

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
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FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
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February 14, 2012

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

RE: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' response to the ISRP comments and a request to remove the project from the NPCC 3-Step Process.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) have been working under contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) since 2005 on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River Dredge Tailings Restoration Project (Project # 2002-059-00). The Tribes submitted to BPA in May 2008 a proposal for the Yankee Fork Floodplain Restoration Project Implementation Plan 2008-2018. The Implementation Plan identified multiple activities located throughout the dredged segment of the Yankee Fork to be implemented over a ten-year time frame.

The attached narrative and supporting documentation demonstrates that the Step 1 critical deficiencies have been addressed, the activities are consistent with the Council's fish and wildlife program, and that further ISRP review is not warranted at this time. The Tribes request consideration by the Council to be dismissed from the Three-Step Review Process in lieu of developing projects for the Yankee Fork that are consistent with results identified in the Tributary Assessment and corresponding reach assessments that will be completed for future implementation. In addition, the Tribes request the Council to recommend funding approval to BPA for the two proposed activities planned for construction during the summer of 2012 so that habitat work to meet the noted habitat gap from the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion can be narrowed.

BPA referred the proposal to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) for a funding recommendation. Due to the significant scale and costs of the proposal, the Council recommended that the proposal be subject to the Council's Three-Step Review Process and requested in July 2008 a review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP responded in September 2008 with a determination that the proposal did not satisfy the

requirements of Step 1 and identified three areas of critical deficiency that needed to be addressed before the project could proceed to Step 2.

The Idaho Salmon Recovery Plan currently identifies the Yankee Fork spring/summer Chinook population as currently Not-Viable, with a high abundance/productivity and spatial structure/diversity risk status. The population targeted desired status is Maintained. The habitat recovery actions identified in the recovery plan to occur over the next 10 years have a reasonable chance of improving habitat condition in the Yankee Fork, so that the population may trend toward its desired status;

The narrative submitted under this cover represents the Tribes response to the 2008 ISRP review and proposes two activities for consideration by BPA and the Council. The two activities were identified in the 2008 Implementation Plan and include adaptive management actions for Pond Series 2 and Pond Series 3 originally constructed in the 1980s under agreement with the BPA. There is currently agreement by the Interdisciplinary Team and the land-owners to implement the activities, utilizing BPA funds, to demonstrate the effectiveness of habitat work in the Yankee Fork.

For any questions regarding this submission please contact Evelyn Galloway, Yankee Fork Restoration Program Manager at (208) 239-4570 or email at egalloway@sbtribes.com . Your timely review and positive consideration of these two requests is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

CC: File
Evelyn Galloway, SBT FW Dept.
Chad Colter, SBT FW Dept.