. However, Bonneville intends to fund a few new proposals that were not recommended by the Council, but, because of an immediate need, would allow Bonneville to take actions that address specific Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs) or measures in the NMFS' and FWS' 2000 FCRPS Biological Opinions as described in the Action Agencies' Annual Implementation Plan. Bonneville's project-specific rationale can be found in the attached enclosure. These new proposals are:

- a. Proposal No. 25049 - Numerically Simulating the Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Environment for Migrating Salmon in the Lower Snake River - \$207,360.

- b. Proposal No. 25053 – Evaluate Bull Trout Movement in the Tucannon and Lower Snake Rivers - \$81,626.
- c. Proposal No. 25062 – Growth Rate Modulation in Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation - \$345,088.
- d. Proposal No. 25064 – Investigating Passage of ESA-Listed Juvenile Fall Chinook Salmon at Lower Granite Dam During Winter when the Fish Bypass System is Inoperable - \$176,000

In addition, there are a few wildlife projects that were recommended for funding by the Council that Bonneville feels should await either development of subbasin plans, resolution of wildlife crediting issues, or should have only the O&M phase of the on-going project funded, i.e., no new land acquisition or habitat enhancement work at this time. Bonneville's project-specific rationale can be found in the attached enclosure. These projects are:

- a. Proposal No. 25078 – Acquire Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Selah Gap to Union Gap Flood Plain - \$875,000.
- b. Project No. 1992-062-00 – Yakama Nation Riparian/Wetlands Restoration - \$1,416,580.
- c. Project No. 1995-060-01 – Protect and Enhance Wildlife Habitat in Squaw Creek Watershed - \$212,164.
- d. Project No. 2000-023-00 – Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites (Phillipi and BAIC properties) - \$200,000.
- e. Project No. 2000-026-00 – Rainwater Wildlife Area - \$289,255.

In addition, there are two specific projects, one new and one on-going, that need further clarification. They are proposal no. 25025, YKFP - Secure Salmonid Spawning and Rearing Habitat, sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Project no. 1997-051-00, Yakima Side Channels, sponsored by the Yakama Nation (YN). Both of these projects requested about \$2.3 million for FY02, yet some of the properties targeted for acquisition appear in both projects.

Bonneville will not obligate FY02 funds for the purchase of any new properties under either project until agreement is reached among WDFW, YN, the Council and BPA regarding the priority and timing of parcel acquisition under both projects, i.e., agreement on Proposal No. 25025 parcels of Crystal Springs (\$1,000,000), Gold Creek Bull Trout (\$500,000) and Project No. 1997-051-00 parcels of the Dalle property (\$241,000), the Browitt property (\$210,000), and Scatter Creek Phase II property (\$2,044,232). We note that in acting on the Council's initial

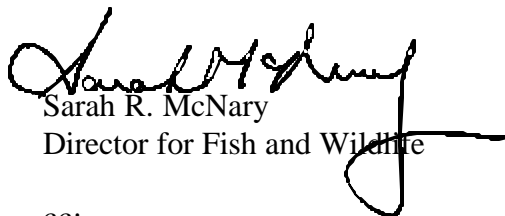
funding recommendation of \$565,136 for FY 02 for the Yakama Side Channels, a portion of these FY02 funds have been obligated for the purchase of Scatter Creek Phase I properties.

The enclosed table presents the Plateau projects that appear in the Council's December 3, 2001, recommendations. The table identifies the Council recommended budget and also indicates whether or not Bonneville intends to fund the projects. Relevant comments are included for clarification of our rationale. Where Bonneville suggests a different FY02 budget, estimates of FY03 and FY04 funding levels are not presented but will be negotiated over the course of the fiscal year with Council staff. Otherwise, at this point, Bonneville is assuming the same out-year budgets as has the Council, recognizing the potential for out-year budget changes based on changing Basin-wide priorities, as influenced by the Endangered Species Act and Subbasin Planning.

Again, we have used our best efforts to prioritize Bonneville-funded fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery projects in the Columbia River Basin given the ecosystem (All-H) approach to mitigation and recovery that is being implemented and given that the amount of desired funding for such an approach exceeds that which is available. We want to ensure for our ratepayers that fish and wildlife mitigation and ESA-focused recovery funding is going to those projects that provide the greatest biological benefit at the least-cost.

We hope that this information is helpful and, as always, are willing to discuss any issues that you may have with our decision for project funding in the Columbia Plateau Province. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sarah R. McNary  
Director for Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Ms. Jann Eckman, Acting Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

Mr. Brian Brown, National Marine Fisheries Service

Mr. Doug Marker, Northwest Power Planning Council

Enclosure

Project No.	Title	Sponsor	FY02 Council Recommended Budget	FY02 BPA Recommended Budget	Comment
25006	Provide Coordination and Technical Assistance to Watershed Councils and Individuals in Sherman County, Oregon.	Sherman SWCD	\$71,000	\$71,000	Fund
25007	Determine lamprey species composition, larval distribution and adult abundance in the Deschutes Subbasin.	CTWSRO	\$125,440	\$125,440	Fund
25010	Regional Stream Conditions and Stressor Evaluation	ODEQ	\$80,000	\$80,000	Fund
25013	Restore Riparian Corridor at Tapteal Bend, Lower Yakima River	Tapteal Greenway	\$160,500	\$160,500	Fund
25014	Establish Riparian Buffer Systems	Wasco SWCD	\$67,119	\$67,119	Fund
25021	Implement Actions to Reduce Water Temperatures in the Teanaway Basin	WDOE	\$172,950	\$172,950	Fund
25017	Fabricate and install new Huntsville Mill fish screen	WDFW	\$120,000	\$120,000	Fund
25022	YKFP Big Creek Passage & Screening	WDFW	\$175,280	\$175,280	Fund
25023	Yakima -Klickitat Fisheries Project - Manastash Creek Fish Passage and Screening.	WDFW	\$-	\$-	Consistent with the Council recommendation, BPA does not intend to fund in FY02, but does intend to fund in FY03 and FY04.
25024	Yakima -Klickitat Fisheries Project - Wilson Creek Snowden Parcel Acquisition	WDFW	\$206,580	\$206,580	Fund
25025	YKFP - Secure Salmonid Spawning and Rearing Habitat	WDFW	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	Although Proposal No. 25025 includes purchase of the Easton Reach (Lanphere) parcel, BPA is funding its acquisition under the on-going Yakima Side Channels Project No. 1997-051-00; funds for this \$800,000 purchase are Carry Forward from FY01. BPA will not obligate new FY02 funds to Proposal No. 25025 or Project No. 1997-051-00 until agreement is reached among WDFW, YN, the Council and BPA regarding the priority and timing of parcel acquisition under both projects, i.e., agreement on Proposal No. 25025 parcels of Crystal Springs (\$1,000,000), Gold Creek Bull Trout (\$500,000) and Project No. 1997-051-00 parcels of the Dalle property (\$241,000), the Browitt property (\$210,000), and Scatter Creek property (\$2,706,025).
25026	Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP)	KCWP	\$-	\$-	BPA intends to fund this project in FY02 under the Action Plan; this proposal also came in under the Plateau Province Review; FY02 funding will be limited to no more than \$730,000 for completion of planning and specified implementation activities that can be completed by September 30, 2002. The Council recommended FY03 and FY04 funding for this proposal.
25047	Morrow County Buffer Initiative	Morrow SWCD	\$75,086	\$75,086	Fund
25049	Numerically Simulating the Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Environment for Migrating Salmon in the Lower Snake River	PNNL	\$-	\$207,360	BPA intends to fund; this is a good proposal for addressing Snake River ESA-listed fish, both adult and juvenile fall chinook, and adult steelhead. Meets RPA - 141 and 143.
25053	Evaluate bull trout movements in	USFWS - IFRO	\$-	\$81,626	BPA intends to fund as implementation of the USFWS' Bull Trout Biological

	the Tucannon and Lower Snake rivers				Opinion (actions 11.A.3.1.d and 11.A.3.1.f.) The proposal needs to be coordinated with any COE plans to expand the counting period at Snake River dams. Consideration should be given to expanding the proposal to integrate radio tagging of Bull Trout populations from other Snake River tributaries to assess their movement past Snake River dams – make use of proposed radio receiver effort. The proposal could benefit from some minor additional tasks and budget (probably < 10%) to collect bull trout for radio tagging in the lower Tucannon and to radio tag specimens that occur incidentally in the juvenile collection systems at lower Snake River dams. This will better satisfy the USFWS' Biological Opinion and help address an ISRP concern about sufficient samples.
25056	Conduct Watershed Assessments for Priority Watersheds on Private Lands in the Columbia Plateau.	OWEB	\$1,259,725	\$1,259,725	Fund
25058	Fish Passage Inventory and Corrective Actions on WDFW land in the Yakima Basin.	WDFW	\$205,300	\$205,300	Fund
25059	Develop Progeny Marker for Salmonids to Evaluate Supplementation	CTUIR	\$149,665	\$149,665	Fund
25062	Growth Rate Modulation in Spring Chinook Salmon Supplementation	NMFS	\$-	\$345,088	BPA intends to fund. This proposal develops hatchery-rearing protocols to reduce excessive production of early maturing male chinook salmon, improve smolt-to-adult survival and reduce negative ecological impacts of hatchery fish on wild fish. This proposal addresses a critical uncertainty and the results should be applicable basin-wide. No out-year costs are identified. Meets RPA – 184.
25064	Investigating passage of ESA-listed juvenile fall chinook salmon at Lower Granite Dam during winter when the fish bypass system is inoperable.	USFWS; USGS	\$-	\$176,000	BPA intends to fund. This proposal would describe passage timing, genetic lineage, scale patterns, and locations of fall chinook salmon that hold over in Lower Granite Reservoir during the winter. This proposal would meet objectives of the NMFS Biological Opinion RPA – 190.
25069	John Day Salmonid Monitoring Program	CTWSRO	\$164,133	\$164,133	Fund
25073	Wheeler SWCD Riparian Buffer Planning and Implementation	Wheeler SWCD	\$75,086	\$75,086	Fund
25075	Buck Hollow Hydrology	Wasco SWCD	\$-	\$-	Consistent with the Council recommendation, BPA does not intend to fund in FY02.
25078	Acquire Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Selah Gap to Union Gap Flood Plain, Yakima River Basin, Washington.	BOR	\$875,000	\$-	BPA does not intend to fund prior to development of criteria by NMFS and BPA for implementing NMFS' 2000 Biological Opinion RPA 150 and development of a working relationship, i.e., clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, among the agencies involved.
25080	Gilliam SWCD Riparian Buffers	Gilliam SWCD	\$75,086	\$75,086	Fund
25082	Walla Walla River Flow Restoration	WWBWC	\$478,000	\$478,000	Fund
25093	Characterize Genetic Differences and Distribution of Freshwater	CTUIR	\$220,000	\$220,000	Fund

	Mussels.				
25100	Protect Normative Structure and Function of Critical Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat	City of Yakima	\$349,000	\$349,000	Fund
1983-435-00	Operate and Maintain Umatilla Hatchery Satellite Facilities	CTUIR	\$952,290	\$952,290	Fund
1983-436-00	Umatilla Basin Fish Facilities Operation and Maintenance	Westland Irrigation District	\$460,555	\$460,555	Fund
1984-021-00	Protect and Enhance Anadromous Fish Habitat in The John Day Subbasin	ODFW	\$448,500	\$448,500	Fund
1985-062-00	Passage Improvement Evaluation	PNNL	\$103,400	\$103,400	Fund
1987-100-01	Enhance Umatilla River Habitat	CTUIR	\$350,000	\$350,000	Fund
1987-100-02	Enhance Umatilla River Habitat	ODFW	\$300,264	\$300,264	Fund
1988-022-00	Umatilla River Fish Passage Operations	CTUIR	\$338,738	\$338,738	Fund
1988-053-02	Construct Umatilla Hatchery Supplement	CTUIR	\$-	\$-	Consistent with Council recommendations, BPA does not intend to fund.
1988-053-06	Hood River Production Program (HRPP): Hatchery O&M	PGE	\$150,871	\$150,871	Fund
1988-115-25	YKFP Nelson Springs Design and Construction	YN	\$-	\$-	Consistent with Council recommendations, BPA does not intend to supply new FY '02 funds to this project"
1988-120-25	YKFP Project Management	YN	\$827,200	\$827,200	Fund
1989-024-01	Evaluate Juvenile Salmonid Outmigration and Survival in the Lower Umatilla River Basin	ODFW	\$286,427	\$286,427	Fund
1989-027-00	Power Repay Umatilla Basin Project	BPA	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Fund
1989-035-00	Umatilla Hatchery O&M	ODFW	\$889,240	\$889,240	Fund
1990-005-00	Umatilla Hatchery M&E	ODFW	\$626,178	\$626,178	Fund
1990-005-01	Umatilla Basin Natural Production Monitoring and Evaluation Project	CTUIR	\$375,716	\$375,716	BPA will work with the project sponsor through contract negotiations to ensure that there is no redundancy in the project's scope and that the sampling designs and methods are well-developed and appropriate to satisfy regional and local needs.
1990-092-00	Protect and Enhance the Wanaket Wildlife Mitigation Area.	CTUIR	\$211,389	\$211,389	Fund
1991-029-00	Understanding the effects of summer flow augmentation on the migratory behavior and survival of fall chinook migrating through Lower Granite Reservoir.	USFWS; USGS	\$630,375	\$630,375	Fund
1991-057-00	Fabricate and install Yakima Basin Phase II fish screens	WDFW	\$159,889	\$159,889	Fund
1991-061-00	Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area (SLWA)	WDFW	\$264,622	\$264,622	Fund

1991-075-00	Yakima Phase II Screens - Construction*	BOR	\$600,000	\$600,000	Fund
1992-009-00	Yakima Phase II Screens - O&M	WDFW	\$148,557	\$148,557	Fund
1992-062-00	Yakama Nation - Riparian/Wetlands Restoration	YN	\$1,416,580	\$294,548	McNary Dam has been significantly mitigated for wildlife; however, this project also has anadromous fish benefits. BPA intends to fund ongoing O&M and M&E but recommends deferring additional land acquisition until development of a Yakima Subbasin Plan.
1993-066-00	Oregon Fish Screening Project	ODFW	\$660,870	\$660,870	Fund
1994-018-06	Tucannon Watershed Plan	Columbia Conservation District	\$252,625	\$252,625	Fund
1994-018-07	Garfield County Sediment	Pomeroy Conservation District	\$80,000	\$80,000	Fund
1994-026-00	Pacific Lamprey Research and Restoration	CTUIR	\$468,678	\$468,678	Fund
1994-042-00	Trout Creek Habitat Restoration Project	ODFW	\$358,845	\$358,845	Fund
1994-044-00	Enhance, protect, and maintain shrub-steppe habitat on Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area	WDFW	\$404,189	\$404,189	BPA intends to fund consistent with the Council's recommendation of 1/18/02.
1994-054-00	Bull Trout Abundance Monitoring in the Lower Deschutes River.	ODFW	\$488,027	\$488,027	Fund - BPA will seek additional review of project objectives with the project sponsor in order to arrive at an appropriate budget during the contracting process.
1994-059-00	Yakima Basin Environmental Education	BOR	\$130,000	\$130,000	Fund
1994-069-00	Estimate production potential of fall chinook salmon in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River.	PNNL	\$232,650	\$232,650	Fund
1995-033-00	Yakima Phase II Screens - O&M	BOR	\$103,400	\$103,400	Fund
1995-060-01	Protect and Enhance Wildlife Habitat in Squaw Creek Watershed	CTUIR	\$212,164	\$130,774	McNary Dam has been significantly mitigated for wildlife; BPA intends to fund ongoing O&M and M&E for habitat that has already been treated under this project. Additional habitat enhancement for wildlife is not needed at this time; BPA does not plan to fund the Planning and Design Phase or the Construction/Implementation Phase of this project in FY02.
1995-063-25	YKFP M&E	YN	\$3,835,036	\$3,835,036	Fund
1995-064-25	Policy/Technical Involvement and Planning in the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project	WDFW	\$187,800	\$187,800	Fund
1996-011-00	Walla Walla River Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements	CTUIR	\$465,300	\$465,300	Fund O&M only at this time- BPA will work with the Council, CTUIR and CBFWA to address needs for additional FY02 construction funds through the Council's Within-Year Reallocation process.
1996-035-01	Satus Watershed Restoration Project	YN	\$352,966	\$352,966	Fund

1996-046-01	Walla Walla Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	CTUIR	\$259,660	\$259,660	Fund
1997-013-25	Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project Operations and Maintenance	YN	\$2,429,900	\$2,429,900	Fund
1997-014-00	Evaluation of Juvenile Fall Chinook Stranding on the Hanford Reach	WDFW	\$-	\$-	BPA Does Not Intend to Fund
1997-034-00	Monitoring Fine Sediment in the Grande Ronde and John Day rivers.	CRITFC	\$40,829	\$40,829	Fund
1997-051-00	Yakima Side Channels	YN	\$565,136	\$565,136	Proposal No. 25025 includes purchase of the Easton Reach (Lanphere) parcel, as does this project. BPA is funding its acquisition under this project using FY01 Carry Forward funds. BPA will not obligate new FY02 funds to Proposal No. 25025 or Project No. 1997-051-00 until agreement is reached among WDFW, YN, the Council and BPA regarding the priority and timing of parcel acquisition under both projects, i.e., agreement on Proposal No. 25025 parcels of Crystal Springs (\$1,000,000), Gold Creek Bull Trout (\$500,000) and Project No. 1997-051-00 parcels of the Dalle property (\$241,000), the Browitt property (\$210,000), and Scatter Creek property (\$2,706,025).
1997-053-00	Toppenish-Simcoe Instream Flow Restoration and Assessment	YN	\$-	\$281,830	BPA is funding an Action Plan project 2001-064-00, in the amount of \$767,143. The Action Plan project, although in the same geographic area as project no. 1997-053-00, is very site-specific work to increase stream flow in a specific location; it is not the same as project no. 1997-053-00 which is more comprehensive.
1998-016-00	Monitor Natural Escapement of Spring Chinook	ODFW	\$1,067,328	\$1,067,328	BPA will work with the project sponsor through contract negotiations to ensure that there is no redundancy in the project's scope and that the sampling designs and methods are well-developed and appropriate to satisfy regional and local needs.
1998-017-00	Eliminate Gravel Push-Up Dams in the North Fork John Day.	JDWC	\$98,333	\$98,333	Fund
1998-018-00	John Day Watershed Restoration	CTWSRO	\$447,050	\$447,050	Fund
1998-020-00	Assess Fish Habitat and Salmonids in the Walla Walla Watershed	WDFW	\$163,879	\$163,879	Fund at Council recommendation and suggest that the sponsor request balance of FY02 request through Within-Year Reallocation process.
1998-022-00	Pine Creek Ranch	CTWSRO	\$172,000	\$172,000	Fund
1998-028-00	Trout Creek Watershed Improvement Project	JCSWCD	\$122,115	\$122,115	Fund
1998-033-00	Restore Upper Toppenish Watershed	YN	\$196,460	\$196,460	Fund
1998-034-00	YKFP Reestablish Safe Access into Tributaries of the Yakima Subbasin.	YN	\$-	\$-	BPA intends to fund using FY01 Carry Forward funds in the amount of \$1,052,707.
1999-010-00	Mitigate Effects Of Runoff & Erosion On Salmonid Habitat In Pine Hollow and Jackknife	Sherman SWCD	\$21,980	\$21,980	Fund



1999-013-00	Ahtanum Creek Watershed Assessment	YN	\$206,999	\$206,999	Fund
2000-015-00	Oxbow Ranch Management and Implementation	CTWSRO	\$291,898	\$291,898	Fund
2000-019-00	Tucannon River Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	WDFW	\$94,509	\$94,509	Fund
2000-023-00	Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites - Oregon, Horn Butte (Phillipi Property)	ODFW	\$200,000	\$-	Council's "recommendation": "To warrant funding, these proposals would need to demonstrate protection of existing high-quality habitat, or connection to historic quality habitat. Both proposals would qualify under those criteria. Oregon has proposed a habitat acquisition placeholder for the Columbia Plateau province in the Oregon subbasins and developed a prioritized list for acquisitions. The BAIC tract ranks first; the Phillipi property ranks third. The Council would also have to be willing to recommend the proposals in light of the uncertainty regarding Bonneville's crediting response as discussed in General Issue 5."
2000-026-00	Rainwater Wildlife Area	CTUIR	\$289,255	\$143,471	McNary Dam has been significantly mitigated for wildlife; additional habitat enhancement for wildlife is not needed at this time; although BPA intends to fund ongoing O&M and M&E for habitat that has already been treated under this project, we understand that the Tribe has available funds through the Washington Interim Wildlife Agreement that should be used before new FY02 funds are obligated; BPA does not plan to fund the Planning and Design Phase nor the Construction/Implementation Phase of this project in FY02.
2000-031-00	North Fork John Day River Subbasin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project.	CTUIR	\$228,726	\$228,726	Fund
2000-033-00	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	CTUIR	\$109,551	\$109,551	Fund
2000-039-00	Walla Walla Basin Natural Production Monitoring and Evaluation Project	CTUIR	\$498,886	\$498,886	BPA will work with the project sponsor through contract negotiations to ensure that there is no redundancy in the project's scope and that the sampling designs and methods are well-developed and appropriate to satisfy regional and local needs.
2000-201-16 (BPA has no record of this project no.)	Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites - Oregon, Horn Butte Area (BAIC Tract)	TNC	\$-	\$-	See above Council recommendation regarding the Phillipi Property (Project No. 2000-023-00)
25003 (2001-041-00)	Forrest Ranch Acquisition	CTWSRO	\$169,851	\$169,851	Fund
25004 (2001-040-00)	Acquisition of Wagner Ranch	CTWSRO	\$108,217	\$108,217	Fund
25086 (2001-077-00)	Conservation Easement on Holliday Ranch	ODFW	\$22,950	\$-	The Hollidays withdrew their offer of a Conservation Easement on this property on 12/27/01.
25102 (1999-088-00)	Columbia Plateau Water Right Acquisition Program	OWT	\$149,368	\$149,368	Fund

**\$34,133,171      \$32,777,919**

