



September 25, 2006

Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
81 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon, 97204

Mr. Walker:

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) would like to encourage the NPCC and BPA to continue funding the Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) at or near the level requested in its Provincial Review submittal for FY07 through FY09.

YTAHP was initiated to implement diversion screening and fish passage in Yakima River tributaries as the as the Yakima Basin Phase II Program was winding down. The program was designed to support juvenile salmonid rearing and adult spawning, is locally led and priority based. YTAHP has these additional positive attributes:

ESA Compliance - YTAHP provides direct Endangered Species Act compliance actions for diversion screening and fish passage, as well as riparian habitat enhancement.

Partnering - The YTAHP core team includes the KCWP, Kittitas County Conservation District, North Yakima Conservation District, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Yakama Nation. This core team works cooperatively to assess, prioritize, design and permit projects. YTAHP also partners with others to implement projects, including the Kittitas Conservation Trust, irrigation interests and local governments. The Benton County and South Yakima Conservation Districts have also expressed interest in partnering with YTAHP on the Lower Yakima River.

Leveraging Funds – YTAHP is organized to support project permitting and design and then provides an opportunity to seek construction funding for projects. YTAHP provides some match for other funding sources (SRFB, FRIMA, Water Infrastructure, NFWF, etc). The program budget is approximately fifty percent expense and fifty percent capital.

The KCWP is a consortium of irrigation interests working toward Clean Water Act and ESA compliance on nearly 100,000 acres in Kittitas County, Washington. YTAHP supports ESA compliance for irrigation interests. The enclosed sheet provides information on YTAHP activities and accomplishments from 2002 through 2006.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this valuable program.

Cordially,

Carol A. Ready, M.S.
Project Manager

c: SCW Resource Conservation & Development Council

Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program

Purpose

The Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP or "Y-Tap") was organized to restore fish access to Yakima River tributaries that historically supported salmon and steelhead and to improve habitat in areas where fish access is restored. YTAHP began as a way to extend diversion screening and fish passage efforts from the Yakima River mainstem into the tributaries where hundreds of irrigation diversions are located. The listing of steelhead and bull trout in the Mid-Columbia River and of chinook elsewhere under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) highlighted the need for planning, assessments and technical assistance to respond to these needs.

Stream Surveys

Stream surveys were conducted from 2002 through early 2005 to identify, locate and characterize fish passage barriers along Yakima River tributaries. More than 240 miles of tributaries were walked, measured and mapped; identifying culverts, irrigation diversions, abandoned concrete structures, road crossings and other features

Tributary Teams

The local Conservation Districts will facilitate the formation of individual Tributary Teams, comprised of landowners and irrigators adjacent to streams. YTAHP will share stream assessment data, encourage discussion about possible stream improvements and provide technical and funding assistance, as available. These "Trib Teams" will offer a forum for local landowners to voice interests, so that efforts are locally supported and have staying power. The Trib Teams will drive screening and passage efforts, any dedication of water rights to in-stream flow, riparian habitat projects and any upland improvements.

Measuring Success

Ultimately, abundant fish while maintaining community viability are measures of program success. However, documenting changes in fish numbers can take decades, the following "metrics" are used to measure YTAHP's affects (2002-2006 estimates):

- 240 miles of stream surveyed
- 15 fish passage barriers removed
- 24 fish screens installed (19 pump; 5 gravity)
- 50 cubic feet per second (20cfs pump; 30cfs gravity) water screened
- 5 cfs placed into in-stream water trust
- 21 acres and 2.8 miles of riparian habitat planted
- 14 miles of habitat opened to fish
- ~5,000 public contacts made
- ~\$7.58 Million dollars brought to Yakima Basin

Complementary Funding

Frequently, YTAHP provides for initial project planning and coordination, with additional funding sources to assisting with project implementation. Since 2002, these sources have included (2002—2006 *estimates*):

YTAHP	\$ 4,000,000
Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)	\$ 972,000
Water Conveyance/Infrastructure Program (Ecology)	\$ 1,100,000
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	\$ 225,650
Irrigation Efficiency (WA Conservation Commission)	\$ 861,425
Other (proponent, WCC grants, Community Salmon)	\$ 425,000
	\$7,584,075

Yakima River Tributaries

YTAHP is working with numerous local governments, irrigation entities, landowners and environmental interests to resolve problems that affect multiple interests and various aspects of natural resource management. The program has worked on the following Yakima River Tributaries:

Teaaway	Cabin	Wilson	Caribou	Big
Sorenson	Reecer	Swauk	Cowiche	Dry
Ahtanum	Currier	Cooke	Ahtanum	Wenas
Wide Hollow	Selah	Parke	Nanuem	Tieton

Evolution of the Program

YTAHP initially needed to characterize habitat needs through stream assessments and to build the relationships with local, state and federal agencies; elected officials, tribes, permitting agencies and local landowners. Coordination and collaboration is essential to implementing successful projects. Now, with the program well established, we hope to implement additional passage and habitat projects.

2007 & Beyond...

- ◆ Streamline Project Planning & Permitting
- ◆ Refine Prioritization Process
- ◆ Expand Support and Funding
- ◆ Invest in and Retain Dedicated Participants
- ◆ *Implement Projects!*



October 5, 2006

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
81 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon, 97204

RE: Supplemental Comments on Proposal #2002-025-01, YTAHP

Mr. Walker:

As we have learned more about the process, the Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) would like to supplement its September 25th comments on this proposal and continue to encourage the NPCC and BPA to fully fund the Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) as requested in its Provincial Review submittal for FY07 through FY09.

The original funding request for YTAHP from the S Central WA Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) was \$3,167,800 for FY07-09, or just over \$1M per year. We understand the Washington Draft Final Recommendation for YTAHP was \$1,400,000 total from the expense budget. As a member of the YTAHP Core Team, the Kittitas County Water Purveyors would like to encourage the NPCC and BPA to supplement this expense funding with a capital budget of approximately \$1.8M, bringing the total project budget to near its original request. The list of YTAHP capital projects is long (currently about 60 projects), many with permits underway and designs at or near completion. This list of YTAHP projects for FY07 to FY09 is included in the RC&D comments to the NPCC.

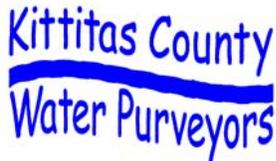
If you, or any reviewer, would like additional information, please feel free to contact me by any means. If anyone would like a site tour, one or more YTAHP Core Team members would be happy to accommodate those interested. I have included an informational YTAHP poster and the September comment letter as reference.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,

Carol A. Ready, M.S.
Project Manager
509-929-7323
carol.ready@kcwp.org

c: SCW Resource Conservation & Development Council



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