

South Central WA Resource Conservation & Development

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

2006010006

South Central Washington RC&D (SCWRC&D) would like to support the funding level of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP), Project Number 200203105, at the requested level of \$3,167,800 for the FY 07-09 funding cycle. The following reasons support this request;

- 1.) The work being accomplished by this program has a direct relationship to enhancing the recovery of the ESA identified threatened summer steelhead population. Projects that have been implemented have shown to open previously unavailable habitat to this species and others for spawning and rearing.
- 2.) The YTAHP project has created the working partnerships in the Yakima Basin among State agencies, Yakama Indian Nation, Conservation Districts, Federal agencies and most importantly the private landowners.
- 3.) As noted, this project has been successful in reaching those private landowners who have the legal water rights to much of the surface water available in the tributaries in the basin. These landowner/irrigators are cooperating on a voluntary basis to solve barrier and screening issues on the numerous streams connected to the Yakima River.
- 4.) The importance of the work being done by YTAHP is identified multiple times in the recently adopted Subbasin Recovery Plan for salmonid restoration activities in the Yakima River watershed.
- 5.) The YTAHP effort has been very successful in leveraging the funding available through the BPA fish and wildlife program with funds from other sources. The project has utilized 2.4 million dollars from other sources for the various projects implemented to this date.
- 6.) The numerous irrigation diversions and barriers have been created over decades by the water users in the basin. The initial barrier and screening process of Phases I & II undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts has been working for more than 20 years and is now at a point where most diversions in these categories are adequately screened and allow unobstructed passage. YTAHP began as Phase III of the barrier and screening work for diversions on private lands, this work will require an effort of similar proportions, as to what has been taking place, in order to open access to the extensive tributary system in the watershed.


Dick Story, Chairman
South Central Washington RC&D

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October 3, 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 and Council members:

In addition to their letter requesting full funding of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) at the \$3,167,800 level, the SCWRC&D Council has asked that I provide a list of identified projects to be pursued during the FY-07-09 period. The list of projects below is not an exhaustive list of the problems needing to be addressed in the upper Yakima basin. Nor is it likely that all of these projects will be completed during the FY-07-09 period. This is a list of identified projects which have had some level of initial evaluation and/or landowner contact. If funding is available, additional work will be done during the next three years on all of these projects, moving them toward completion, and many of them will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2009.

Thank you,



Ed Harrell, YTAHP Administrator

North Yakima Conservation District Projects

Title: Boyd Brown Gravity Diversion Removal

Description: Remove gravity diversion barrier and non-compliant screen, install ring well or moved diversion downstream to the Naches River and use a pump screen.

Deliverable Specification: Removal of gravity diversion and non-compliant screen. Will open 0.35 mile of stream.

Title: Hanson Diversion

Description: Remove unscreened gravity diversion and install a compliant fish screen for diversion, insure fish passage.

Deliverable Specification: 1.53 miles of stream opened for increased salmonid upstream passage.

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Title: City of Yakima Check Dam/Fish Ladder Removal

Description: Remove check dam diversion and aluminum slot baffled Alaska steep pass fishway.

Deliverable Specification: 0.60 mile of stream opened for increased salmonid upstream passage.

Title: Cowyiche Ditch Diversion

Description: Remove old diversion with unused gravity flow diversion

Deliverable Specification: approximately .7 mile of stream opened for fish passage to the next inventoried upstream barrier.

Title: Tampico Park North Fork Ahtanum Gravity Diversion

Description: Remove unscreened hand dug gravity diversion and install compliant fish screen and redesigned diversion.

Deliverable Specification: 1.54 miles of stream opened for fish passage to the next inventoried upstream barrier.

Title: Hannah/Nurse South Fork Ahtanum Gravity Diversion

Description: Remove gravity diversion and install compliant screen

Deliverable Specification: 0.69 mile of stream opened to the next inventoried upstream barrier to fish.

Title: The Lower Lust Diversion Dam

Description: Remove/modify irrigation diversion dam to allow fish passage. Through the development of alternative water delivery fish screening needs will be eliminated and instream flows increased

Deliverable Specification: Removal of barrier will allow fish passage to North and South Fork Cowiche Creeks and open 1.15 miles of stream to next north fork upstream barrier and approximately 3.46 miles upstream to next major passage barrier/dam on the south fork.

Title: The Upper Lust Concrete Apron and Check Board Dam

Description: Remove concrete apron and check board dam and install fish passage structures

Deliverable Specification: Removal of dam will allow fish passage at high and low flows opening 1.15 miles of stream upstream to next barrier.

Title: Old North Fork Ahtanum Gauging Station

Description: Remove the old USGS gauging station dam and concrete apron to allow for fish passage upstream.

Deliverable Specification: Removal of dam and establishment of new gauging station will allow fish passage at high and low flows opening the upper reaches (approximately 40 miles) of the North Fork Ahtanum Creek for migratory fish use.

Title: Old South Fork Ahtanum Gauging Station

Description: Remove concrete apron and check board dam and install fish passage structures.

Deliverable Specification: Removal of dam and establishment of new gauging station will allow fish passage at high and low flows opening the upper reaches (approximately 1.15 miles) of the South Fork Ahtanum Creek for migratory fish use.

Title: Fines Diversion Dam

Description: Remove constructed earthen, wood and rock filled dam, install a gravity diversion and install rock weirs to allow for fish passage while still meeting 3 cfs diversion needs.

Deliverable Specification: Removal of dam will allow fish passage upstream to approximately 8 miles of stream and successful downstream smolt out migration, especially during low flows on Wide Hollow Creek.

Title: Naches and Cowiche Canal Company Undershot Siphon

Description: Remove low water barrier and route the Naches and Cowiche Canal Company undershot siphon lower in the stream channel. Rock weirs may be used to step flows up to increase fish passage and decrease plunge pool heights instead of routing the siphons lower in the channel.

Metrics:

* If installing a ladder, does the ladder meet NOAA specifications for attraction flow, pool dimensions, jump height, etc? (Y)

* Does the structure remove or replace a fish passage barrier? (Y)

* Was barrier Full or Partial? (P)

* # of miles of habitat accessed (2.0 mi.)

Deliverable Specification: 2.0 miles of stream opened during low flows.

Title: Evans I

Description: Remove low water rock check structure barrier and improve fish passage with rock weirs on South Fork Cowiche Creek

Metrics:

* If installing a ladder, does the ladder meet NOAA specifications for attraction flow, pool dimensions, jump height, etc? (Y)

* Does the structure remove or replace a fish passage barrier? (Y)

* Was barrier Full or Partial? (P)

* # of miles of habitat accessed (1.8 mi.)

Deliverable Specification: 1.8 miles of stream available for increased salmonid use to next barrier.

Title: Install new Matson Pump Screen and Eliminate gravity Diversion

Description: Install compliant pump screen

Deliverable Specification: .85 cfs of protection

Title: WDFW Old Mill Road Project

Description: Reintroduce the channel to the floodplain with the large woody debris and side channel modifications

Deliverable Specification: approximately .75 mile of instream and side channel habitat will be improved or created.

Title: Lower Mid Cowiche Riparian Project (Lust, Stevenson, Thornton)

Description: Fencing, plant native species and maintenance of the plantings

Specification: .5 mile of stream will be treated

Title: Maintain Vegetation

Description: The Washington Conservation Corp is on contract with the North Yakima Conservation District to maintain vegetation at various locations throughout the year.

Deliverable Specification: Maintenance of vegetation entails whatever is needed. This generally includes weeding, replacing dead vegetation, watering. It may include spraying for insects and/or weeds if necessary.

Title: Cowiche Creek Water Users Association Project

Description: The project will transfer water from surface flows from the Cowiche Creek to the Tieton River. Piping will be implemented to deliver water from the Yakima Tieton pressurized system to the Cowiche water right holders.

Deliverable Specification: The transfer will result in 7.7 cfs remaining in Cowiche Creek for 7.45 miles to the confluence with the Naches River.

Title: Evans Fruit Company Project

Description: The project will transfer water from surface flows of the Cowiche Creek to the Tieton River. Piping will be implemented to deliver water from the Yakima Tieton pressurized system to the Evans water right

Deliverable Specification: The transfer will result in 5.21 cfs remaining in Cowiche Creek for 9.3 miles to the confluence with the Naches River

Kittitas County Conservation District Projects

Remove diversion - Remove/modify Dam-

Currier Creek (4 structures removed)

Reecer Creek (1 structure removed, 1 structure modified for fish passage)

Lyle Creek (1 structure removed)

Caribou Creek (3 structures removed, 1 modified for fish passage)

Parke Creek (1 structure removed)

Install Fish Passage Structure-

Caribou Creek (Gibb)

Cherry Creek (add fish passage)

Cabin Creek (culvert to bridge)

Jack Creek (replace culvert)

Indian Creek (replace culvert)

Caribou, Cook, Parke Creeks- could be up to 4 diversions modified to add fish ladders, etc.

Lower Reecer Creek - replace current foot bridge on diversion structure to allow for fish passage and maintain foot path.

Coleman Creek – maybe new bridge for Burriss diversion structure

Install Fish Screen-

Pump

Reecer Creek (lower Reecer project- 5 cfs)

Parke Creek (Eslinger/Sorensen – 6 cfs)

Cherry Creek(Nesbit 3 cfs)

Coleman Creek (Nesbit 3 cfs)

Yakima River (Eaton- 4 cfs)

Gravity

Caribou Creek (Gibb – 12 cfs)

Cherry Creek (Jacobs 6 cfs)

Coleman Creek (Burris 3 cfs)

Currier Creek (EWC diversion- ???cfs)

Increase Instream Habitat Complexity-

Wilson Creek (another Eaton project)

Cherry Creek (Jacobs)

Reecer Creek (along with project to remove diversions)

Parke Creek (removal of Eslinger/Sorenson diversion)

Maintain Vegetation-

Coleman Creek (Ringer/Hernandez)

Coleman Creek (Nesbit/Burris)

Wilson Creek (Eaton)

Wilson Creek (City of Eburg/BOR)

Lyle Creek (Brunson)

Reecer Creek (City of Eburg)

Naneum or Little Naneum Creeks (Brunson, Burris, others?)

Swauk Creek

Teaway River

Install Pipeline-

Eaton- Yakima River water to replace Lmuma Creek water (1 mile of pipe)

Enhance Floodplain-

Lower Reecer- City of Eburg- Plans to reconnect to 70 acres of floodplain by breaching or removing a dike

Develop Alternative Water Source-

Coleman Creek (Burris)- use all EWC water, no creek water

Install Fence-

Lmuma Creek- Eaton (1000 to 2000 feet)

Coleman Creek- Nesbit (200 to 400 feet)

From: Ed Harrell Sent: Friday, October 06, 2006 12:32 PM
To: Baugh, Zenobia
Subject: FY07-09

Dear Mr. Walker and Council members:

If our U.S. Express mail is working properly you should have received a comment letter from the South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council this morning along with copies of other supporting letters. I'm sure you are being swamped with mailed and electronic comments right now. I would like, however, to add some clarification to the RC&D comments. Our original proposal (Proposal #200202501) for FY07-09 BPA funding was for \$3,167,800 for the three year period. The draft recommendation - expense budget, from NPCC is for \$1,400,000 for three years. We greatly appreciate this recommendation and it will adequately cover our expense needs. As we have shown in our proposal and the additional information in our October 3, 2006 comment letter, the focus of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat program is to implement corrective actions on the ground; removing barriers to fish passage and screening irrigation diversions. This work clearly fits within the definition of capital projects. The RC&D and the whole YTAHP Core Team requests that the currently unfunded portion of our original proposal, approximately \$1.8 million, be funded from the BPA capital budget. As you can see in our comment letters we currently have over 60 projects begging for attention. The additional \$1.8 million from the capital budget would go a long way toward getting these projects done.

Thank you.

Ed Harrell, YTAHP