

October 2, 2006

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter is in response to the Northwest Power Conservation Council's draft comments on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC) proposal "Implement *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan Now", project ID: 199803100.

The NWPCC's draft recommendation is for "interim funding; tentative recommendation to fund separate coordination proposals." The council is deliberating whether to fund a collective coordination proposal under a single contract or to recommend separate funding and contracts for each individual coordination proposal. The council's comments take the position that if separate contracts are granted then the tasks and purpose ought to remain the same.

The CRITFC cautions the council against taking a "one size fits all" approach in analyzing coordination proposals. We do not dispute the coordination proposals submitted by the other managers and respect that their individual proposals reflect their unique needs and circumstances. While there are likely common coordination functions among all the proposals, each proposal must be judged on its own merits and not analyzed by comparing or weighing one coordination proposal against another. The CRITFC proposal does include some common activities as indicated in the other proposals but it also has many unique elements.

The CRITFC's proposal includes overall coordination of the Nez Perce Tribe's, the Yakama Nation's, the Warm Springs Tribe's and the Umatilla Tribe's efforts to restore salmon in the tribal ceded territories at the on-the-ground project and technical level, and through coordination with federal, state and local agencies. The implementation of the objectives stated in *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*, the tribal salmon restoration plan, will guide all of the efforts.

Not only will CRITFC be tracking, mapping, educating and publishing materials on the tribal BPA projects but also on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and the Pacific Salmon Commission's (PSC) Southern Fund projects collectively. This will be possible with cost share funding from the PCSRF (approximately \$125,000 annually), PSC (approximately \$30,000 annually) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs funding (approximately \$40,000 annually). All of this will contribute to a wholistic understanding of effective salmon restoration in the Columbia Basin.

Attached is a detailed list of the tasks the CRITFC hopes to perform under this project. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Olney Patt
Executive Director

Summary of 2007-2009 Program-related Coordination Tasks Planned by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Project: "Implement *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan Now"
Project ID: 199803100.

Overall needs statement: Collaborative Manager participation in regional mitigation activities for implementation of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program including RM&E, project and program review, subbasin plan implementation and program amendment recommendations.

Information dissemination:

- Prepare briefing papers, presentations and testimony about tribal issues as requested by tribal, federal and Congressional leaders.
- Provide technical, policy assistance and information daily to the CRITFC member Tribes on regional processes and issues. Facilitate and/or support discussions in various forums and meetings involving Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC), the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA-Fisheries and other federal, state and private entities.
- Provide information weekly at CRITFC managers meetings and monthly at CRITFC Commission meetings on regional processes and issues in the form of memos, emails and presentations.
- Provide information to the public via the CRITFC website at www.critfc.org concerning the 13 Tribes' Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) projects and maps.
- Provide detailed information to the public via the CRITFC website at www.critfc.org concerning the CRITFC member Tribes BPA, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Southern Fund projects and maps.
- Assist in the BPA Intern Orientation Process.
- Give presentations to BPA staff on tribal fish recovery efforts, treaty rights and sovereignty.
- Participate in outreach activities such as the Oxbow Festival, Salmon Gala, etc.
- Develop, publish and distribute a magazine highlighting CRITFC tribal salmon recovery projects.

Coordination:

- Work directly or coordinate through BPA, NWPCC, CBFWA and Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) on basin-wide tribal issues.
- Provide a forum for coordinated manager collaborative participation in regional mitigation activities directly related to Program activities including RM&E, project and program review, subbasin plan implementation and program amendment recommendations.
- Participate on several standing committees and several ad-hoc committees that are formed to address specific issues for the Program as needed.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Continually update tribal BPA, PCSRF and PSC Southern Fund databases with project specific information.
- Assist with efforts and processes that support: data management and storage, monitoring and evaluation, and provincial objectives, based on subbasin plans and in coordination with the regional hatchery review.
- Evaluate and update *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*, the tribal restoration plan.

Provincial objectives development:

- Participate in development of provincial objectives and coordinate Tribes in the amendment process.
- Participate in development of justifications and recommendations for the rate case.

Technical Reviews:

- Provide technical analysis as requested/needed on program-related topics such as research monitoring and evaluation plans and mainstem plan implementation.
- Provide coordinated tribal input on regional processes that affect the successful implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program.
- Coordinate tribal review of technical merits of BPA, PCSRF and PSC Southern Fund project proposals.

Program Implementation:

- Research opportunities and assist Tribes in securing non-BPA cost share funding.
- Participate in future Council review and evaluation of program components.
- Work with Council and Bonneville staff to develop the future project selection process -- organization, timing, etc.

Project proposal review:

- Provide coordination, assistance and proposal review for Tribes for various regional funding processes (BPA, PCSRF, PSC Southern Fund, OWEB and SRFB).
- Support of coordination with BPA on contract administration and reporting.