

# OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

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## **Upper Snake Province**

The project sponsors, NWPCP state staff and OSC meet in Jerome, Idaho on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included: Steve Yundt (IDF&G), Chad Colter (Sho-Ban Tribe), Hunter Osbourne (Sho-Ban Tribe), Scott Levy (Redfish/Bluefish), Mitch Felchle (Friends of the Teton River), Joann Hunt (NWPCP) and Jeff Allen (OSC).

Given the limited budget and relatively few projects submitted, the group was able to arrive at a consensus in two hours time. Project #200737500 was dismissed because it was erroneously placed in the wrong province. Land acquisition elements of project #199505702 were moved to capital for funding. What remains in project #199505702 from an expense standpoint are the funds necessary to continue ongoing O & M efforts and pursue additional land acquisitions. Some project budgets were altered and those changes and justifications can be found in the comment portion of the accompanying spreadsheet.

## **Middle Snake Province**

The project sponsors, NWPCP state and central staff, and OSC meet in Boise, Idaho on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included: Tim Dykstra (Shoshone Paiute Tribe), Lawrence Schwabe (Burns Paiute Tribe), Steve Yundt (IDF&G), Gregg Servheen (IDF&G), Jerry Nicolescue (Idaho Soil Conservation Commission), Joann Hunt (NWPCP), Mark Fritsch (NWPCP), Nate Fisher (OSC) and Jeff Allen (OSC).

As was the case in the Upper Snake Province, a small budget with few ongoing projects and a very limited number of new projects proposed eased the task. Three "budget busting" projects with land acquisition elements were first discussed. It was agreed that the land acquisition elements would be separated out of those projects and be considered capital. Projects #200706900 and #200302900 were dropped by their sponsors after internal reviews deemed said projects ranked as their lowest priorities. At this point each entity ranked their remaining projects and indicated where pencil sharpening would trim costs. The attached spreadsheet reflects the consensus budget arrived at by the group including explanations for any variations from the original project submittals.

## **Mountain Snake Province**

Whereas the Upper and Middle Snake Provinces budget packages were arrived at in relatively short order, the Mountain Snake Province proved more challenging. Multiple meetings were held.

Lessons learned from the FY 02-04 exercise illustrated the need for a new approach. Rather than convene a large meeting in which each of the 60+ project sponsors stridently argued the importance of their proposal or engage in the lengthy process of reviewing each project and measuring it against set criteria, it was determined that our first step would be to ask each of the three entities (Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and the State along with federal and private interests) to meet privately and prioritize those projects which they had submitted. After each entity had done so another meeting was convened with the intent of taking the three groups prioritized lists and merging them into one cohesive package. This goal proved unattainable at that meeting. Ultimately a solution emerged that allowed each entity to determine the fate of those projects they had deemed most crucial. . A review of the last five years of Council funding recommendations for the Mountain Snake indicated the Nez Perce Tribe had received 53% of funding in the province, the state and federal projects 42%, with the remaining 5% being allocated to projects sponsored by the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. The Council determined provincial budget of \$16,761,459 was then divided accordingly and each entity referred to their prioritized lists to determine which projects would be included in the attached spreadsheet, with the exception of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. The Shoshone Bannock Tribe agreed with the other entities to using the historical allocation. However when they submitted their projects to OSC they eschewed the 5% allocation. Under aforementioned the agreement the Shoshone Bannock Tribe (SBT) was allocated \$838,073 for each year. The Council will need to determine which combination of whole and partial SBT projects they deem the most effective use of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe's annual \$838,073 portion. For the state, federal and Nez Perce Tribe sponsored projects, any variation from original project proposals is explained.

A technical team ranked those projects which failed to make the budget package. The intent being that should the Council or the BPA elect to not fund a project or projects included in the aforementioned budget package the prioritized projects would be given serious funding consideration. The sponsors of Tier II projects, as they came to be called, also wish to have the opportunity to respond to ISRP comments.

## **Post Script**

Project sponsors in each province requested that the Council examine how the provincial budgets they set are adhered to once these packages are submitted to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Past cycles have shown the BPA does not fund all projects approved by the Council. The result being millions of dollars are later spent during the remaining three year cycle with no regard for how said funding comports with those original Council-set budgets.