



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
1150 N Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234



IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-1730
ADM 1.1

October 6, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

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

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council's draft fish and wildlife project funding recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2009. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in partnership with BPA and the Corps of Engineers is implementing habitat improvement projects as included in the 2004 Updated Proposed Action (UPA; Federal Columbia River Power System Endangered Species Act compliance). The UPA habitat projects are coordinated with multiple local partners. Reclamation views the Council process as important and seeks to coordinate closely with both the Council and the local partners.

We note that the projects identified below in the table were not included in the draft recommendations to BPA for funding. We point here to the significance of these projects as related to both the 2004 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp) commitments and the transition to the new BiOp under the remand process. These projects have been identified as "near term projects," linked to the priorities and objectives of the developing proposed action, in the current remand process.

Project Number	200725100	200717200
Project Name	UPA MVID-East Diversion Replacement	UPA MVID-West Canal Diversion Replacement
2007-2009 Request	\$618,000	\$276,000
Cost share	\$885,000 (secured)	\$245 (secured)
ISRP Rating	Fundable	Fundable (Qualified)
ISRP Comment	"Overall, this is an excellent "on-the-ground" project to improve habitat and fish. The proposal deserves a high	ISRP qualified their funding decision, raising issues about flow levels that impede passage in the Twisp River, contingency plans

	priority.”	should the structure fail, and whether the diversion would be screened.
Performance metric associated with 2004 FCRPS BiOp	Project significantly supports meeting the BiOp off-site habitat performance metrics. Estimated to provide from 80 to 240 miles of access for upper Columbia spring Chinook and steelhead.	Project significantly supports meeting the BiOp off-site habitat performance metrics. Estimated to provide from 30 miles to 120 miles of access for upper Columbia spring Chinook and steelhead.

For the MVID-West Canal Diversion Replacement project, we provide the following additional information to follow-up on the final ISRP comment:

- It is our understanding that NOAA-Fisheries, in past discussions with MVID, has indicated that the dam and diversion can create a barrier at flows at or below about 80 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.). Typically, these flows will be reached in mid-August and will continue at this level until the spring. In extremely dry years, these flows are reached in mid-July.
- Extensive modeling was done to design the structure to prevent scour and movement during high flows up to the 100 year event. MVID and MSRF have monitoring plans in place to collect data to provide the technical basis for repair actions should the structure be damaged by high flows.
- The existing screens, replaced under the Council’s program in 2002, are located approximately 300’ downstream of the diversion will be reconnected with the new headworks and intake canal.

We ask that the Council consider the following points: 1) These locally coordinated projects were initiated under the 2004 FCRPS BiOp process and have been identified as “near term projects” (likely to be implemented) under the remand; 2) the ISRP rated MVID East as “fundable” and commented that this project was “excellent” and deserved a “high priority;” and 3) there is substantial cost share secured for both projects from multiple sources.

Please contact Ms. Kate Puckett at 208-378-5089 if you have further questions about this matter.

Sincerely yours.

/s/

Kate Puckett

Acting Columbia/Snake Salmon Recovery Office Manager