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June 16, 2006

To: Tom Karier, NWPC Chair  
Frank (Larry) Cassidy, NWPC Council Member

From: Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Subject: Review and Prioritization of projects proposed in the Asotin, Tucannon, Lower Snake and Walla Walla subbasins for 07-09 funding consideration by the NWPC and BPA

**Background:** In January 2006 you requested that our Director, Steve Martin coordinate local project review on behalf of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and develop a list of priority projects for the Asotin, Tucannon, and Walla Walla and Lower Snake Mainstem subbasins. You also asked that a list of recommendations on these projects be submitted by the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board by June 16, 2006 and that a short description of the process and criteria used to develop those priorities be provided. This letter transmits to you (1) a description of coordination provided by the SRSRB including the roles of the Board and Subbasin teams, (2) a list of priority projects and recommendations for each of the four subbasins as developed by the Subbasin Planning Teams (SBPT) and supported by the two watershed planning units, (3) a short description of the process and criteria used to develop those priorities and recommendations and (4) regional comments and perspectives. Please see the attached subbasin team and Planning Unit comments that support the general description provided here.

**Coordination:** Director Martin worked with the subbasin team co-leads to coordinate the subbasin teams and other committees to review, score and rank the subbasin projects. Although participation by NWPC Staff was requested at these local meetings, schedule conflicts precluded their direct participation. The Co-Leads for the Asotin, Lower Snake Mainstem and Tucannon were the Nez Perce Tribe and the respective county Conservation Districts. The Co-Leads in the Walla Walla subbasin were the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council in Oregon and the Walla Walla County Watershed Planning Department in Walla Walla along with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The Walla Walla, Tucannon and Asotin subbasin teams met several times to review and rank the projects for their respective subbasins using the criteria listed on the attached project scorecards. To ensure consistency across the region, the three subbasins used the same criteria and scoring. In the Lower Snake, there was only one application submitted so the team did not meet.

The Board recognizes that the ISRP will provide comments on each of the proposals and that those comments may initiate project revisions and will necessitate further review. The Board and the four subbasin teams are willing to work with the Council and others through the review process. Further, the subbasin teams and project applicants had no guidance with respect to anticipated

budget amounts so there was very little done to refine and revise budgets to align with a funding allocation. The SRSRB, Subbasin Teams and Planning Units strongly urge the NWPCC and BPA to work with project sponsors at the subbasin level to identify any feasible changes to individual project budgets as a means to maximize the most effective use of existing resources.

## Roles

SRSRB Role: We believe it helpful for the Council to recognize that the SRSRB did not develop or submit the subbasin plans for this region but did approve of the four subbasin plans and relied heavily on the subbasin assessments when it developed the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan. Therefore, the Board represents regional priorities and policies and believes at this time that the subbasin teams are the most appropriate organization for initial review, scoring and ranking of subbasin-specific projects because those teams represent and know their subbasins better than the regional Board. The role of the SRSRB was to coordinate subbasin team and planning unit review of project proposals and to provide the NWPCC project recommendations on behalf of the subbasin teams.

Subbasin Teams Roles: The role of the four subbasin planning teams in southeast Washington was to determine project consistency with the goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in the various subbasin plans. In addition, the teams used cost share/partnership, application to recovery, quantifiable benefits, proven techniques, level of imminent threat and other criteria included in the project scoring worksheets attached. There were no supplemental criteria to consider when these teams initially met.

Planning Unit Role: The role of the two watershed planning units was to review the conclusions reached by the subbasin teams in the respective WRIA's and to endorse or comment on the recommendations. The SRSRB strongly values the level and diversity of participation and membership on the planning units and to that end, relied heavily on the recommendations reached by the planning units. The central theme is that the broader the public understanding and support for projects aimed to implement the Council's program the greater the support for the program will be.

It must be noted that one proposal submitted in the Tucannon subbasin by the Pomeroy Conservation District applied more directly to the Lower Snake subbasin so the project sponsor requested that this project be moved from the Tucannon subbasin list to the Lower Snake subbasin list. The co-leads for developing the Middle Snake Subbasin plan (NPT and PCD) discussed on several occasions the merits of both projects and their consistency with the plan. Unfortunately, the decision to move the project to the Tucannon subbasin list was reached too late in the process to convene the entire Lower Snake subbasin team to score and rank the two projects

## Subbasin Priority Projects

Table 1 - Priority Projects and Recommendations from the Subbasin Teams

Asotin Subbasin			
Project #	Project Title	Project Objective	Subbasin Team Recommendation
199401805	Continued Implementation of Prioritized Asotin Creek Watershed Habitat Projects	Restore and Protect Riparian and Uplands	High Priority
2002055000	Continued Riparian Buffer Projects on Couse/Tenmile and other Salmonid Bearing Streams in Asotin County.	Restore and Protect Riparian and Uplands	High Priority
200205300	Assess Salmonids in Asotin Creek Watershed	Monitor Salmonids	High Priority
200205400	Protect and Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed	Assessment of barriers, roads and road decommissioning	High Priority
200600500	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area O&M (Schlee Acquisitions)	O&M of Terrestrial habitat	High Priority
Tucannon Subbasin			
200001900	Tucannon River Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Ensure population persists	High Priority
199401806	Tucannon Stream and Riparian Protection, Enhancement and Restoration	Restore and protect riparian and upland habitats	High Priority
200712500	Tucannon River Watershed - Nez Perce Tribe	Road assessment and decommissioning	High Priority
199401807	Chinook and Steelhead in the Lower Snake and Tucannon Subasins	Move this project to the Lower Snake Mainstem list because the majority of work will be completed in that subbasin, not the Tucannon	

Lower Snake Mainstem			
199401807	Chinook and Steelhead in the Lower Snake and Tucannon Subasins	Restore and protect riparian and uplands	High Priority
	Protect and restore the Lower Snake	Assess roads and barriers	High Priority
Walla Walla Subbasin			
200721700	Operation and Maintenance for Walla Walla Basin Passage Projects	Operate and maintain ladders and screens	High Priority
199601100	Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements	Operate and maintain ladders and screens	High Priority
200003900	Walla Walla Subbasin Collaborative Salmonid Monitoring & Evaluation Project	Monitor salmonid populations	High Priority
200733000	Gardena Farms Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiency and Instream Flow Project	Restore ~ 5CFS to mainstem River	High Priority
200734000	A multidisciplinary collaborative approach to aquatic habitat monitoring & evaluation in the Walla Walla Subbasin	Monitor habitat conditions	High Priority
200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	Maintain and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat	High Priority
200203600	Restore Walla Walla River Flow	Return additional flow to mainstem river	High Priority
200728800	Touchet Eastside and Westside Irrigation District Piping	Return conserved water to Touchet River	High Priority
199604601	Walla Walla River Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	Restore and protect riparian and upland habitat	High Priority

Walla Walla Subbasin – continued			
200003300	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	Maintain ladders and screens	High Priority
200003800	NEOH Walla Walla Hatchery - Three Step Master Planning Process	Complete hatchery planning	Recommend

### **Description of Process and Criteria to Develop Priorities**

Each of the subbasin teams have developed detailed descriptions of the process and criteria used to develop their priorities and are included as attachments to this letter of transmittal. The SRSRB supports and approves the process and criteria used by the Walla Walla, Tucannon and Asotin subbasin team. The process and criteria used by the Lower Snake subbasin team was for the co-leads to discuss the two projects and rank them based on history of implementation. Since the Pomeroy Conservation District proposal had been on-going since 1994, the co-leads agreed that it should be ranked number one followed by the Nez Perce Tribe’s proposal. Since these two projects were not officially scored by members of the Lower Snake SBPT the SRSRB could not confidently support the conclusion reached by the co-leads and therefore recommends these two projects for funding but downgraded the recommendation from high priority to recommend. The SRSRB acknowledges that last minute changes to the Lower Snake list precluded the Lower Snake SBPT from convening and scoring these two projects. The SRSRB fully supports granting this team additional time to more fully evaluate these two projects.

**SRSRB Final Project List Recommendation:** On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the SRSRB met to review the recommendations from each of the four subbasins and agreed by consensus that its recommendations would be based on the recommendations of three of the four subbasin teams. After deliberation, the SRSRB approved the following project recommendations (Table 2).

**General Comments:** The SRSRB greatly appreciates the opportunity to participate in the FY 07-09 NWPCC/BPA Fish and Wildlife project review cycle. This was the first opportunity to engage diverse and inclusive stakeholder organizations in the process at the subbasin, WRIA and Regional levels. The Board supports the process, criteria and list of priorities developed by three of the four subbasin teams, however, the Board believes that new and emerging information was gathered during and in the case of the Walla Walla subbasin, after the process at the subbasin level had concluded. Specifically, the Board understands that the Council prefers and supports those projects that result in on-the-ground activities more so than those that are more heavily weighted towards administration and staff. The Board also understands that the Council prefers and supports monitoring projects that are geared towards filling a critical data gap or monitoring the critical population indicators more so than those that are research or assessment-type proposals. The SRSRB encourages use of these fundamental guiding principals by the Council when it reviews the project proposals.

The work completed by stakeholders, agencies and Tribes in developing the subbasin plans is highly valued by the SRSRB. Implementation of the subbasin plans in a manner that garners support,

understanding and commitment from regional interests has required significant investments of volunteer time by the agencies, Tribes and stakeholders. These groups have been convened dozens of times over the last several months to review and understand, score, rank and comment on the projects proposed for the 07-09 cycle. It is critical that the NWPCC and BPA acknowledge the time invested into the prioritization effort and the level of understanding and support that has emerged from this inclusive process. We ask that all possible considerations are given to the comments and recommendations made at the subbasin, watershed and regional levels and that any divergence from these recommendations be made in consultation with the subbasin teams and SRSRB.

**Future Recommendations:** The SRSRB believes that the application process should be modified in the next cycle to encourage pre-application consultation between the project sponsor(s), BPA, Council, Staff and subbasin planning teams to facilitate development of projects that are more coordinated with respect to plan priorities, budget and work elements. In future cycles, to improve consistency between subbasin teams and local reviewers, the SRSRB encourages that a guidance document be developed that outlines key criteria for reviewing projects. And finally, for future cycles, the SRSRB wants the NWPCC and BPA to recognize that implementation of subbasin plans requires local review and ranking of proposals to ensure public support and alignment of work across multiple funding sources. The SRSRB placed a high priority on coordinating and encouraging stakeholder involvement in the review process. However, the costs associated with coordinating multiple subbasin project reviews by the SBP Teams, Watershed Planning Units and SRSRB were significant. In future cycles, if the Council and BPA value coordination, support and aligned implementation of subbasin plans with other watershed and regional plans, a process should be developed for reimbursing local, watershed and regional entities for expenditures associated with Program project reviews.

**TABLE 2 – Subbasin Projects, Subbasin Team Comment Summary and SRSRB Recommendations**

<b>ASOTIN SUBBASIN</b>			
<b>Project No</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>SBPT Comment Summary</b>	<b>SRSRB Recommendation</b>
199401805	Continued Implementation of Prioritized Asotin Creek Watershed Habitat Projects	Proven project with demonstrable benefits in high priority area	Highly Recommend
2002055000	Continued Riparian Buffer Projects on Couse/Tenmile and other Salmonid Bearing Streams in Asotin County.	Proven project with demonstrable benefits but in lower priority area	Highly Recommend
200205300	Assess Salmonids in Asotin Creek Watershed	Monitoring of fish abundance distribution and other critical variables	Highly Recommend
200205400	Protect and Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed	Low percentage of project is for on-the ground work. However, it is recognized that costs are associated with tasks that are required between conducting an assessment and implementing a project.	Highly Recommend
200600500	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area O&M (Schlee Acquisitions)	Only proposal in subbasin to address terrestrial habitat; modest budget and large project size	Highly Recommend

TUCANNON SUBBASIN			
Project No	Project Title	SBPT Comments	SRSRB Recommendations
200001900	Tucannon River Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Imperative to close out this vital recovery program	Highly Recommend
199401806	Tucannon Stream and Riparian Protection, Enhancement and Restoration	Proven program to restore and protect riparian and uplands and improve instream habitat conditions	Highly Recommend
200712500	Tucannon River Watershed - Nez Perce Tribe	Low percentage of project is on-the ground. However, it is recognized that costs are associated with tasks that are required between conducting an assessment and implementing a project.	Highly Recommend
199401807	Chinook and Steelhead in the Lower Snake and Tucannon Subbasins	Move this project to the Lower Snake Mainstem list for review and prioritization	
LOWER SNAKE SUBBASIN			
199401801	Chinook and Steelhead in the Lower Snake and Tucannon Subbasins	None. Co-Lead Comment: Proven program with years of success	Recommend
200712600	Protect and Restore Lower Snake Tributary and Pataha Stream Watersheds	None. Co-Lead Comment: Proposal is consistent with subbasin plan objectives	Recommend

WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN			
200721700	Operation and Maintenance for Walla Walla Basin Passage projects	Mandatory project to continue fish ladders	Highly Recommend
199601100	Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult passage Improvements	Mandatory project	Highly Recommend
200003900	Walla Walla Subbasin Collaborative Salmonid Monitoring and Evaluation Project	RME is critical for guiding wise investments	Highly Recommend
20073300	Gardena Farms Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiency and Instream Flow Project	There may be a legal obligation for BPA to use the water transaction program	Highly Recommend but request funding from WTP
200734000	A Multidisciplinary Collaborative Approach to Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Evaluation in the Walla Walla Subbasin	Ongoing monitoring program needed to validate improvements to basin	Highly Recommend
200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	Terrestrial proposal with clear ESA fish benefits	Highly Recommend
200203600	Restore Walla Walla River Flow	There may be a legal obligation for BPA to use the water transaction program	Highly Recommend but request funding from WTP
200728800	Touchet Eastside and Westside Irrigation District Piping	There may be a legal obligation for BPA to use the water transaction program	Highly Recommend but request funding from WTP

Walla Walla Subbasin - continued			
199604601	Walla Walla River Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	On-going project with proven track record to protect and restore habitat	Highly Recommend
200003300	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	Project is to provide technical guidance to irrigation districts for fish passage facilities operation	Highly Recommend
200003800	NEOH Walla Walla Hatchery – Three Step Master Planning Process	Completion of planning process; critical tool for recovery planning	Recommend

ATTACHMENT 1 – WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Attachments: Attachment 1 – Walla Walla Subbasin Detailed Description

Attachment 2 – Southeast Washington Combined Subbasin Team Detailed Description and Project Scorecard

Attachment 3 – Asotin, Tucannon and Lower Snake Subbasin Project Ranking by the Subbasin Teams and Subbasin Team Comments

Attachment 4 – WRIA 35 (Asotin, Tucannon and Lower Snake) Planning Unit Letter of Support

# WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN BPA PROPOSAL PRIORITIZATIONS 2007-2009

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## [Walla Walla Subbasin Recommendation for BPA Proposal Prioritization:](#)

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) will be making fish and wildlife project funding recommendations for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2009 and they have sought local input and advice on what BPA proposals are of highest priority to begin implementing each subbasin plan over this three-year period. The NPCC has asked for our local Walla Walla citizen and technical group to review the fish and wildlife proposals that have been submitted against the adopted Walla Walla subbasin plan, and provide the NPCC a proposed three-year suite of projects that represent the highest priorities of the subbasin plan for the next three years.

*Attachment A* is the *Walla Walla Prioritization Worksheet for 2007-2009 BPA Proposals*. Comments on the eleven BPA Proposals are included as developed by the Walla Walla Subbasin Planning Team (WWSPT). Additional information explaining the local prioritization process is described below.

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## [Local Prioritization Process: Walla Walla Subbasin 2007-2009 BPA Proposals](#)

The general NPCC guidance for prioritizing BPA proposals recommends that local groups operating at a subbasin scale should review the proposals against the subbasin plan adopted by the NPCC. Using the information included in the proposal and with close consideration of the adopted subbasin plan, the local groups are asked to prioritize the proposals and submit to the NPCC the prioritization worksheet recording the priority recommendations. The guidance also notes that the local group's advice to the NPCC would be greatly enhanced by also including a concise statement that explains how it conducted the prioritization, and why the list provided does in fact represent the highest priority projects.

The NPCC asked local groups to evaluate the proposals against the priorities set forth in the adopted subbasin plans. There are not additional or supplemental criteria that the Council is requiring local groups to consider. However, local groups can choose to develop additional standards for guidelines to

help them prioritize competing proposals and to take into account factors they deem important in developing prioritized project recommendations lists.

Additional guidance received from the Oregon Office of the NPCC offered some criteria to provide sideboards for local project prioritization, with the advice that local groups should use the criteria (and any additional locally developed criteria) to create a list of locally prioritized projects. Local groups are asked to first rank projects into three categories:

1. High Priority to implement the subbasin plan
2. Recommended to implement the subbasin plan, and
3. Not recommended.

Projects in the High Priority and Recommended categories are then to be prioritized in ranked order. Local groups are to submit to the NPCC the completed Prioritization Worksheet recording the priority project recommendations.

### **Walla Walla Subbasin Prioritization Process:**

The Oregon timeline for BPA proposal prioritization quickly became a driving force for the Walla Walla effort, as the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan co-leads<sup>1</sup> recognized the need to prepare a bi-state recommendation for discussion at the April 20, 2006 meeting of the Oregon Project Review Team. In following the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan's addendum describing how project priorities should be developed with the joint effort of stakeholders and technical experts, a meeting of the newly formalized Walla Walla Implementation Working Group (IWG) was held on February 21, 2006 with the BPA project proposals as an agenda item for discussion of next steps. The IWG includes citizen representatives from the three counties (Umatilla, Walla Walla and Columbia) combined with technical representatives from state, and Tribal agencies. At the IWG meeting (02/21/06), the 13-member IWG determined that to streamline the BPA project prioritization process, the Walla Walla Subbasin Planning Team (WWSPT) would convene to bring back some recommendations for the IWG to review and consider on March 22, 2006. A follow-up meeting of the IWG was scheduled for April 10, 2006 to allow for additional time for stakeholder review and final approval of the recommended prioritization.

The bi-state WWSPT was originally the core group that did the 'heavy lifting' for the technical development of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan completed in 2004. The WWSPT includes technical and policy representatives from WDFW, ODFW, CTUIR, Conservation Districts, Irrigation Districts, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC), Walla Walla County Watershed Planning Unit, and the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. WWSPT meetings were open to the public and were convened to focus on prioritization of BPA proposals on the following dates: February 27; March 10; March 13; March 21; and April 10. There are four elements that the WWSPT focused on during their meetings in February, March and April: 1) NPCC guidance/requirements; 2) Criteria for prioritization; 3) Application of criteria to Walla Walla BPA proposals, and; 4) Schedule for submitting project priorities.

- 1) **NPCC guidance/requirements.** The WWSPT posed numerous process and guidance questions to both WA and OR NPCC staff. Oregon NPCC staff member Karl Weist provided answers and the

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<sup>1</sup> The Walla Walla Subbasin Plan co-leads are the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) in Oregon and the Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit (WWWPU) as administered by Walla Walla County in Washington.

Washington NPCC staff member Stacy Horton attended the March 7<sup>th</sup> Snake River Salmon Recovery Board meeting to answer questions. Some of the guidance received from NPCC staff included guidance on issues and requirements such as:

- Definition of capital projects.
- Coordinating our local prioritization schedule with the OR and WA NPCC schedules, and the Independent Scientific Review Process (ISRP).
- The OR fix-it loop based on ISRP feedback.
- Expected funding allocation for anadromous fish, resident fish, and terrestrial wildlife; also the allocation across provinces in OR and WA.
- Prioritizing legally mandated activities for fish passage, hatcheries, terrestrial, and ongoing maintenance of existing BPA facilities.
- Prioritizing anadromous fish research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E).
- Prioritizing projects ‘as proposed’ verses recommending funding reductions
- Involvement of USFWS and NOAA staff in prioritization.

The WWSPT considered the NPCC guidance and requirements in developing the Walla Walla criteria and prioritization recommendation. Some of the process and technical questions posed to NPCC staff were not easily answered, however; so in some cases it’s expected that additional information could come from NPCC in the future as this process progresses toward a final decision on funding allocations later this year.

- 2) **Criteria for prioritization.** Along with NPCC staff process guidance, the WWSPT received criteria and rating sheet guidance. Within the WWSPT, the criteria was reviewed and updated to fit the Subbasin Plan priorities for the Walla Walla Subbasin. The working draft criteria was reviewed by the IWG at its March 22, 2006 meeting and stakeholder feedback was incorporated in development of the final WWSPT recommendations as prepared for the April 10, 2006 IWG meeting. *Attachment B* to this memo describes the *Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria* used to score BPA project proposals by the WWSPT.
- 3) **Application of criteria to Walla Walla BPA proposals.** There were 11 BPA project proposals submitted for funding for 2007-2009 in the Walla Walla Subbasin. IWG members received a CD with the complete application for each of the 11 BPA project proposals in the Walla Walla Subbasin. Stakeholders were also encouraged to access the BPA project proposals from <http://www.cbfwa.org/solicitation/components/forms/allproposals.cfm?subbasin=Walla%20Walla>.

The WWSPT reviewed the technical merit of each proposal and considered the NPCC guidance to prepare a scored recommendation to present to the IWG on March 22, 2006. The IWG reviewed the WWSPT recommendation and decided to continue the meeting to April 10, 2006 to allow for more time to review the proposals, criteria, and recommended scoring for each proposal.

At the April 10, 2006 IWG meeting, the modified WWSPT application of criteria and scoring of projects was reviewed. The IWG considered the WWSPT scoring and made decisions on the designation of the top ten projects to be “High Priority” with the eleventh project to be “Recommended.” The IWG decided to accept the WWSPT criteria as presented at the April 10, 2006 meeting. To reflect the local value of and need for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

(RM&E) at this time, the IWG decided to add an additional 10 points as a “RM&E Priority Bonus” to the scoring of the two BPA project proposals focusing on RM&E deemed to be critical to the Walla Walla Subbasin. The RM&E Priority Bonus resulted in a tie between two projects, so the IWG decided on the scoring as depicted in *Attachment C* which identifies the *Walla Walla Subbasin Weighted Scores for 2007-2009 BPA Proposals*.

- 4) **Schedule for submitting prioritized project list.** WWSPT meetings occurring during February, March and April (02/27/06; 03/10/06; 03/13/06; 03/21/06; 04/10/06) were held to prepare recommendations for the March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> IWG meetings. Outreach occurred to encourage participation in these meetings as part of the BPA prioritization process in the Walla Walla Subbasin. At regularly held meetings of the WWBWC and WWWPU, upcoming IWG and WWSPT meetings were announced as being open to the public. In addition to email notification to watershed participants, the Walla Walla Watershed Planning quarterly newsletter distributed on March 30, 2006 included the upcoming meetings on its calendar of events. And all meeting announcements and follow-up materials were posted on the Walla Walla County Watershed Planning website calendar located at <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org/calendar.html>.

With IWG approval on April 10, 2006, the BPA proposal prioritization is ready to be advanced. For the Oregon-side process, the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council will consider approval of the IWG recommendations. Oregon has a provincial roll-up step in the process which will begin at the April 20, 2006 meeting of the Oregon Project Review Team in Milton Freewater. NPCC staff will work with their science panel during the summer of 2006 to review BPA project proposals and there is a fix-it loop suggested to reconcile science panel feedback and local recommendations. The NPCC will also consider public comments throughout the fall of 2006, with final funding decisions to be made by the NPCC in October 2006.

**Attachment 1 a - Walla Walla Prioritization Worksheet for 2007-2009 BPA Proposals**

**Walla Walla Subbasin Prioritization Worksheet**

Columbia Plateau

Target Province budget	Total recommended budgets		
21,748,203	4,011,451	5,116,254	5,378,169

Rank	Subbasin	PropNo	Title	Sponsor request			Recommendation			Comments
				FY07	FY08	FY09	FY07	FY08	FY09	
<b>HIGH PRIORITY PROPOSALS</b>										
1	Walla Walla	200721700	Operation and Maintenance for Walla Walla Basin Passage Projects	182,725	182,725	182,725	182,725	182,725	182,725	Mandatory project to continue fish passage project operations; was previously a component of another project so the WWSPT considers this an ongoing project with a new project number. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
2	Walla Walla	199601100	Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements	270,000	950,000	1,105,000	270,000	950,000	1,105,000	Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden fish screens and gravel push up berm removal project; WWSPT identified this as a mandatory project including final design and project construction. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
3	Walla Walla	200003900	Walla Walla Subbasin Collaborative Salmonid Monitoring & Evaluation Project	1,417,375	1,377,482	1,421,356	1,417,375	1,377,482	1,421,356	Formerly two projects (WDFW and CTUIR) but now jointly sponsored by the co-managers. The IWG believes that RM&E is critical for understanding fish and their habitat so that the basin can intelligently guide future investments; the IWG voted to escalate this project ranking from # 5 to # 3 on the ranked list.
4	Walla Walla	200733000	Gardena Farms Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiency and Instream Flow Project	362,084	362,083	362,333	362,084	362,083	362,333	There may be a legal obligation by BPA to fund this project through the water transaction program; using the general fish and wildlife "general" fund in-lieu of the water transaction program needs evaluated. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
5	Walla Walla	200734000	A multidisciplinary collaborative approach to aquatic habitat monitoring & evaluation in the Walla Walla Subbasin	275,000	284,800	297,200	275,000	284,800	297,200	Project was formerly a part of the salmonid monitoring proposal and combines activities from WDFW projects, WW Basin Watershed Council and CTUIR. Those activities have been funded by BPA in previous years. The IWG believes that RM&E is critical for understanding fish and their habitat so that the basin can intelligently guide future investments; the IWG voted to escalate this project ranking from # 10 to # 5 on the ranked list.
6	Walla Walla	200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	304,926	304,926	304,926	304,926	304,926	304,926	This is a terrestrial project proposal but has clear benefits to steelhead and bull trout; addresses stream fords, which is an imminent threat. The IWG concurred with the recommendation.
7	Walla Walla	200203600	Restore Walla Walla River Flow	469,458	469,458	469,458	469,458	469,458	469,458	Due to civil penalty agreement and potential legal obligation by BPA to use the water transaction program, there is a potential in-lieu consideration to be addressed by BPA. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
8	Walla Walla	200728800	Touchet Eastside and Westside Irrigation District Piping	16,852	492,830	490,318	16,852	492,830	490,318	There may be a legal obligation by BPA to fund this project through the water transaction program; using the general fish and wildlife "general" fund in-lieu of the water transaction program needs evaluated. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
9	Walla Walla	199604601	Walla Walla River Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	321,373	337,443	354,315	321,373	337,443	354,315	Project proposal is to continue a long term habitat protection and restoration program that provides project development, implementation and operations and maintenance for habitat projects in the subbasin. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.
10	Walla Walla	200003300	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	122,983	129,132	135,588	122,983	129,132	135,588	Project is to provide technical guidance to irrigation districts for fish passage facilities operation. The IWG concurred with the recommendation of the WWSPT.

<b>RECOMMENDED PROPOSAL</b>										
	Walla Walla Subbasin		BPA Proposal Prioritization 2007-2009							For completion of NPCC required 3-step master planning process; critical tool to recovery planning. The IWG concurred with recommendation of WWSPT on relative priority of this project but determined that it should not be in the high priority category but
			NEOH Walla Walla Hatchery - Three Step							

**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria**

**Application to Recovery or BPA Mitigation (0-5)**

Pts	<b>Application to Recovery or BPA Mitigation (0-5)</b>
5	<p><u>Applies directly and substantially to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives includes;</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research project focused on natural production of listed species and essential for recovery or recovery planning</li> <li>2. Hatchery research focusing exclusively on identifying effects on natural production</li> <li>3. Habitat improvement project focusing exclusively on subbasin plan identified priority limiting factors and reaches/habitats for listed species or addressing wildlife habitat mitigation</li> <li>4. Hatchery project contributing directly to reduction of demographic risk to listed species or restoration of extinct populations</li> <li>5. Passage/flow project to provide significant remediation of subbasin planning objective. <i>Passage/flow project addresses high priority imminent threat identified in Subbasin Plan (based on issues such as location, partial/complete barrier, magnitude of impact, timing, etc.). Immediate mortality due to Subbasin Plan identified obstructions, screening or dewatering threats.</i></li> </ol>
4	<p><u>Applies mostly and meaningfully to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives includes;</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research project investigating natural production of listed species that applies substantially, but indirectly or partially to recovery or recovery planning</li> <li>2. Hatchery research mostly but not completely linked to identifying effects on natural production</li> <li>3. Habitat improvement project that focuses mostly but not completely on subbasin plan identified priority limiting factors and reaches/habitats for listed species or addressing wildlife habitat mitigation</li> <li>4. Hatchery project contributing significantly but indirectly to reduction of demographic risk to listed species or restoration of extinct populations</li> <li>5. Passage/flow project to provide moderate level of remediation of subbasin planning objective. <i>Provides significant measurable improvement to passage/flow</i></li> </ol>
3	<p><u>Applies indirectly or partially to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives;</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research project investigating natural production that applies somewhat, but indirectly or partially to recovery or recovery planning or directly and substantially to maintenance of species at risk</li> <li>2. Hatchery research partially or indirectly linked to identifying effects on natural production</li> <li>3. Habitat improvement project that focuses partially on subbasin plan identified priority limiting factors and reaches/habitats for listed species or addressing wildlife habitat mitigation or that focuses directly and significantly on maintenance of species at risk</li> <li>4. Hatchery project contributing modestly, but indirectly to reduction of demographic risk to listed species or restoration of extinct populations</li> <li>5. Passage/flow project to provide low overall level of remediation of subbasin planning objective. <i>Provides moderate measurable improvement to passage/flow</i></li> </ol>

**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria**

2	<p><u>Marginally applicable to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research project investigating natural production that applies marginally to recovery or recovery planning for listed species or somewhat to maintenance of species at risk</li> <li>2. Hatchery research weakly linked to identifying effects on natural production</li> <li>3. Habitat improvement project that generally address habitat for listed species identified in subbasin plans as lower priority, habitat for species at risk or contributes marginally to wildlife mitigation</li> <li>4. Hatchery project contributing in a minor way to reduction of demographic risk to listed species or restoration of extinct populations</li> <li>5. Passage/flow project to provide insignificant level of remediation of subbasin planning objective. <i>Addresses passage/flow for a relatively small area or time period</i></li> </ol>
1	<u>Little Application to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives</u>
0	<u>No Application to subbasin plan, or other current and relevant guiding plans, recovery or mitigation objectives</u>

**Multi-species/regional application (0-4)**

Pts	<b>Multi-species/regional application (0-4)</b>
4	<p>Outputs/benefits apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within and outside subbasin and to multiple listed species</li> </ol>
3	<p>Outputs/benefits apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within and outside subbasin to single listed species, or</li> <li>2. Locally to multiple listed species</li> </ol>
2	<p>Outputs/benefits apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within subbasin to single listed species, or</li> <li>2. Within and outside subbasin to multiple subbasin plan focal species at risk</li> </ol>
1	<p>Outputs/benefits apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within subbasin to multiple subbasin plan focal species and/or species at risk or</li> <li>2. Within and outside subbasin to a single subbasin plan focal and/or species at risk</li> </ol>
0	Outputs/benefits apply:

**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria**

	1. Within subbasin to a single subbasin plan focal and/or species at risk
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*Note: outside benefits to the subbasin may be to the ESU/ DPS or for critical habitats for migratory wildlife species*

## Expected Effectiveness

	Criteria	High 3	Med 2	Low 1	None 0
A	Clear, direct and quantifiable benefits to focal species in priority areas				
B	Proven techniques or essential research			Yes	No
C	<p>Fish and Wildlife imminent threat (without funding for project) considering species, location and relative magnitude of threat.</p> <p>Direct, high losses in high priority area, (3) significantly or completely eliminates death (take) of ESA-listed Focal Species in significant/priority area; bringing screens/diversions to full criteria</p> <p>Moderate levels of direct losses(2) completely eliminates death (take) of ESA-listed Focal Species in moderately significant area –or- partially eliminates death (take) of ESA-listed Focal Species in a significant/priority area</p> <p>Low level of direct losses or indirect losses (1) contributes to reducing death (take) of ESA-listed Focal Species</p>				
D	<p>Synergy with other projects – dependency, reliance to other projects</p> <p>Without the project another project fails (3)</p> <p>Without the project another project is measurably less effective (2)</p> <p>Moderate or low effects on another project (1)</p>				
E	Stranded previous investment from priority activities in priority areas; significant previous investments that would be lost				

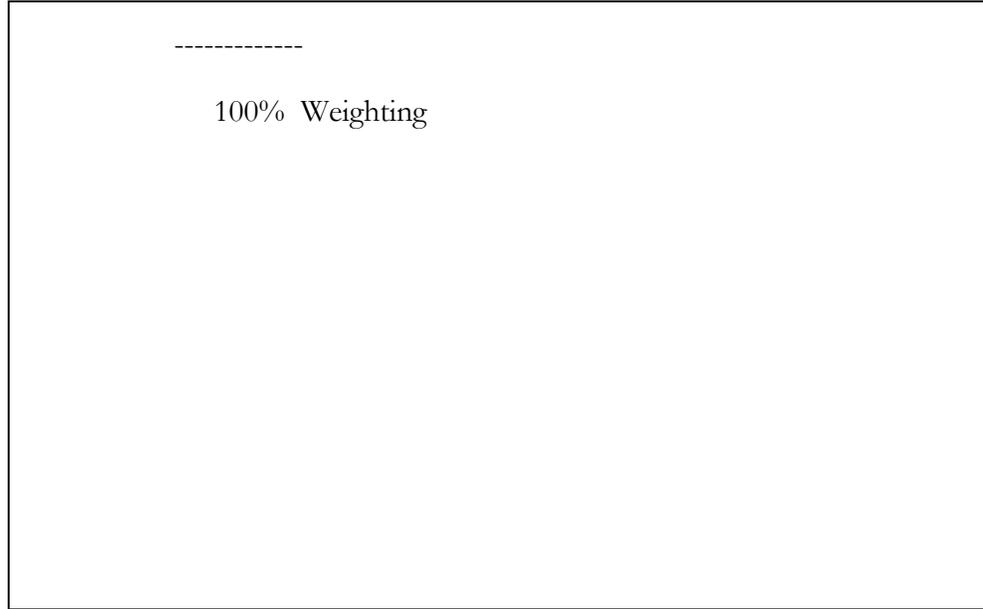
**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria**

	score by magnitude of investment; previous investments include BPA funded previous investments and collaborative non-BPA previous investments with expectations of this project being funded: >\$1 mill (3); 250K-1 mil (2); <250K (1)				
F	Project has existing obligations that would be legally violated or agreements that would be rendered ineffective without project funding (e.g. Conservation agreements with landowners, MOA for funding etc.)  Congressional Act, Federal Court Order - production (3)  Multi-year contracts/agreements, Federal Court Order planning (2)  Non-contractual agreements, MOU, (1)				
G	Implementation trajectory unobstructed - no substantial impediments to accomplishing activities			Yes	No
H	Lost opportunity (willing landowners, data capture window, no alternative funding, etc)				
I	Cost-share - leveraging of non-BPA funds (score by magnitude of cost-share - % of project)				

**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria**

<b>Weighting Criteria</b>		
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High (20 pts each)	60%	Imminent threats to fish production (20 pts) Application to recovery (20 points) Clear, direct benefits (20 points)
Medium (10 pts each)	30%	Multiple species (10 points) Legal obligations (10 points) Synergy (10 points)
Low (3 pts each)	9%	Stranded investment (3 points) Lost opportunities (3 pts each) Cost share (3 pts each)
Very Low (0.5 pts ea)	1%	Proven techniques (0.5 points) Unobstructed implementation (0.5 points)
10 points added as RM&E Bonus points to reflect IWG value of RM&E		

**Attachment 1b - *Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria***



Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria and Project Scores

Walla Walla Subbasin Weighted Scores for 2007-2009 BPA Proposals		Step 1: Necessary Criteria			Step 2: Level One Criteria											Step 3: Project Scoring				
		Protects, Mitigates, or Enhances fish and wildlife affected by development and operation of hydropower in Columbia Basin (Y or N)	Projects does not seek to address matters that another entity has a clear and direct legal obligation to remedy (Y or N)	Complements activities of federal, state, and Tribal managers and is consistent with objectives and strategies in Subbasin Plan (Y or N)	Application to Recovery or BPA Mitigation (Rate 0-5)	Multi-species/regional application (Rate 0-4)	Clear, direct and quantifiable benefits to focal species in priority areas (Rate 0-3)	Proven techniques or essential research (Rate 0-1)	Level of fish production loss if project is unfunded (imminent threat) (Rate 0-3)	Synergy with other projects – dependency, reliance to other projects (Rate 0-3)	Stranded previous investment from priority activities in priority areas; significant previous investments that would be lost (Rate 0-3)	Existing legal obligations that would be violated or agreements that would be rendered ineffective without project funding (Rate 0-3)	Implementation trajectory unobstructed - no substantial impediments to accomplishing activities (Rate 0-1)	Lost opportunity (willing landowners, data capture window, no alternative funding, etc) (Rate 0-3)	Cost-share - leveraging of non-BPA funds (Rate 0-3)	Total Weighted Score (100 possible)	10 point addition for RME projects	Total Project Score	Project Ranking	Project Category
Project #	Project Name	Weighting Factor			4x	2.5x	6.67x	0.5x	6.67x	3.33x	1x	3.33x	0.5x	1x	1x					
200721700	Operation and Maintenance for Walla Walla Basin Passage Projects	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	20.0	10.0	3.0	3.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	84.8	0	84.8	1	High Priority
199601100	Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	20.0	3.3	1.0	3.3	0.5	1.0	2.0	79.1	0	79.2	2	High Priority
200003900	Walla Walla Subbasin Collaborative Salmonid Monitoring & Evaluation Project	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	13.3	0.5	6.7	6.7	2.0	3.3	0.5	3.0	2.0	65.5	10	75.5	3	High Priority
200733000	Gardena Farms Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiency and Instream Flow Project	Y	Y <sup>a</sup>	Y	20.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	6.7	6.7	2.0	6.7	0.5	2.0	3.0	75.6	0	75.5	4	High Priority
200734000	A multidisciplinary collaborative approach to aquatic habitat monitoring & evaluation in the Walla Walla Subbasin	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	13.3	0.5	0.0	6.7	1.0	3.3	0.5	3.0	3.0	58.8	10	68.8	5	High Priority
200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	6.7	3.3	2.0	3.3	0.5	3.0	1.0	67.8	0	67.9	6	High Priority
200203600	Restore Walla Walla River Flow	Y	Y <sup>a</sup>	Y	12.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	6.7	6.7	2.0	6.7	0.5	2.0	3.0	67.6	0	67.5	7	High Priority
200728800	Touchet Eastside and Westside Irrigation District Piping	Y	Y <sup>a</sup>	Y	16.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	6.7	6.7	2.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	3.0	63.9	0	63.8	8	High Priority
199604601	Walla Walla River Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	Y	Y	Y	20.0	7.5	20.0	0.5	0.0	3.3	2.0	6.7	0.5	1.0	1.0	62.5	0	62.5	9	High Priority
200003300	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	Y	Y	Y	16.0	7.5	13.3	0.5	13.3	6.7	1.0	3.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	62.1	0	62.2	10	High Priority
200003800	NEOH Walla Walla Hatchery - Three Step Master Planning Process	Y	Y	Y	12.0	2.5	13.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	6.7	0.5	3.0	0.0	40.5	0	40.5	11	Recommend

**Attachment 1b - Walla Walla Subbasin Criteria and Project Scores**

Project #	Project Title	Project Comments from the Subbasin Planning Team (WWSPT) - April 10	Project Comments from the Implementation Work Group - April 10
200721700	Operation and Maintenance for Walla Walla Basin Passage Projects	Mandatory project to continue fish passage project operations; project used to be a component of another project so the WWSPT considers this an on- going project but with a new project number;	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
199601100	Walla Walla Juvenile and Adult Passage Improvements	Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden fish screens and gravel push up berm removal project; WWSPT believes this is a mandatory project; project also proposals final design and project construction	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200003900	Walla Walla Subbasin Collaborative Salmonid Monitoring & Evaluation Project	Formerly 2 projects (WDFW and CTUIR) but now jointly sponsored by the co-managers	<b>Believe that RME is critical for understanding fish and their habitat so that the basin can intelligently guide future investments - so voted to move it from #5 to # 3 on the ranked list</b>
200733000	Gardena Farms Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiency and Instream Flow Project	<sup>a</sup> There may be a legal obligation by BPA to fund this project through the water transaction program; using the general fish and willdife "general" fund in-lieu of the water transaction program needs evaluated.	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200734000	A multidisciplinary collaborative approach to aquatic habitat monitoring & evaluation in the Walla Walla Subbasin	Project was formerly a part of the salmonid monitoring proposal and combines activities from WDFW projects, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council and CTUIR. Those activities have been funded by BPA in previous years.	<b>Believe that RME is critical for understanding fish and their habitat so that the basin can intelligently guide future investments - so voted to move it from # 10 to # 5 on the ranked list</b>
200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	This is a terrestrial project proposal but has clear benefits to steelhead and bull trout; addresses stream fords, which is an imminent threat	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200203600	Restore Walla Walla River Flow	<sup>a</sup> Due to civil penalty agreement and potential legal obligation by BPA to use the water transaction program, there is a potential in-lieu consideration to be addressed by BPA	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200728800	Touchet Eastside and Westside Irrigation District Piping	<sup>a</sup> There may be a legal obligation by BPA to fund this project through the water transaction program; using the general fish and willdife "general" fund in-lieu of the water transaction program needs evaluated.	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
199604601	Walla Walla River Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement	Project proposal is to continue a long term habitat protection and restoration program that provides project development, implemenation and operations and maintenance for habitat projects in the subbasin.	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200003300	Walla Walla River Fish Passage Operations	Project is to provide technical guidance to irrigation districts for fish passage facilities operation.	<b>Concurred with recommendation of WWSPT</b>
200003800	NEOH Walla Walla Hatchery - Three Step Master Planning Process	For completion of NPCC required 3-step master planning process; critical tool to recovery planning	<b>Concurred with conclusion of WWSPT on relative priority of this project but determined that it should not be in the high priority category but rather be in the recommended category</b>

## **TUCANNON / ASOTIN / LOWER SNAKE SUBBASINS**

### **SUBBASIN PLANNING TEAM PROPOSAL PRIORITIZATION**

#### **BPA PROVENCIAL REVIEW 2007-2009**

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#### **Background**

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) will be making fish and wildlife project funding recommendations for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2009 and they have sought local input and advice on what BPA project proposals are of the highest priority to begin implementing each subbasin plan over this three year period. The NPCC has asked the subbasin citizen and technical groups to review the fish and wildlife proposals that have been submitted against the adopted subbasin plans and provide the NPCC a proposed three-year suite of projects that represent the highest priorities.

#### **Local Prioritization Process**

The general NPCC guidance for prioritizing BPA proposals recommends that local groups operating at the subbasin scale should review the proposals against the subbasin plan adopted by the NPCC. Using the information included in the proposal with close consideration of the adopted subbasin plan, the local groups were asked to prioritize the proposals and submit to the NPCC the prioritization worksheet recording the priority recommendations. The guidance also notes that the local group's advice to the NPCC would be greatly enhanced by also including a concise statement that explains how it conducted the prioritization and why the list provided does in fact represent the highest priority projects.

There are no additional or supplemental criteria that the Council is requiring local groups to consider. However, local groups can choose to develop additional standards for guidelines to help them prioritize competing proposals and to take into account factors they deem important in developing prioritized project recommendations list.

In an effort to maintain consistency across subbasins in Southeast Washington, Snake River Salmon Recovery Region, the three subbasins utilized criteria received by the bi-state Walla Walla Subbasin NPCC Oregon Office to provide assistance in creating a list of locally prioritized projects. Local groups are asked first to rank projects into three categories:

1. High Priority to implement the subbasin plan
2. Recommend to implement the subbasin plan, and
3. Not recommended.

Projects in the High Priority and Recommended categories are then to be prioritized in ranked order. Local groups are to submit to the NPCC the completed prioritization worksheet recording the priority project recommendations.

### **Subbasin Prioritization Process**

The subbasin planning teams (SPT's) for each subbasin are the original core groups that did the 'heavy lifting' for the technical development of the subbasin plans completed in 2004. There are 4 elements that the SPT's focused on during their meetings: 1) NPCC guidance/requirements; 2) Criteria for prioritization; 3) Application of criteria to BPA proposals and; 4) Schedule for submitting projects priorities. Outreach occurred to encourage participation. Project proposal review meetings were announced at regularly held meetings of the WRIA 35 Watershed PU and Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and announced as open public meetings.

### **NPCC guidance/requirements**

The SPT's utilized numerous process and guidance question responses from both Washington and Oregon NPCC staff, Karl Weist and Stacey Horton that had been posed by the Walla Walla Subbasin Planning Team. Washington NPCC staff member Stacy Horton attended the March 7<sup>th</sup> Snake River Salmon Recovery Board meeting to answer questions as well. Some of the guidance received from NPCC staff included guidance on issues and requirements such as:

- Definition of capitol projects;
- Coordinating our local prioritization schedule with the OR and WA;
- NPCC schedules and the Independent Scientific Review Process (ISRP);
- Expected funding allocation for anadromous fish, resident fish and terrestrial wildlife;

- Allocation across provinces in OR and WA;
- Prioritizing anadromous fish research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E);
- Prioritizing projects ‘as proposed’ verses recommending funding reductions and;
- Involvement of USFWS and NOAA staff in the prioritization process.

The SPT’s considered the NPCC guidance and requirements in developing the criteria and prioritization. Some of the process and technical questions posed to NPCC staff were not easily answered however; so in some cases it’s expected that additional information could come from NPCC in the future as this process progresses toward a final decision on funding recommendations by the regional Salmon Recovery Board on June 16 of this year, and as the Council, ISRP and BPA interact after June 16, but before final decisions are reached.

### **Criteria for prioritization**

Along with NPCC staff and WWSPT process guidance, SPT’s received and utilized criteria and rating sheet guidance. The approach to utilize criteria and guidance developed by the WWSPT process was purposeful in an effort to maintain consistency across the subbasins within the Snake River Recovery Region. Attachment X to this memo describes the criteria used to rank BPA project proposals.

### **Tucannon Subbasin Prioitization**

The SPT for the Tucannon includes technical and policy representatives from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), US Forest Service, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB), Conservation Districts and local citizen representation. Meetings were open to the public and were convened to focus on prioritization of BPA proposals on the following dates; March 30 and May 4.

Initially there were 5 BPA project proposals submitted for funding for 2007-2009 in the Tucannon Subbasin. One project proposal (200714600) was moved to the Mainstem/Systemwide as the scope of work impacted multiple subbasins. In addition, the SPT recommended to Council staff that project proposal 199401807 be moved from the Tucannon list to the Lower Snake Subbasin because most of the work proposed was to be conducted in that area. This recommendation was endorsed by Council staff so the Tucannon SPT did not score and rank this project with the other proposals.

The final project proposal review was conducted on May 4, 2006 producing a ranking and a recommendation of “High Priority” for 3 project proposals. The SPT reviewed the technical merit and relationship to priority actions as identified in the subbasin plan of each proposal and considered the NPCC guidance in preparing a ranked High Priority recommendation to present to the WRIA 35 Watershed Planning Unit (Attachment C, Endorsement letter) and the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (Attachment D, Endorsement letter). Attachment X includes the prioritization worksheet and comments for the proposals developed by the SPT.

### **Lower Snake Subbasin Prioitization**

The SPT for the Lower Snake includes technical and policy representatives from WDFW, NPT, SRSRB, Conservation Districts and local citizen representation. Meetings were open to the public and were convened to focus on prioritization of BPA proposals on the following dates; April 13 and May 11.

Initially there was 1 BPA project proposals submitted in the Lower Snake Subbasin. The project sponsor of project 199401807 and the SPT requested this project be moved from the Tucannon Subbasin to the Lower Snake Subbasin, as the majority of the scope of work impacts tributaries within that subbasin, and on May 10, 2006 the Lower Snake SPT was informed that this was approved.

The two sponsors, the Pomeroy Conservation District and the Nez Perce Tribe reviewed the technical merit of each proposal and considered the NPCC guidance in preparing a ranked recommendation to present to the WRIA 35 Watershed Planning Unit and the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board for submittal to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

The final project proposal review was conducted on May 4, 2006 producing a scored ranking and a recommendation of “High Priority” for the 2 project proposals. The consensus between the two sponsors was that the Pomeroy CD proposal should be ranked #1 due to its on-going status and the Nez Perce Tribe’s proposal would be ranked #2 (see attachment X). The time restriction of the project proposal 199401807 being moved into the Lower Snake Subbasin required this action being taken without a full meeting of the LSSPT group.

### **Asotin Subbasin Prioitization**

The SPT for the Asotin includes technical and policy representatives from WDFW, US Forest Service, NPT, SRSRB, Conservation Districts and local citizen representation. Meetings were open to the public and were convened to focus on prioritization of BPA proposals on the following dates; March 31 and April 21.

There were 5 BPA project proposals submitted for funding in the Asotin Subbasin. The Asotin SPT reviewed the technical merit of each proposal and considered the NPPC guidance in preparing a ranked recommendation to present to the WRIA 35 Watershed Planning Unit and the SRSRB for submission to the NPPC. The final project proposal review was conducted on April 21, 2006 producing a scored ranking and a recommendation of “High Priority” for all project proposals. Attachment X includes the prioritization worksheet and comments for the proposals developed by the SPT.

### **Conclusion**

The subbasin planning teams appreciate the ability to evaluate and prioritize projects within the respective Tucannon, Asotin, and Lower Snake Subbasins. The SBT’s did not do any budget exercise because an allocation was never provided, but when this exercise comes about, the SPT’s request that we are highly engaged in this process. In addition, the SPT’s are ready and available if any further information or assistance is needed by the NPPC.

**Asotin Subbasin 2007-2009 Prioritized Project List and Subbasin Team Comments**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Ranked Order</b>	<b>SBPT Project Category</b>	<b>ISRP Preliminary Recom.</b>	<b>Subbasin Team Comments</b>
199401805	Continued Implementation of Prioritized Asotin Creek Watershed Habitat Projects	1	High Priority	Response Requested	Long history of implementation and proven results in a priority area (MSA).
200205300	Assess Salmonids Asotin Cr Ws	2	High Priority	Fundable	Monitors salmonid populations and provide abundance, productivity and distribution information.
200600500	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area O&M (Schlee Acquisitions)	3	High Priority	Fundable	Is management plan complete and if not, is project eligible? Sponsor was asked to rent instead of purchase equipment. Appreciate modest budget. Does this project address habitat losses attributed to Grande Coule and if not, is it eligible/consideration for BPA?
200205000	Continued Riparian Buffer Projects on Couse/Tenmile and other Salmonid Bearing Streams in Asotin County	4	High Priority	Response Requested	Long history of implementation and proven results but in a lower priority area (mSA).
200205400	Protect & Restore the Asotin Creek Watershed	4 (see footnote #1)	High Priority	Response Requested	Assessments have been going on for years by FS and WDFW; what new information will be gained? Would like to see projects to address the problems we know instead of assessing the remaining 20%. Want to make sure that the decommissioned roads will remain useable for foot /horse use. Group likes idea of identifying barriers and roads to address but funding this project would likely result in no other projects being funded in the basin. Sponsor was asked to restructure budget to implement road decommissioning and barrier removal instead of the heavy emphasis on assessing what is largely

ATTACHMENT 3 - ASOTIN, TUCANNON AND LOWER SNAKE SUBBASINS PROJECT RANKING AND SBPT COMMENTS

					already known. See footnote #2, sponsor comment.
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<sup>1</sup> Project sponsor (NPT) does not agree with the ranked order of the final three projects and believes project #200205400 should be ranked 3rd above project #200600500 and #200205000 for the following reasons: road decommissioning in project #200205400 will occur in MSA sub-watersheds and are critical to maintaining and improving habitat in MSA priority areas; the barrier project within this project is listed as an imminent threat in the subbasin plan.

<sup>2</sup> Responses to the comments above were provided at the SPT meeting by the NPT but are not reflected and provided here. After the proposal submittal January 10th, 2006, the Forest Service and WDFW conducted additional road inventory and planning due the the School Fire of 2005. Upon funding of this project, the sponsor has agreed to use all new information to the greatest degree possible in an attempt to shift more of the project funds into implementation; please note that without proper technical/scientific survey, assessment and planning, on-the-ground activities may not result in anticipated expectations, resulting in loss of limited funding, resource investment dollars. A formal barrier survey, inventory, assessment and prioritization has not been completed in the Asotin Creek subbasin and is identified as a data gap in the subbasin assessment. The Forest Service and WDFW have on-the-ground knowledge and some surveys and this information will also be used to the greatest degree in implementing the project. This project will clearly identify and prioritize barriers to address first, based on the greatest benefit to listed species. Project costs includes engaging participating agencies (ACCD, WDFW, USFS) and the public.

**Tucannon Subbasin 2007-2009 prioritized project list and subbasin team comments**

Project #	Project Name	Rank	SBPT Project Category	Subbasin Team Comments
200001900	Tucannon River Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	1	High Priority	Project is a high priority for funding and it is the last phase as project will sunset after this cycle. Not funding this project would result in a significant stranded investment but the exact level of fish loss by not funding this project is not known.
199401806	Tucannon Stream and Riparian Protection, Enhancement and Restoration	2	High Priority	Project is focused on extending CREP contracts. Would like to see development of permanent conservation easements. Most at-risk habitat is along or near streams and to permanently protect these by easements is a high priority. Biological benefit of in stream structures is clear but the design/type of the project really determines how beneficial the structures are. Project specific development will provide specific design type. Projects designed with maximum biological benefit are preferred while recognizing that individual projects may include elements to protect stream banks, improve in stream habitat complexity and stabilize riparian habitats.
200712500	Tucannon River Watershed - Nez Perce Tribe	3	High Priority	The proposal budget contains funds for project administration; road data collection, sediment production per road analysis, transportation planning, and NEPA; road decommissioning implementation; and M&E (under 5%). After the proposal submittal January 10 <sup>th</sup> , the Forest Service and the WDFW conducted additional road inventory and planning due to the School Fire of 2005. Small fraction of proposal is for road decommissioning while most of the proposal is for administrative; team prefers on the ground implementation. Upon funding of this project, the sponsor has agreed to use the new information to the greatest degree possible in an attempt to shift more of the project funds into implementation. Efforts to reduce sediment from agricultural practices in mid to lower reaches is occurring while this project addresses the road-derived sediment in the upper watershed.

**Lower Snake Subbasin 2007-2009 prioritized project list and Subbasin team comments**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>SBPT Project Category</b>	<b>Subbasin Team Comments</b>
199401807	Chinook and Steelhead in the Lower Snake and Tucannon Subasins	1	High Priority	These two projects were not scored with respect to the Lower Snake Subbasin Plan. The PCD proposal (199401807) was scored in the Tucannon Subbasin list but because most of the work elements are in the Lower Snake it was moved to the Lower Snake list. Council staff agreed with this recommendation but due to a compressed time frame the Team did not re-convene and score the two proposals. The two project sponsors discussed ranking these two projects and reached consensus that the PCD proposal should rank higher than the NPT proposal and that both are consistent with the Subbasin Plan and are a high priority for funding.
200712600	Protect and Restore Lower Snake Tributary and Pataha Stream Watersheds	2	High Priority	

**Middle Snake River**  
**Watershed Planning Unit**

To: Jay Holzmilller and Eric Myers, Co-Chairmen, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

From: WRIA #35 Planning Unit

Date: June 13, 2006

Re: Tucannon, Lower Snake Mainstem and Asotin Creek Subbasins

FY 07 – 09 Funding Recommendations to the NWPC

Co-Chairmen:

We understand that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) has requested that the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB) coordinate local subbasin project proposal reviews and develop recommendations for the Council's 07-09 funding consideration. We appreciate that the SRSRB in turn looked to the subbasin teams to develop project rankings, comments and recommendations. We support this decision by the SRSRB and value their request that the local subbasin teams develop final recommendations for their review when it finalizes and submits the subbasin recommendations to the Council on June 16. The Planning Unit has reviewed the ranked lists for 07-09 funding consideration within WRIA 35 and is confident that those projects will advance implementation of the Watershed Plan, Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan and the Tucannon, Asotin, and Lower Snake Subbasin Plans. This letter conveys the Planning Unit's support for those projects.

Attachment 4 – WRIA 35 (Asotin, Tucannon and Lower Snake subbasins) Planning Unit Letter of Support

As background information, in 2002 the Middle Snake Watershed Planning Unit was formalized with the following “initiating governments” Asotin, Garfield, Columbia and Whitman Counties, the City of Clarkston, and the Asotin PUD. The Asotin PUD was identified as Lead Agency by the County Commissioners and City of Clarkston. The Planning Unit is addressing instream flow, habitat, and water quantity and quality under the Watershed Planning Act (HB 2514) and has completed the DRAFT *Middle Snake Watershed Plan*. Information used to develop this watershed plan came from Model Watershed Plans, Limiting Factors Report, Subbasin Plans, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, October 2005 version and Tribal Recovery Plans. Implementation of the Watershed Plan will occur with public input and support, and with funding from many sources, including BPA.

The Planning Unit understands from recent conversations that the Council values projects that utilize a high percentage of cost-share, result in on-the-ground activities, are aligned with the priorities in the subbasin plans and are supported by the public and technical representatives. The Planning Unit believes that the subbasin team’s recommendations reflect those ideals.

When it makes its provincial allocations to the subbasins, we hope that the Council will recognize that there are important investments that need to be maintained because on-going projects have resulted in trust and credibility, have been validated by monitoring efforts and are supported in all the identified planning processes.

We appreciate the opportunity to show our support for local solutions to habitat restoration and protection projects throughout WRIA #35. Again projects that result in on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration, have considerable cost-share and are on-going are supported and recommended for funding during this process. This recommendation is largely consistent with the priorities that were developed by the three subbasin planning teams located within WRIA 35 (Tucannon, Lower Snake and Asotin).

Sincerely,

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Don Howard, Tucannon Landowner/Co-Chair

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Don Nuxoll, Asotin PUD/Co-Chair