

From: Jesse Schwartz
Sent: Fri 9/29/2006 12:13 PM
To: Baugh, Zenobia
Subject: 2007 Progeny Marker Funding

I am writing in regards to the Council's funding recommendation for project 200203000 "Develop Progeny Marker for Salmonids to Evaluate Supplementation". This work is an essential component of the current supplementation evaluation effort guided by BPA, the Council, ISAB, ISRP, and CBFWA. The project was designed to develop a tool for supplementation evaluation in systems where a pedigree analysis is not practical or not affordable. Project staff will complete the laboratory development phase of the work as of March 31, 2007. Beginning with the 2007 run of summer steelhead to the Umatilla River, the project will engage in field testing of the progeny mark, which uses Strontium-Chloride injections to permanently mark the progeny of hatchery-reared female summer steelhead spawning in the wild.

A funding increase and out-year objectives were requested for the project, reviewed, and **Approved** as fundable by the ISRP, and ranked "High Priority" by the Mainstem-Systemwide Review Team, with reference that the overall objectives of the work are "Core Program". The increase in funding is needed because to be successful, and to implement the Council's/BPA continued and ongoing supplementation evaluation experiment, the project must:

- 1) engage in field deployment of the progeny mark
- 2) continue the current level of laboratory analysis for assessing marks of new specimens
- 3) engage in a QA/QC test of the tool using pedigree analysis

#1 and #3 above were described and reviewed under Objective 1 of the project proposal for 2007-2009 work. In addition, these tasks were discussed and reviewed by BPA as out-year tasks under 2003-2005 project SOWs. Hence, the expectation of project staff and reviewers has been that it would incur an increased work-load and corresponding fiscal needs beginning with field deployment under the ongoing project objectives.

The additional cost for #1 (Work Elements 1.1-1.3 and 1.5) is approximately 96K annually. To keep project costs in-line with the Mainstem-Systemwide budget, the project sponsors agreed to hold genetic samples for analysis during out-years beginning 2010, deferring an additional increase in funding of 35-60K annually associated with #3 (Work Element 1.4) to a future review and funding cycle. The reduced annual budget of 273K was put forth by the MSRT as a minimum increase in funding that was considered High Priority by the Co-Managers, and which contributed to a Core Program element - i.e. the evaluation of supplementation programs in the Umatilla and beyond. It was assumed that the Council would support either the reduced budget of 273K, or that sufficient funding would be found to fully fund the project activities beginning in 2007.

We firmly believe it would be impractical to accomplish the Council's program objectives, under the guidance of the ISAB, with the current funding level for this project. We request that the Council modify its project recommendations for this work by bringing the recommended budget inline with the MSRT's request. Given the importance of this work and the positive reviews it has received, we see no justification for not supporting the project sponsors, the co-managers, and the Council's program itself by hampering its success via fiscal constraints. Any additional or future concerns by the Council about the project can be dealt with in the supplementation evaluation review group established under the recommendations of the ISAB which is being facilitated by CRITFC.

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