



Independent Scientific Review Panel
for the Northwest Power Planning Council
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Review
of
Fiscal Year 2001
Action Plan Proposals
for the
Columbia River Basin
Fish and Wildlife Program

ISRP 2001-7
June 21, 2001

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ISRP Review of Fiscal Year 2001 Action Plan Proposals

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Index of Proposals Sorted by ISRP Recommendation then Project ID

ISRP 2001-7: Action Plan Review

| Project ID | Title | Sponsor | Province | Subbasin | Request | ISRP Rank | Page |
|------------|--|---|------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------|
| 26006 | Trout Creek 2001 Streamflow Enhancement | Oregon Water Trust | Columbia Plateau | Deschutes | \$133,500 | A | 4 |
| 26007 | John Day Basin Streamflow Enhancement Project, Summer 2001 | Oregon Water Trust | Columbia Plateau | John Day | \$73,340 | A | 4 |
| 26028 | Supplement Flows in Buck Hollow Creek | Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District | Columbia Plateau | Deschutes | \$22,826 | A | 5 |
| 26011 | Improve Stream Flow and Passage for Simcoe Creek Steelhead | Yakama Nation | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$767,143 | A | 5 |
| 23019 | Trout Creek Culvert Replacement | USFS | Columbia Plateau | Deschutes | \$128,000 | B high | 6 |
| 23020 | Badger Creek Culvert Replacement and Road Closure Projects | USFS | Columbia Plateau | Deschutes | \$87,000 | B high | 6 |
| 23024 | Hancock Springs Passage and Habitat Restoration Improvements | YN | Columbia Cascade | Methow | \$49,941 | B high | 7 |
| 26001 | Restore Passage Lower Lemhi / Salmon Rivers | State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation | Mountain Snake | Salmon | \$380,000 | B high | 7 |
| 26014 | Design, Fabricate, And Install New Huntsville Mill Fish Screen | WDFW | Columbia Plateau | Walla Walla | \$255,292 | B high | 8 |
| 26030 | Touchet River Flow Acquisition | Washington Water Trust | Columbia Plateau | Walla Walla | \$115,524 | B high | 8 |
| 26036 | Chumstick Creek (North Road) Culvert Replacement | Chelan County Public Works Department | Columbia Cascade | Wenatchee | \$1,131,150 | B high | 9 |
| 26002 | Acquire Lostine River water rights | Nez Perce Tribe | Blue Mountain | Grande Ronde | \$150,000 | B medium | 9 |
| 26015 | Methow Basin Screening | WDFW | Columbia Cascade | Methow | \$250,000 | B low | 10 |

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| 26027 | Lake Roosevelt/Colville Tribes Emergency Fish Restoration | Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation | Inter Mountain | Lake Roosevelt | \$262,240 | B low | 11 |
| 23013 | Locate, Mark, and Removal of Lost "Ghost" Fishing Nets in Selected Columbia River Reservoirs: A Feasibility Study | CRITFC | Columbia Gorge | Columbia Gorge | \$86,109 | B other | 11 |
| 26031 | Improve Upstream Fish Passage in the Birch Creek Watershed | ODFW | Columbia Plateau | Umatilla | \$300,410 | Defer to Columbia Plateau Review | 12 |
| 23028 | Increase Naches River In-stream Flows By Purchasing Wapatox Water Right | YN | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$4,000,000 | Defer to Columbia Plateau Review | 13 |
| 23044 | Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screening Project. | COY | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$1,657,500 | Defer to Columbia Plateau Review | 14 |
| 26005 | Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (Objective 1: Early Actions) | Kittitas County Water Purveyors | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$1,588,000 | Defer to Columbia Plateau Review | 14 |
| 26038 | Acquire Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Union Gap Reach and Wenas Basin, Yakima River Basin, Washington | Reclamation | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$3,000,000 | Land Acquisition with water rights - Fundable | 15 |
| 26033 | Okanogan Watershed Land and Water Rights Acquisition | Colville Confederated Tribes | Columbia Cascade | Okanogan | \$3,437,000 | Land Acquisition with water rights - Fundable? | 16 |
| 26025 | LP Ranch Acquisition | Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District | Columbia Plateau | Umatilla | \$1,468,042 | Land Acquisition with water rights - Fundable? | 16 |
| 23012 | Arrowleaf/Methow River Conservation Project | TPL and WDFW | Columbia Cascade | Methow | \$1,250,000 | Land Acquisition with water rights - Fundable? | 17 |
| 23026 | Klickitat Basin Key Habitat Acquisition | YN | Columbia Gorge | Klickitat | \$3,000,000 | Land Acquisition - Not Fundable? | 17 |

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| 23027 | Methow Basin Floodplain and Riparian Land Acquisitions | YN | Columbia Cascade | Methow | \$2,332,150 | Land Acquisition - Not Fundable? | 18 |
| 23084 | Acquisition of Lower Desolation Creek, John Day Basin | CTUIR | Columbia Plateau | John Day | \$4,987,754 | Land Acquisition - Not Fundable? | 18 |
| 26020 | Holliday Ranch Easement | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | Columbia Plateau | John Day | \$5,026,800 | Land Acquisition - Fundable? | 19 |
| 26034 | Kittitas Valley Reach Acquisitions | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$2,000,000 | Land Acquisition with water rights - Do Not Fund | 20 |
| 26004 | Ahtanum, Toppenish, Simcoe Flow Monitoring and Water Conservation | Bureau of Indian Affairs | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$335,000 | Do Not Fund | 20 |
| 23018 | Crawford Vegetative Management Road Decommission | USDA FS | Columbia Plateau | John Day | \$98,000 | Do Not Fund | 21 |
| 23035 | Buckskin Slough Restoration | WDFW | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$13,200 | Do Not Fund | 21 |
| 26003 | Fox Creek Daylighting, Rainier, Oregon | City of Rainer | Lower Columbia | Lower Columbia | \$412,000 | Do Not Fund | 21 |
| 26008 | Omak Creek Relocation Implementation | Colville Confederate Tribes | Columbia Cascade | Okanogan | \$336,722 | Do Not Fund | 22 |
| 26009 | Omak Creek spring chinook/summer steelhead acclimation facility | Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation | Columbia Cascade | Okanogan | \$70,950 | Do Not Fund | 22 |
| 26010 | Okanogan River spring /summer chinook acclimation facility | Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation | Columbia Cascade | Okanogan | \$70,950 | Do Not Fund | 22 |
| 26012 | Evaluate Fish Passage Screening Systems During Low-flow | Pacific Northwest National Lab | Systemwide | | \$97,796 | Do Not Fund | 23 |

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| 26013 | Adult Spring/Summer Chinook and Steelhead Transport -- Snake River Basin -- Nez Perce Tribe | Nez Perce Tribe | Mountain Snake | Clearwater | \$195,267 | Do Not Fund | 23 |
| 26016 | Entiat Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations | Chelan Conservation District | Columbia Cascade | Entiat | \$173,000 | Do Not Fund | 24 |
| 26017 | Okanogan Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations | Washington Department of Ecology | Columbia Cascade | Okanogan | \$172,000 | Do Not Fund | 24 |
| 26018 | FISH PASSAGE ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION PROGRAM | Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation | Lower Columbia | Willamette | \$93,500 | Do Not Fund | 25 |
| 26019 | South Fork Clearwater, Selway, and Salmon River Basins Monitoring and Evaluation of Spring / Summer Chinook Salmon Outplant Program | S.P. Cramer & Associates | Mountain Snake | Clearwater | \$75,200 | Do Not Fund | 25 |
| 26021 | Purchase Tribal Wind Power | Sovereign Power, Inc | Systemwide | Out Of Basin - Missouri | \$34,080 | Do Not Fund | 26 |
| 26022 | Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Westside Pump Fish Screens | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | Lower Columbia | Willamette | \$15,000 | Do Not Fund | 26 |
| 26023 | Restore long-term bull trout migration corridor in Pipe Creek at the Kootenai River | Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks | Mountain Columbia | Kootenai | \$210,000 | Do Not Fund | 27 |
| 26024 | Clackamas County 2001 Fish Passage Improvements in the Clackamas, Abernethy and Molalla River Watersheds. | Clackamas County Department of Transportation | Lower Columbia | Willamette | \$1,438,864 | Do Not Fund | 27 |
| 26026 | Transfer Lemhi Water Users (L-6 to Salmon River (S-14) | State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation | Mountain Snake | Salmon | \$2,860,000 | Do Not Fund | 27 |

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| 26029 | Wenatchee Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations | Chelan County Watershed Program | Columbia Cascade | Wenatchee | \$163,000 | Do Not Fund | 28 |
| 26032 | Adult Fish Transportation Vehicle Acquisition | Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game | Mountain Snake | Salmon | \$150,000 | Do Not Fund | 29 |
| 26035 | Taneum Creek Water Rights & Restoration | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife | Columbia Plateau | Yakima | \$530,000 | Do Not Fund | 29 |
| 26037 | On-Farm Water Conservation opportunities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho | IRZ Consulting, LLC | Columbia Plateau | Umatilla | \$2,500,000 | Do Not Fund | 29 |

ISRP Review of Fiscal Year 2001 Action Plan Proposals

I. Review Process

Introduction

On May 10, 2001, the Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) opened a “2001 Action Plan” solicitation to the region to identify immediate actions that will address impacts to ESA listed anadromous species and to unlisted fish directly affected by the declaration of a power emergency. In addition, BPA provided that the unfunded proposals in the ISRP’s High Priority Review “B List”, at the project sponsors request, be considered for possible funding under this solicitation. On May 24, Bonneville received 38 new proposals, and 12 “B List” proposals were resubmitted. Expedited review was requested in order to provide funding rapidly to worthy projects that could offset effects of the power emergency.

From June 11 to 21, the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), with the assistance of two Peer Review Group members, reviewed and ranked the set of proposals. The review process differed from the standard ISRP Provincial Review Process in several ways. Subbasin summaries were not provided, the ISRP did not conduct a site visit, project sponsors did not make oral presentations, and a response loop was not included. Consequently, the proposal review was not as interactive or rigorous as the provincial reviews. Moreover, the review did not benefit from the contextual information provided by a provincial review, making the fit of the proposals within a subbasin strategy less apparent. However, several of the proposals for this solicitation were also submitted in the currently ongoing Columbia Plateau Province review process or previously reviewed provinces and review of those proposals benefited from those site visits and project presentations.

In general, the quality of the proposals reviewed in the Action Plan solicitation fell below those in the 2001 provincial reviews. Many proposals were overly brief, lacked maps or descriptions identifying the location and context of the proposed work, failed to make linkages between planning documents (watershed analyses, subbasin summaries, etc.), and lacked specific descriptions of the target stocks and their current status. In addition, in this solicitation as well as the recent provincial reviews, there is a growing trend among proposals to provide good rationale sections, but to fail to provide adequate details on tasks and methods, which are the crux of a technical review.

These omissions, which frequently could have been addressed in a few sentences or a brief table, resulted in lower levels of support for those projects. Moreover, inclusion of such information would have provided a better basis to compare the expected benefits of the proposals.

The short timeframe associated with the Action Plan solicitation may have contributed to the lack of overall proposal quality. Based on the generally poor quality of proposals received in this solicitation, the ISRP recommends against further short-timeframe, special-circumstance solicitations. Such solicitations, if they occur too frequently and

generate proposals of the low quality received in this solicitation, risk compromising the rigor and credibility of the Provincial Review Process.

Criteria

Like the “High Priority” solicitation, this solicitation includes unique criteria that are more specific than those provided by the 1996 amendment to the Power Act.¹ The primary criterion is that the proposed project addresses risks to the survival of ESA-listed salmon or steelhead, or to non-listed salmon, steelhead and resident fish that are directly affected by the power system emergency (rather than adverse impacts of drought conditions). Another criterion is that the proposal is for a one-time funding commitment resulting in immediate, direct, on-the-ground benefits.

The scope of the solicitation addressed only the following categories of actions:

- 1) tributary flow increases;
- 2) tributary habitat passage improvements;
- 3) tributary diversion screening; and
- 4) fish stock relocation and outplanting.

Several other criteria are not within the ISRP’s scientific purview: *in lieu* and permitting (NEPA, ESA, etc.) issues. Bonneville, the Northwest Power Planning Council, and the National Marine Fisheries Service will examine the proposals to determine if they meet these criteria.

II. Review Results

Recommendation Categories

In developing its recommendations, the ISRP considered the overall quality of the proposal as well as the extent to which the proposal met the “Action Plan” criteria. Proposal recommendations fell into the five categories listed below. These categories reflect the degree of ISRP confidence that the proposal will meet its objective to benefit populations of species adversely affected by this year’s emergency power operations.

Category A: These four proposals were judged to clearly address risks to the survival of ESA-listed salmon or steelhead, or to non-listed salmon, steelhead, and resident fish populations that were affected by the power system emergency by providing direct and immediate on-the-ground benefits. These projects offer to increase instream flows in 2001 and should be expedited for funding so benefits to this year’s brood class (rearing juveniles) and returning adults can be realized. These proposals were generally well written, providing strong biological justification for the proposed actions. Under the normal provincial review process, the ISRP would not have requested a response from the project proponents.

¹ ISRP recommendations are based on a determination that projects: 1) are based on sound science principles; 2) benefit fish and wildlife; 3) have a clearly defined objective and outcome; and 4) contain provisions for monitoring and evaluation of results. In addition, the ISRP considers whether a project is consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Program. These criteria were woven into the high priority criteria.

Category B: These ten generally well-justified proposals were judged to meet the solicitation criteria but benefits are more likely to be realized in the long-term rather than in 2001.

Defer to the Columbia Plateau Review: These four proposals are in the Columbia Plateau Review and should remain in that process unless it is demonstrated that expedited funding will result in immediate benefits in 2001.

Land Acquisitions: These nine proposals offered one-time opportunities to purchase land, often with clear high value for general habitat preservation for listed species. Some purchases included specific water rights that might match the criterion of supplying tributary flow increases if the water were retained instream (not used by others with outstanding water rights). In other cases, the match to the specific four categories of action listed above was general and vague. Judging from the number of such proposals received, it seems that many resource managers consider land purchases to be one-time actions that yield the necessary benefits. It would be helpful for any subsequent ISRP reviews to have BPA, the Council and CBFWA resolve the applicability of such purchases. Land-purchase proposals are grouped in the reviews below, with tentative ISRP conclusions of fundability that depend, in part, on this interpretation of applicability.

Do Not Fund: These 22 proposals were judged to not meet the review criteria for a variety of reasons including they did not address species impacted by this year's power system emergency or offer direct on-the-ground benefits with one-time funding. Many of these proposals offered assessment or planning activities that with subsequent or continued funding would provide on-the-ground actions and direct benefits. Other proposals in this group did not provide enough information for a technical review.

Among these proposals that did not meet the solicitation criteria were a number of worthwhile projects. Several of these projects proposed needed assessment of passage problems and prioritization of possible solutions. The ISRP assumes that these proposals will be considered during the respective Province reviews.

Category A Proposals

Projects are not ranked within this category but are listed by project number.

Project ID: 26006

Trout Creek 2001 Streamflow Enhancement

Sponsor: Oregon Water Trust

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Deschutes

FY01 Request: \$133,500

Short Description: Enhance streamflows in Trout Creek for the summer of 2001 through a combination of an instream rotation agreement and instream water right leases.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. A-list. Time sensitive. See proposal #26007. This project is for one time lease of significant water rights for Trout Creek during the 2001 season. The proposal meets the criteria for funding under this solicitation. This project would help protect the steelhead production in a year of high spawning activity in a stream that has received considerable funding for habitat improvement in the past.

The proponent has considerable experience in obtaining and monitoring instream flow. The proposal was convincing that the work would be successful if approved before June 1, 2001. Before funding, assurance should be obtained that the project is still feasible. The ISRP does not understand all of the legal issues dealing with Oregon Water Law. Before funding, the proposal should be reviewed by legal staff.

Project ID: 26007

John Day Basin Streamflow Enhancement Project, Summer 2001

Sponsor: Oregon Water Trust

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: John Day

FY01 Request: \$73,340

Short Description: Enhance streamflows in Middle Fork John Day River and Bridge Creek for the summer of 2001 through instream water right leases.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. A-list. Time sensitive. See proposal #26006. This project is for one time lease of significant water rights for the Middle Fork and North Fork of the John Day River during the 2001 season. The proposal meets the criteria for funding under this solicitation. This project would help protect the chinook production in a year of high spawning activity in a stream that has received considerable funding for habitat improvement in the past.

The proponent has considerable experience in obtaining and monitoring instream flow. The proposal was convincing that the work would be successful if approved before June 1, 2001. Before funding, assurance should be obtained that the project is still feasible. The ISRP does not understand all of the legal issues dealing with Oregon Water Law. Before funding, the proposal should be reviewed by legal staff.

Project ID: 26028

Supplement Flows in Buck Hollow Creek

Sponsor: Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Deschutes

FY01 Request: \$22,826

Short Description: Supplement stream flow in Buck Hollow Creek during 2001 with 1-1.5 cfs from headwater irrigation well

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. A-list. This project should be expedited. This project is time critical for summer 2001. The project will address a limiting factor that presents a critical and immediate need to protect steelhead redds or rearing juveniles. It is a needed project, with good justification and a very low budget. Implementing the project should also create additional good will with a cooperative local landowner.

This project is for pumping groundwater into Buck Hollow Creek (Wasco Co. Oregon) for steelhead spawning and juveniles this summer and fall. The 1 to 1.5 cfs that is being made available is likely to exceed 25 percent of expected flows an amount that is likely to help sustain the steelhead population in the system. Efforts to protect the water have apparently been researched by Oregon Water Resources Department personnel. Flows and temperature would be monitored.

The adult spawning (mostly wild fish) is double the past record. If these fish or their offspring can be saved with additional water, they will help make up for losses in the mainstem from the emergency actions. The irrigator agrees to use the water in this way, but wants reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs. The project is cheap (\$22,826) and can start as soon as BPA gives the OK. NMFS has already given approval to BPA according to the proposal. The critical period starts in June, which is now.

Project ID: 26011

Improve Stream Flow and Passage for Simcoe Creek Steelhead

Sponsor: Yakama Nation

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$767,143

Short Description: Maintain stream flows by providing replacement stock water during the summer, and facilitate upstream and downstream passage of steelhead by screening two canals and laddering two diversion dams.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. A-list. This is a good proposal for elimination of passage barriers at two diversion dams, screening of two canals, and providing water wells to eliminate two diversions during summer low flow periods all on the Yakama Indian Reservation. The project would benefit steelhead during low flow periods. If implemented quickly, the benefits should be immediate. Permitting does not appear to be a problem for construction in FY01. This project may require funding of long-term O&M.

Category B Proposals

These ten proposals meet the solicitation criteria but benefits are more likely to be realized in the long-term rather than in 2001.

High Ranked B-List Proposals

Projects are not ranked within this category but are listed by project number.

Project ID: 23019

Trout Creek Culvert Replacement

Sponsor: USFS

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Deschutes

FY01 Request: \$128,000

Short Description: Remove barriers to fish passage and mitigate degradation to water quality. Reduce risk of culvert failure and potential for inputting large volumes of soil material into Trout Creek.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This is a well-prepared proposal for a straightforward culvert replacement that meets the solicitation criteria. Mid-Columbia steelhead are an ESA-listed stock. The project is a continuation of Ochoco National Forest's efforts to remove barriers to fish passage and improve water quality and will open up 3.1 miles of fish habitat. The proposal is for a one-time funding of a culvert replacement, with follow-on monitoring for effectiveness to be done with Forest Service funds. The proposal is for passage improvement, one of the four functional criteria for the current solicitation. All preparatory planning and permitting has been done. The project was rated Fundable B in the High Priority Project Proposal Review because it was unclear if there were fish populations upstream of the barrier that would be adversely affected. This revision indicates that there are none. The ISRP was interested in information on stock status that the response did not provide. The project will likely expand habitat for steelhead trout in the basin in the long term; it should provide some additional habitat, and perhaps increased survival, for the offspring of populations impacted as smolts in 2001. This project looks like it has the potential for greater benefits than 23020.

Project ID: 23020

Badger Creek Culvert Replacement and Road Closure Projects

Sponsor: USFS

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Deschutes

FY01 Request: \$87,000

Short Description: Remove barriers to fish passage and mitigate degradation to water quality in the Deschutes River with placement of box culvert in Badger Creek.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This is a well-prepared proposal for a straightforward culvert replacement that meets the solicitation criteria. Mid-Columbia steelhead are an ESA-listed stock. The project is a continuation of Ochoco National Forest's efforts to remove barriers to fish passage and improve water quality and will open up 2 miles of fish habitat. The proposal provides direct on-the-ground benefits to ESA listed individuals in Badger Creek that flows to Mt. Creek to Rock Creek to the John Day River. This is a very good proposal that meets most of the Council's criteria. The proposal includes good support by the Ochoco National Forest, is recommended by a Watershed Analysis, and long term O&M and M&E are apparently funded by the Ochoco National Forest. All preparatory planning and permitting has been done. The project was rated Fundable B in the High Priority Project Proposal Review because it was unclear if there were fish populations upstream of the barrier that would be adversely affected. This revision indicates that there are none. The ISRP was interested in information on stock status that the response did not provide. The project will likely expand habitat for steelhead trout in the basin in the long term; it should provide some additional habitat, and perhaps increased survival, for the offspring of

populations impacted as smolts in 2001. The project appears to be very economic for the benefits to be gained. 23019 looks like it offers the potential for greater benefits.

Project ID: 23024

Hancock Springs Passage and Habitat Restoration Improvements

Sponsor: YN

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Methow

FY01 Request: \$49,941

Short Description: Increase juvenile salmonid access to, and enhance the habitat of a spring fed off-channel to the upper Methow River.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This proposal would replace a culvert in Wolf Creek that blocks migrations of listed spring chinook and steelhead into the upper two-thirds of Hancock Springs system (4200 linear feet), the lower one-third of which (1100 linear feet) is a significant rearing area for juvenile salmonids. Wolf Creek is a tributary of the Methow River and stands at the lowermost limit of spring chinook spawning there. The M and E plan is good for a short proposal. The sponsor's provided a response to the ISRP's comments in the High Priority Review about what the quantitative biological effects of opening up this area might be. The response included an estimate based on EDT analysis. The sponsor's response also somewhat addressed the ISRP's question about the location of the project but a map and a more detailed description of adjacent habitat would have been helpful. They also provided a response regarding potential impacts of native resident populations above the culvert. They were unable to locate data and suggested that a survey could be done in the area. The ISRP agrees that a survey should be completed.

Project ID: 26001

Restore Passage Lower Lemhi / Salmon Rivers

Sponsor: State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation

Province: Mountain Snake

Subbasin: Salmon

FY01 Request: \$380,000

Short Description: This proposal has three components: 1). Establish fish passage and reconfigure the L3 and L3A Diversions on the Lower Lemhi River 2). Reconfigure culvert fish passage barrier on Kinnikinic Creek 3). Reconfigure culvert fish passage barrier on Holman Creek

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This proposal satisfies the scope and criteria for project proposals. It is a good proposal to improve fish passage at three sites on the Lemhi and Salmon rivers. A fish ladder will be constructed and installed at the two (L3 and L3A) diversions on the Lemhi River. They will construct stair-step pools in Kinnikinic Creek, and in Holman Creek at Highway 75 culverts. The sites were identified as significant barriers to migrating fish by NMFS. The projects should in the long term provide benefits for the broods and population affected by the power system emergency. The budget is modest for construction projects and includes good cost share.

Details are lacking on the type of diversions involved on the Lemhi River. In general, the ISRP encourages the type of passage structure on the Holiday Ranch, John Day River, or infiltration galleries rather than fish ladders over diversion dams, if feasible. Assuming the sponsors have selected the best alternative, i.e., fish ladders, this project is fundable.

Project ID: 26014

Design, Fabricate, And Install New Huntsville Mill Fish Screen

Sponsor: WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Walla Walla

FY01 Request: \$255,292

Short Description: WDFW proposes to design, fabricate, and install a new fish screen facility (12cfs) at the existing Huntsville Mill location within the Touchet River Basin. The new screen facility will comply with current state and federal criteria for fish protection.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This is a carefully prepared proposal. It includes a good background to describe the problem and, based on information from elsewhere, describes its likely benefit. The proposal includes a monitoring element to verify that small fish are in fact prevented entry to the irrigation withdrawal system. The need has been demonstrated and prioritized. Project includes initiation of design and will apparently take 30 months to complete; consequently, the benefits to the species affected by the power system emergency will be in the long rather than short term.

Project ID: 26030

Touchet River Flow Acquisition

Sponsor: Washington Water Trust

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Walla Walla

FY01 Request: \$115,524

Short Description: Water right from 78 acres of farmland along the Touchet River. Water right will be purchased, dedicated to instream flow and protected in Washington State's Trust Water Right Program.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the top of the B list. This project meets the ESA criterion (steelhead, bull trout), is for a one-time action with immediate benefits, and is to gain flow increase and passage improvement derived from additional flow. The project is to obtain water rights from 78 acres of farmland along the Touchet River, a tributary of the Walla Walla River in Washington that has suffered from dewatering. The acquisition can be completed in a year. The water right would become effective immediately and continue in perpetuity under the Washington Water Trust. This is a time-limited opportunity. The fairly senior (1869) water right would protect the water from downstream junior users. The water right is described as "up to 1.04 cfs." One of the major benefits of the purchase and transfer of the right to an instream right is to prevent a downstream "junior" user from completely dewatering the river. In addition, before funding Council should assure that there are not more senior users who will dewater the stream prior to the location of this right. There is need for clarification the terms "up to 1.04", the "if" in, "If this water right is transferred to an instream right," and the "fairly" in, "fairly senior water right." Without a clarification of these points, the value of the project may be questionable.

This project could result in additional accessible habitat in the Touchet, which would compensate for losses in the mainstem due to the power emergency. The proposal adequately relates the proposed project to other activities in the vicinity to increase streamflows. There is a provision for monitoring of water to be sure it is not diverted (but just a brief statement). One caution: the proposal is not clear regarding how much groundwork has already been done. Task 1 suggests that much of the preparatory work with the landowner regarding validity of the water right and with WDFW to ascertain benefits still needs to be done.

Project ID: 26036

Chumstick Creek (North Road) Culvert Replacement

Sponsor: Chelan County Public Works Department**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Wenatchee**FY01 Request:** \$1,131,150

Short Description: Replace culvert under the North Road, which is a partial passage barrier for summer steelhead and a full barrier to all other migrating salmonids, with a concrete bridge that would provide upstream habitat access to all species at all flows.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the middle of the B list. This proposal meets the solicitation criteria. Affected species are ESA listed, there are also non-ESA-listed species, and the work would be one-time, on-the-ground for fish, with the main emphasis on tributary passage improvement. Benefits to the species affected by the power system emergency from this project will likely be long-term rather than immediate. The project proposes to remove a critical downstream culvert in a tributary watershed in which several other BPA-funded road projects are removing migration barriers (mostly culverts). Twenty miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat would be opened up where now only the rare steelhead can ascend. The project was ranked at top priority for culvert replacement in a county barrier inventory using WDFW evaluation guidelines. The existing culvert would be replaced with a concrete bridge, leaving a natural stream channel under the bridge (although requiring restoration after construction). Considerable preparatory work has been done, including obtaining permits and making specific plans. Alternatives were investigated and the present plans selected for good reasons. The proposal is complete except for resumes of key personnel (although the construction work will be contacted from the Chelan County offices). Monitoring is planned in coordination with other agencies using funds other than this proposal.

Medium Ranked B List Proposal**Project ID: 26002**

Acquire Lostine River water rights

Sponsor: Nez Perce Tribe**Province:** Blue Mountain**Subbasin:** Grande Ronde**FY01 Request:** \$150,000

Short Description: Increase flows, passage conditions, habitat in the Lostine River by purchasing water rights from willing landowner.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked at the middle of the B list. This time sensitive project is to buy water rights available on the upper end of the Lostine River. The project satisfies the criteria for funding under this solicitation.

This is a proposal to purchase water rights from a private landowner and to monitor the stream flow in the Lostine River. The purchase has potential for increasing stream flow during May to July by about 2 cfs, and during August to September by about 1 cfs. Channel modification has resulted in a wide, shallow river in the lower reaches. The proposal reports that these modifications have been so severe that flows of even 40cfs are insufficient to provide a suitable corridor for migrating salmon. Given the severity of this problem, it is difficult to imagine that increasing flows by 1-2 cfs will make any detectable difference in the problems confronting the Lostine fish population in the short term. Benefits to the species affected by the power emergency would be in the long-term and the full potential of the benefit would likely require other habitat improvements.

Clearly, fish populations in the Lostine River would benefit from more water and this increment may be an important piece in the restoration puzzle. Any permanent step to provide downstream passage, rearing habitat, and eventually eliminate trucking is probably good. The cost seems to be reasonable. The proposal gives some detail on the seniority of the water right, but how senior is the water right compared to others and what is the duration of the water right? The proposal includes a monitoring element.

Low Ranked B-List Proposals

Projects are not ranked within this category but are listed by project number.

Project ID: 26015

Methow Basin Screening

Sponsor: WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Methow

FY01 Request: \$250,000

Short Description: This project provides fish screen facilities upgrades, and new fish screen construction, on Methow River Basin irrigation diversions (Foghorn, Rockview, McKinney Mountain, Kumm Holloway) and equipment upgrades for completion of these projects.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked in the bottom of the B list. This project upgrades several diversion screens (sizes not specified) for spring chinook (E) and steelhead (E) in the high-priority Methow basin. From a biological perspective, the proposed actions appear to be justified and would likely in the long term, benefit anadromous stocks in the Methow basin affected by the power emergency. The sponsors are taking advantage of an opportunity to pursue funding to speed-up their screening program needs. The argument that it may provide some unknown benefit to the returning adults from the 2001 smolt class carries some weight, but the project is in the early planning stage (although this is not completely clear) and would take 18 months to complete. The project could be delayed for at least a year without missing the opportunity to benefit affected brood(s) although the general population may benefit from earlier implementation. The Columbia Cascade Province review is approaching and it may be most appropriate for the sponsor to revise and resubmit the proposal in that process.

The Methods Section in the proposal was startlingly brief. It is unclear where they are in the planning and implementation phases of the project. This proposal from WDFW (same PI as 26014) makes a better case than 26014 for establishing the need and priority for the proposed actions in the Methow basin and their immediate effects on anadromous stocks in that basin. However, this proposal lacked the helpful discussion of screening criteria presented in 26014.

Reviewers are unsure what is actually being requested by the proposal. In the abstract, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs all start with the following text:

Within the agency direct appropriation for the 99-01 biennium, funding was appropriated to fabricate and install a replacement screening facility at the xxxxx irrigation diversion. This funding will not carry over into the 01-03 biennium starting July 1, 2001.

This states that money was previously allocated for the 99-01 biennium to fabricate and install a replacement screening facility at the Foghorn, Rockview, Kumm Holloway, and McKinney Mountain irrigation diversions. Yet this proposal asks for additional funding for those same sites to do the following (verbatim Methods section from the proposal):

This funding proposal includes project scoping, permitting, water rights verification with investigation of possible conversion or consolidations, right of way negotiations, pre-design, design review, final design, fabrication of screens, fabrication of imbedded and miscellaneous metal work, fabrication of lift gantries, removal of the old screen facilities, excavation and construction of the civil works, bypass pipe installation, screen installation, installation of safety fencing and handrail, site clean-up and re-vegetation, drafting of as built prints, and drafting of operational and maintenance procedures.

The discontinuity between these two statements raises questions about project management and accountability that need to be resolved.

Project ID: 26027

Lake Roosevelt/Colville Tribes Emergency Fish Restoration

Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

Province: Inter Mountain

Subbasin: Lake Roosevelt

FY01 Request: \$262,240

Short Description: Replace rainbow trout entrained/lost as a result of emergency power generation at Grand Coulee Dam during an extreme low water year.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable, ranked in the bottom of the B list. This well-prepared proposal meets the solicitation criteria, but does not address the highest priority populations targeted under this solicitation - e.g. ESA listed or other native, wild stocks. The benefits of this proposal are for the fishers and consumers of fish, not the fish populations. If that is one of the intentions of this solicitation then the proposal is fine. This is a simple fish outplanting (stocking) project for 2001 to replace non-anadromous rainbow trout lost (entrained) from Lake Roosevelt when it was drafted severely in 2001 for the emergency flows. Lost fish means lost fishing activity on the lake and lost regional revenue from fishing and related activities. The proposed project is a one-time activity. Fish would come from commercial suppliers but the project would be overseen by the regional hatchery and net-pen personnel. Part of the fish would be stocked into the lake and part would be raised in net pens for later release. The proposal incorporates the cost of additional net pens to accommodate rearing some of the new fish, an acquisition that will have lasting benefits for the ongoing net-pen project (199509000).

Reviewers note that the proposed strategy could backfire; they could create a worse fishery. There is the potential to create a population that exceeds food and space resources that could result in poor growth and survival of the planted fish. Because population density will influence the survival of the planted fish, it is unclear how results of the tagging study will be evaluated?

B-List: Other**Project ID: 23013**

Locate, Mark, and Removal of Lost "Ghost" Fishing Nets in Selected Columbia River Reservoirs: A Feasibility Study

Sponsor: CRITFC

Province: Columbia Gorge

Subbasin: Columbia Gorge

FY01 Request: \$86,109

Short Description: Every fishing season, gillnets used by treaty Indian commercial fishers are sometimes lost and unrecoverable. The number present in Zone 6 is unknown, but is likely in the hundreds, all with the potential to catch listed salmon species.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. This High Priority B ranked proposal is a loose fit to the Action Plan solicitation, in that it potentially would remove passage barriers to adults of the populations affected by the power system emergency operation. A revised proposal was not submitted for the Action Plan solicitation, but the sponsor responded to the ISRP comments from the High Priority review.

Comments from the High Priority Review:

In sum, this is a good idea and is a very responsible action by the agency. There was some debate among the reviewers on whether this proposal met the criteria for one-time funding and on-the-ground benefits, because, if this project is successful, it could develop into an annual task. However, the proposal clearly meets many of the High Priority criteria and would likely be achievable. As the sponsors state, there is an inherent element of mainstem habitat improvement that goes with this proposal, although it appears to be fishing related. The proposal refers to new technology that should make it possible to locate these lost nets, leading to their removal. Because the location of this project is on the mainstem, where it affects all of the listed species that are located above Bonneville Dam, it is clearly a habitat-type problem. It has the potential to remove a substantial barrier to migration, and it is of relatively low cost (probably \$60,000 if

they do not have to purchase the sonar equipment, previously used in a BPA sponsored project and now idle).

The sponsors responded to the ISRP reviewers' High Priority comments regarding the magnitude of the problem. At a minimum, the response states that 50 diver gillnets were reported as missing between 1995-2000. They estimate that as many as 250 synthetic nets could have been lost in the past 30 years. It may not require many nets to represent a significant problem, since the lost nets may fish at all times on all stocks that pass through the lower Columbia River fishing zones.

Defer to the Columbia Plateau Province Review Process

These four proposals are in the Columbia Plateau Review and should remain in that process unless they demonstrate that expedited funding will result in immediate benefits in 2001.

Project ID: 26031

Improve Upstream Fish Passage in the Birch Creek Watershed

Sponsor: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Umatilla

FY01 Request: \$300,410

Short Description: Improve upstream fish passage in the Birch Creek watershed (Umatilla River tributary) for the benefit of summer steelhead and redband trout by removing structures or building fishways over existing irrigation diversion dams.

ISRP Recommendation:

Defer to the Columbia River Plateau Review Process, in which the ISRP requested a response.

This project seems to meet the criteria for the Action Plan solicitation, at least in part. The one-time funding for immediate benefits consists of selection of two passage barriers to fix under this solicitation. Part of the work is planning, which does not seem to fit the solicitation. Construction for the project is not scheduled to begin until July 1, 2002; thus, benefits are not immediate and deferring to the Columbia Plateau process will provide a better venue for a funding decision in the context of other Umatilla projects.

The ISRP Columbia Plateau review comments are: Fundable if a response is provided that adequately addresses the ISRP's concerns about the completeness of the written proposal.

This is a short, straightforward proposal to remove migration barriers in a subbasin of the Umatilla River that is a high producer of summer steelhead and contains redband trout. Farming and irrigation have resulted in >5 major barriers to migration (and other smaller ones) due to obstructions and inadequate ladders. Dams were used instead of infiltration galleries or other alternatives. Despite these former abuses, Birch Creek has a wild stock of steelhead estimated at 30% of the subbasin production, and is a focus of other habitat restoration work. The plan is to install stepped dams with lower heads, in series, with passage facilities, dealing with the worst cases first.

Nonetheless, the written proposal is incomplete in several respects. The site visit and presentation helped alleviate many misgivings from the proposal (e.g., lack of a map), but we are still left with an inadequate written proposal. In Part 1, the city and state are not given for the PI and the objectives or tasks are not presented (although they are given in narrative form in Part 2). These should be provided to go along with the cost breakdowns. In the narrative, there is good background, regional rationale, and relationships to other projects. The narrative does not have a full breakdown of objectives and tasks, either, that would match the cost breakdown of Part 1. There are only general plans for deciding on projects to undertake and then doing them. The possible barrier remediation projects to be undertaken, among the options referenced from the Subbasin Summary (but not listed in the proposal), are not specified. It would be helpful if the proposal gave alternative ways to solve the passage barrier problems followed by why the proposed approaches were selected. See Project Number 199801800 - Holliday Ranch; it had some innovative engineering techniques like infiltration galleries, islands, and rubber dams. It would be useful to have a

short discussion of what alternatives are feasible and cost effective. The proposal states that one fishway in place in Birch Creek is functioning well, but it would be helpful to know how this conclusion was reached (please explain in response). The work would be subcontracted from the ODFW office, but there is no indication of who would do the further planning, contracting, or work (not much listed for facilities). The general plans include no monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of the projects when completed (including obtaining baseline data on the blockage prior to the project). This project needs effectiveness level monitoring at a minimum (Tier 1 as given in the general ISRP Preliminary Comments, which should be read along with this set of comments).

Birch Creek seems to be a good watershed on which to do remedial work for passage barriers in order to maintain and expand existing stocks of steelhead and trout. But we need more specifics on the record in the proposal. Therefore, the ISRP asks for a response that rectifies the deficiencies noted above.

Additional comments from the Action Plan review:

As stated above, this proposal is vague and confusing about the numerous barriers in Birch Creek, which ones will be analyzed, which will be implemented, and the reasons for the selections. The abstract says there are 11 passage barriers, and that this project will address two. In Task a, plans are to be developed for correcting 6 passage problems. Task b initially says that 2 improvements are to be implemented (not saying which ones), but 5 structures are to be “treated” (3 removed and 2 to have fishways built). There is discussion of the detrimental effects of removing the dams (three of the 5 treated structures), which suggests, but never directly says, that these are non-selected alternatives. The bottom line seems to be building fishways on only 2 unnamed sites. If funded, this project should be funded for the 2 specific projects and nothing else, in order to fit the solicitation criteria and the bottom line as represented in the abstract. As is this proposal would be in the lower portion of the B-list.

Project ID: 23028

Increase Naches River In-stream Flows By Purchasing Wapatox Water Right

Sponsor: YN

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$4,000,000

Short Description: Cost share with Bureau of Reclamation to purchase and retire PacifiCorp's Wapatox Power Plant to benefit salmon and steelhead by increasing instream flows and enhance spawning and rearing habitat in the Naches River.

ISRP Recommendation:

Defer to Columbia Plateau Review. Fundable only if an adequate response is provided.

As reviewers commented during the High Priority review process in which the project was ranked B, the project would benefit fish in that the portion of the river that is bypassed by the canal which at times is dry or otherwise inaccessible to spring chinook, steelhead and coho, as well as bull trout. Increased flow will lead to reconnection of the lower Naches River with upstream tributaries such as the American River. Costs will be shared with BOR. There are obvious policy issues of who should fund this that extend beyond the ISRP purview.

The project would clearly provide immediate and presumably substantial benefits to fish and wildlife, but the proposal does not provide a quantitative estimate of to what extent fish would be expected to benefit. Additional information on expected benefits (from EDT model, etc) is requested.

In addition, the monitoring and evaluation is not well described and needs to be clarified before being fundable (see ISRP General Comment on monitoring and evaluation in the ISRP's Columbia Plateau preliminary report).

Project ID: 23044

Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screening Project.

Sponsor: COY

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$1,657,500

Short Description: Screen City of Yakima's Naches Water Treatment Plant intake to eliminate mortality of ESA listed and non-listed salmonids at this location.

ISRP Recommendation:

Defer to Columbia Plateau Review. ISRP comments from that process include: Fundable. An expensive project that will be needed if the retirement of Wapatox Dam occurs (proposed at this time, but not a certainty). Action will be taken by late fall 2002 regardless of funding decision. Proposed budget is \$1.9 million, but speakers (Paul Wagner) indicated that the project might be done for as little as \$1 million. PI's do not have alternative funding avenues identified. Diversion is for 50 cfs.

This is an extensive engineering proposal. It provides abundant linkages to the various regional planning documents, as well as to the FWP. It does not describe the magnitude of the juvenile or adult fish entrainment that occurs in its present design both under current operation and under operation if Wapatox Dam was retired. Thus, it is hard to judge the magnitude of the biological benefits of funding the project.

This project was originally submitted under the BPA FY2001 High Priority Proposal solicitation (project # 23044) and received a Category B rating from the ISRP and an A rating from CBFWA. The ISRP raised concerns that the project inadequately specified benefits to fish. PIs responded to this concern by noting that although mortality of salmonids due to entrainment into the WTP intake system has not been quantified, complete exclusion of fish from the intake system will benefit both listed and non-listed salmonids as well as resident fish. While this would clearly be true, it makes judging the magnitude of the problem and the magnitude of the potential biological benefits difficult to assess.

In the High Priority review, both the ISRP and CBFWA indicated that the proposal raised "in lieu" questions. The PI's most recent understanding was that upon NWPPC staff review, funding of this project was determined to be consistent with BPA obligations. Due to budgetary constraints, this project did not receive funding under the FY01 High Priority Proposal solicitation and is therefore being resubmitted under the current solicitation.

Project ID: 26005

Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (Objective 1: Early Actions)

Sponsor: Kittitas County Water Purveyors

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$1,588,000

Short Description: Implement YTAHP Objective 1: Early Actions which include fish enhancements (fish passage screens and riparian habitat) at selected high priority locations on Yakima tributaries through a collaborative approach of local, state, federal & tribal interests.

ISRP Recommendation:

Defer to the Columbia River Plateau Review Process, in which the ISRP requested a response. This proposal does not meet the criteria for funding under this action. Specific one-time projects are not clearly identified and it is not obvious that they could be put in place and completed this season. Thus, immediate on-the-ground benefits cannot be estimated. The proposal identifies long-term O&M costs to be covered by BPA and Mitchell Act funds. Due to the ISRP concerns expressed in the Columbia Plateau review, the planning elements in the proposal, and the long-term nature of this project, the ISRP recommends that funding not be expedited in the Action Plan process but be deferred to the Columbia Plateau process.

ISRP comments from the Columbia Plateau Review are:

Fundable if adequate responses are given to ISRP concerns. This project would clearly contribute to the goal of salmonid (especially steelhead and bull trout) recovery in the Yakima basin. Its primary strength is

the day-to-day contact of KCWP staff with landowners of Kittitas and Yakima counties, as well as its established track record of cooperation with federal agencies and the Yakama Nation. However, its priority is difficult to assess in the absence of supporting information on existing fish resources and gains that might be realized if the diversion-screening program were to be initiated.

What is the magnitude of potential fish benefits? What is the relative priority of this in the basin? How important are the Phase III screens, since the Phase I and II screens have been and are currently being addressed?

While there is no doubt that restoration of tributary habitats and flow in these counties are of benefit to fish, this project will be very expensive (over 2 million per year, each of 5 years) and has little cost sharing. BPA and the Council should consider creating a cost share requirement for this type of restoration that addresses an obvious agricultural impact source.

Land Acquisition Proposals

Project ID: 26038

Acquire Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Union Gap Reach and Wenas Basin, Yakima River Basin, Washington

Sponsor: Reclamation

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$3,000,000

Short Description: Acquire essential anadromous fish habitat (flood plains, riparian zones, wetlands, and water rights) in the Union Gap Reach and Wenas Basin of the Yakima River Basin, Washington.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable. This was reviewed in the Columbia Plateau Review and was found to be fundable, no response was needed. In terms of this solicitation, the proposal meets the ESA affected species criterion and would increase instream flow. This is a proposal to purchase three parcels of land in the Yakima Basin to gain rights to a total of about 12 cfs of water. The purchase includes a water right for 1.3 cfs that will be restored to the Yakima River, 300 acres, 580 acres and 4.6 cfs for the Yakima River, and 7 cfs for instream flow in Wenas Creek. Although part of the benefit would be tributary flow increase for both Wenas Creek and Yakima River associated with the water rights, the greatest benefit is probably long-term preservation of valuable, diverse habitat associated with the land acquisitions. The Wenas Creek acquisition of water rights of 7 cfs would likely be significant, although it is unclear if there is a population from Wenas Creek that is adversely affected by the emergency power system operations. The 4.6 cfs as part of the 580 Acres on the Yakima River appears to be less significant.

Other comments from the province review include:

The objectives are consistent with regional programs and are a high priority. The proposal is well written and is well coordinated with groups and agencies. It seemed significant that the basin is already under the YPBWEB water enhancement project, so lots of resources applied and available. The reviewers liked the idea of an urban (semi-urban?) demonstration project to show that a community can be proud of, and profit from, the river that flows through it rather than simply thinking of it as a conduit.

Project ID: 26033

Okanogan Watershed Land and Water Rights Acquisition

Sponsor: Colville Confederated Tribes**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Okanogan**FY01 Request:** \$3,437,000**Short Description:** Protect and enhance listed and non-listed salmonid habitat in the Okanogan Watershed through the acquisition of land with river frontage and water and/or water rights.**ISRP Recommendation:**

Fundable? This project meets the solicitation criteria. There are both ESA and non-ESA species, and the proposal would be a one-time action within the year benefiting both flow increase in a tributary and passage improvements (by way of more water), as well as protection of riparian habitats (and opportunities for enhancements). The proposal is for 5 purchases of land (total about 1,141 acres ranging from 20 to 837 acres) and water rights along the lower 22 miles of the Okanogan River, Washington. Some properties have river frontage but no water right; others have no frontage but a water right. The proposal relates the project to the FWP and other local land purchase projects.

The tracts to be purchased are those on the market now rather than the result of study and prioritization, but are all considered valuable for fish and wildlife. Water rights still must be verified and the hydraulic connectivity to surface water determined. The seniority of the water rights was not discussed, nor were assurances given that water rights allocated to streamflow would remain in the river. Who would hold the water rights was not discussed. This lack of prior planning may compromise the assumptions of value and the ability to carry out the purchases in a timely fashion. An increase in minimum Okanogan River minimum flows by 3.1% by the water right acquisitions (from 288 cfs) does not seem like a critical increase in comparison to purchases in other proposals where the acquired water right adds water to de-watered reaches.

Project ID: 26025

LP Ranch Acquisition

Sponsor: Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District**Province:** Columbia Plateau**Subbasin:** Umatilla**FY01 Request:** \$1,468,042**Short Description:** Acquire 1,887 acres of rangeland, .27 cfs of surface water rights, .575 cfs of groundwater rights, 1.5 miles of East Birch Creek and 1 mile of Pearson Creek. ODFW considers this "key" Mid Columbia ESU summer steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.**ISRP Recommendation:**

Fundable? This proposal meets ESA criteria, one-time (on-the-ground) criterion, and would yield a tributary flow increase. This project will acquire 1,887 acres of timbered rangeland, 0.27 cfs of surface water rights, 0.575 cfs of groundwater rights, 1.5 miles of East Birch Creek (Umatilla drainage) habitat, and 1 mile of Pearson Creek habitat. The proposal describes adequate justification for the priority of the LP ranch purchase within the Birch Creek drainage and makes linkages to appropriate prior assessments describing the biological importance of the property. Redd densities of summer steelhead in this property are highest of all Birch Creek (mostly wild fish). ODFW considers it key habitat for wild summer steelhead.

The surface water right is senior and would be left instream from 2001 onward (leased to Oregon Water Trust). The water right is identified as "senior," but its seniority relative to other users was not discussed. The percentage of increase in summer flow that 0.27 cfs represents was not presented. Without information to show otherwise, it seems doubtful that such a small increase in flow can be associated with significant improvement of conditions in Birch Creek. The purchase may provide some improved habitat, and perhaps increased survival, for the offspring of populations impacted by the power emergency as smolts in 2001, or in subsequent generations. In sum, it appears this is a good habitat protection project with the potential for minor instream benefits this year.

Project ID: 23012

Arrowleaf/Methow River Conservation Project

Sponsor: TPL and WDFW**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Methow**FY01 Request:** \$1,250,000

Short Description: The project is an acquisition of the 1020-acre Arrowleaf property on the Methow River-- critical habitat for 9 ESA listed species. If not purchased the property will be subdivided into 70 lots and much of the upland and riparian habitat will be destroyed.

ISRP Recommendation:

Fundable? Under the high priority solicitation, the Council recommended and BPA committed to funding this project at \$2.5 million of the \$3.75 million requested. They are now asking for \$1.25 million to fully fund this conservation easement transaction. Although the sponsors did not revise their proposal to justify it under the Action Plan criteria, this project offers long-term benefit to species targeted under the Action Plan solicitation. Also, the proposal may meet the scope of activities under this solicitation in that it would protect some water rights for instream use. However, it is not clear whether these rights will be exercised this year or how significant the additions will be to the overall flow of the Methow. It is not clear that additional funding under this solicitation will provide immediate benefits.

See previous ISRP review: “The ISRP was unanimous in viewing the acquisition of the Arrowleaf property as an important opportunity that should be seized upon by the Council and BPA. The Arrowleaf property is clearly desirable property with many wildlife and habitat features that approximate pristine condition. The proposers clearly describe the importance of the property, its near pristine condition, its position as a link between upper and lower habitats (particularly salmonid habitats), and the negative ecological consequences of not obtaining the property.” Council should look at the cost of this purchase relative to other purchases.

Per the cover letter from the Trust for Public Lands for the 2001 Action Plan solicitation, the ISRP notes that in our review we discussed that the request to BPA was a portion of the \$17M total cost for the project. The ISRP made a “B-list” recommendation for this project in the High Priority solicitation for a variety of reasons.

Project ID: 23026

Klickitat Basin Key Habitat Acquisition

Sponsor: YN**Province:** Columbia Gorge**Subbasin:** Klickitat**FY01 Request:** \$3,000,000

Short Description: Purchase high priority lands for preservation of refugia habitat. Protection of stream channel and riparian habitats and associated uplands, which influence immediate riparian function and channel processes.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable? A revised proposal was not submitted for this solicitation, although the proposers provided a response to the ISRP’s concerns in the High Priority review. The resubmitted High Priority B ranked proposal is loosely linked to the Action Plan criteria, because fish from the Klickitat subbasin pass Bonneville Dam. However, the proposal does not offer immediate passage improvement, flow increases or diversion screening. As with the other acquisition project this offers long-term benefits to the target populations affected by the power system emergency. Addition and legal protection of water for instream use are not described in the proposal.

Comments from the High Priority review are:

Objectives 1 - 3A appear to meet the High Priority criteria and critical areas appear to be targeted, however 3b, 3c and 4 do not meet the criteria and appear to be primarily developing infrastructure for the future. A

major part of the project is “prioritization” of future purchases. There is little indication that the purchases are time sensitive.

The proposers responded to the ISRP comment and described the time sensitive nature of the Logging Camp Creek property.

Project ID: 23027

Methow Basin Floodplain and Riparian Land Acquisitions

Sponsor: YN

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Methow

FY01 Request: \$2,332,150

Short Description: This proposal is to purchase properties in the Methow Basin important for salmonid spawning and rearing.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable? A revised proposal was not submitted for this solicitation, although the proposers provided a response to the ISRP’s concerns in the High Priority review. The resubmitted High Priority B ranked proposal is loosely linked to the Action Plan criteria, because protection of the habitat through acquisition offers long-term benefits to species targeted under this solicitation. However, the proposal does not offer immediate passage improvement, flow increases or diversion screening. Addition and legal protection of water for instream use are not described in the proposal.

This proposal deals with acquisition of floodplain land in the Methow Basin, and is coordinated with efforts of other entities in the Methow, such as the Nature Conservancy, WDFW and others. Spawner surveys and monitoring of juvenile salmonid abundance are being conducted in the area as part of other projects of the Yakama Indian Nation. The proposal includes good justification for the importance of the habitat. Some of the properties will require rehabilitation, dikes, etc., however, budgets for this work are not included in the proposal but sponsor plans to work with the NRCS on habitat rehabilitation. The proposal is recommended by state and the urgency is the availability of the parcels now.

Project ID: 23084

Acquisition of Lower Desolation Creek, John Day Basin

Sponsor: CTUIR

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: John Day

FY01 Request: \$4,987,754

Short Description: Acquire and Restore Lower 11 miles of Desolation Creek and its tributaries. This would restore not less than 11 miles of anadromous streams.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable? A revised proposal was not submitted for this solicitation, although the sponsor provided a response to the ISRP comments in the High Priority Review. The resubmitted High Priority B ranked proposal is loosely linked to the Action Plan criteria. However, the proposal does not offer immediate passage improvement, flow increases or diversion screening. As with the other acquisition projects this offers long-term benefits to the target populations affected by the power system emergency. Water rights are not associated with this acquisition.

This proposal is for acquisition of Lower Desolation Creek, John Day Basin to protect anadromous streams and upland habitat. This is a very good project in that acquisition would protect the majority of the associated watershed. This acquisition would protect 17 miles of anadromous streams within the Desolation Creek watershed. The sponsor’s response in the High Priority review addresses the ISRP’s concerns regarding O&M and M&E by describing a long-term O&M plan will be developed that will include extensive restoration efforts and ongoing costs funded in part by the US Forest Service. In addition, a comprehensive M&E plan would be developed. This project should have been submitted for the Columbia Plateau Province review.

Project ID: 26020

Holliday Ranch Easement

Sponsor: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**Province:** Columbia Plateau**Subbasin:** John Day**FY01 Request:** \$5,026,800**Short Description:** Fence 17.7 miles of mainstem John Day River and tributaries, protect 15,532 acres of uplands two miles east of John Day, Oregon under perpetual conservation easement, and retire forest grazing allotment adjacent to wilderness.**ISRP Recommendation:**

Fundable? This proposal was recommended for funding by the ISRP, CBFWA, and the Council in the High Priority Review. Since that review, the ISRP favorably reviewed the proposal in the Columbia Plateau Province review process. The proposal appears to be time sensitive and the ISRP emphasizes this project as high priority.

This project is primarily an acquisition project and as such its focus is not within the narrow scope of this Action Plan solicitation. Benefits are likely long-term rather than immediate for target species affected by the power emergency. Increases of stream flows through dedication of instream water rights are not described in the proposal. Despite the imperfect fit to this solicitation, this proposal is one of the best. It addresses many of the points raised by the ISRP in its previous reviews, including a full description of the proposed reduction in grazing AUMs on federal land adjacent to a wilderness area. With this noteworthy addition to the proposal, the following review comments remain pertinent and germane. They were taken from our recently released (June 15, 2001) Preliminary Review of Fiscal Year 2002 Project Proposals for the Columbia Plateau Province:

“Fundable. High priority. This proposal was given a high rank in the high priority review. The site visit confirmed and enhanced the conclusion that this acquisition provides many benefits to fish and wildlife. In addition to the conservation benefits described in the proposal, this project provides an excellent example of the types of win-win solutions to restoration problems that are possible through good working relations with landowners, and through the development of incentives that make sense both in terms of conservation goals and the economic goals of the landowner. The project is a complicated mix of actions and incentives that make both biological and economic sense. This project will achieve far-reaching demonstration benefits to other landowners of the positive outcomes possible from restoration actions. There is a limited window of opportunity to for this project, dependent on the time period of the option to buy. Delay in funding will risk the project. The costs of not funding this project will be realized not only in conservation and restoration terms, but also in the erosion of trust and working relationships between landowners and agencies responsible for resource recovery actions. See review comments from the ISRP’s recent High Priority Review. It received an “A” category and was recommended for funding without reservation.

Additional information about the complexity of this project and its potential benefits were provided during the site visit. The proposal should be modified to adequately represent the complexity of the project and the magnitude of potential benefits. The ISRP visited the Holliday Ranch as part of the Columbia Plateau South Site Visit on 8 May 2001. We were able to see the many conservation actions the landowners have undertaken with assistance from regional resource managers. On-site discussions with the land owners and resource managers from ODFW, CTWSR, and SWCD were informative and provided insights into the biological benefits, as well as the important aspect of local landowner-resource manager relationship benefits that would be gained from implementation of the Holliday Ranch perpetual easement. Many ranchers in the area are familiar with the Holliday Ranch and its conservation activities and are waiting and watching the process before deciding whether or not they will participate in similar programs.

Of particular note in the project, but not described in the proposal, is the large grazing allotment (~700 AUMs) that the Holliday family presently uses on forested public lands in the lower reaches of the Strawberry Mountains, an area adjacent to a wilderness area. The family’s initial motivation for seeking the perpetual easement was to reduce their use of and reliance on the grazing allotment by 80% in exchange for purchase of the Crown Ranch property, which would provide them with summer pasture lands for their

cattle operation. This portion of the easement agreement was not described in the proposal, but the ISRP feels it is an important part of the entire easement package.”

Project ID: 26034

Kittitas Valley Reach Acquisitions

Sponsor: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$2,000,000

Short Description: Conservation purchases of key Yakima River floodplain properties in the Kittitas Valley reach.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable; inadequate proposal. This is a brief proposal for property and/or water right acquisitions in the Yakima River floodplain that leaves many unanswered questions about satisfying the solicitation criteria. The Stanford upwelling rationale for habitat value is given in the abstract but not discussed in the text. Species affected are mentioned (chinook, coho, steelhead, bull trout), but not identified as ESA listed or how they might be affected. Neither the justification nor rationale sections of the proposal even refer to the solicitation criteria. The purchases could be one-time funding but whether purchase alone will affect fish soon is not clear. Although a map was provided, the properties were not adequately described in the material reviewed. The distribution of land purchase versus water right purchase (both together?) was not adequately described. Water right purchase might add tributary flow (thus satisfying one of the four functional criteria), but this is not stated. The references consist mostly of personal communications. Resumes are not provided for staff (only names and jobs). Although the purchases might be worthwhile, the proposal is not an adequate justification for funding them under this solicitation.

Not Fundable

Project ID: 26004

Ahtanum, Toppenish, Simcoe Flow Monitoring and Water Conservation

Sponsor: Bureau of Indian Affairs

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$335,000

Short Description: Install flow monitoring equipment on several irrigation ditches in order to manage and limit irrigation deliveries and provide instream flows; line portions of irrigation canal in order to conserve water for instream flows.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not Fundable; inadequate proposal. This brief proposal is to line approximately one mile of the Ahtanum Main Canal saving ~5 cfs of water to be retained in Ahtanum Creek and to install flow monitoring equipment. Adequate justification was not given to demonstrate that gaging would provide direct on-the-ground benefit to fish. In other words, the proposal is not convincing that monitoring of the flow will ensure that the saved water will remain in the stream or that instream flow will otherwise be improved. The canal-lining portion of the proposal seems to satisfy the eligibility criteria for funding under this solicitation. However, virtually no detail is given on the proposed canal lining and the associated water savings. What does 5 cfs mean in relation to total stream flow? Does the 5 cfs estimate account for the portion of the leaked water that goes back to the river through the aquifer? What assurances are there that the water saved will remain instream (downstream appropriators)? The proposal does not describe protection through instream water rights.

The project has good cost share and long term O&M funding from the Wapato Irrigation Project. Resumes were not included.

Project ID: 23018

Crawford Vegetative Management Road Decommission

Sponsor: USDA FS

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: John Day

FY01 Request: \$98,000

Short Description: Decommission 45 miles of developed forest roads in the Crawford Vegetation Management Project of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River watershed. These roads are currently hindering spawning, rearing, and/or migration of two federally listed fish species.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. The proposal does not meet the Action Plan criteria or scope of activities. The rationale is good, and in general the action is known to be beneficial. However, the claims for potential benefit are not supported in the proposal through references or otherwise. The proposal specifically identifies the roads to be decommissioned. Cost share is good. The M&E effort seems ample, but the plans for it are not well described.

Project ID: 23035

Buckskin Slough Restoration

Sponsor: WDFW

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$13,200

Short Description: Buckskin Slough is a small, yet highly productive tributary to the Naches River in Yakima County. The proposal aims to complete restoration projects identified in a Phase 1 survey.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This proposal is not a good fit with 2001 Action Plan Criteria -- no clear immediate on the ground benefits. The project offers long term habitat improvement. It does not appear to be urgent except for the possibility of losing public support. Monitoring is to be done in another project. The sponsors do not make a strong case that this project addresses imminent risk to ESA-listed species and it does not have an adequate description of immediate benefits. The project is low cost.

Project ID: 26003

Fox Creek Daylighting, Rainier, Oregon

Sponsor: City of Rainier

Province: Lower Columbia

Subbasin: Lower Columbia

FY01 Request: \$412,000

Short Description: The proposed modification would entail restoration of the Fox Creek stream channel for an approximate distance of 735 feet inland from its confluence with the Columbia River. Request \$30,000 to match Corps of Engineers Section 1135 funding.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This does not fit the scope of the solicitation. This proposal is for passage improvements on a tributary below the dams and does not focus benefits on species that are impacted by the power system emergency operations.

Project ID: 26008

Omak Creek Relocation Implementation

Sponsor: Colville Confederate Tribes**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Okanogan**FY01 Request:** \$336,722

Short Description: This project is the construction of 1/2 mile of open channel that would ensure fish passage, improve bank stability, substantially reduce the amount of sediment delivered to the channel and improve spawning and rearing habitat in Omak Creek.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This proposal is more appropriate for the Columbia Cascade Provincial Review where the project can be reviewed in the context of the subbasin. The proposers should strengthen their proposal for that process. The threats addressed by this proposal are not likely immediate and consequently the benefits are not likely immediate. They do not have a concrete plan. This project would relocate Omak Creek through a ½ mile reach of a lumber mill being purchased by the Colville Confederated Tribes to avoid a potential passage problem. The project only marginally satisfies the criteria for funding under this solicitation, because the passage problem does not appear to exist at the present time. However, this is a worthwhile project because of the potential sedimentation problems should the construction not proceed.

Project ID: 26009

Omak Creek spring chinook/summer steelhead acclimation facility

Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Okanogan**FY01 Request:** \$70,950

Short Description: This project is necessary to imprint Carson ancestry spring chinook and ESA listed summer steelhead to Omak Creek, thereby reducing the likelihood of straying.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. The threats addressed by this proposal are not immediate and they do not have a concrete plan. This proposal could be better justified and submitted in the Columbia Cascade Provincial Review. Although the benefits are not immediate, this project may help in the long term. This too brief (sketchy) proposal to build an acclimation facility meets one of the criteria for funding under this solicitation: fish stock relocation and outplanting. The project may be worthwhile in that it should reduce straying of returning Carson spring chinook into the Methow and Entiat basins that contain the endangered Methow composite stock. The sponsors should, however, explain why they propose to use Carson stock as opposed to upper Columbia River brood stock. Long-term O and M and M and E are required.

Project ID: 26010

Okanogan River spring /summer chinook acclimation facility

Sponsor: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**Province:** Columbia Cascade**Subbasin:** Okanogan**FY01 Request:** \$70,950

Short Description: This project is necessary to imprint Carson ancestry spring chinook to provide a fishery, reduce straying to nearby sub-watersheds and disperse adult summer chinook to utilize adequate habitat and strengthen the population.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. The threats addressed by this proposal are not immediate and they do not have a concrete plan. This proposal could be better justified and submitted in the Columbia Cascade Provincial Review. Although the benefits are not immediate, this project may help in the long term. This too brief (sketchy) proposal to build an acclimation facility meets one of the criteria for funding under this solicitation: fish stock relocation and outplanting. The project may be worthwhile in that it should reduce straying of returning Carson spring chinook into the Methow and Entiat basins that contain the endangered Methow composite stock. This would require long term O and M and M and E.

Project ID: 26012

Evaluate Fish Passage Screening Systems During Low-flow

Sponsor: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Province: Systemwide

FY01 Request: \$97,796

Short Description: Evaluate the biological and hydrologic effectiveness of juvenile fish passage facilities constructed at tributary irrigation diversions with respect to NMFS passage criteria during low flow scenarios brought about by the power emergency declaration.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not Fundable under this solicitation. The proposal does not meet the solicitation criteria. It does not offer immediate on-the-ground benefits. This project proposes to survey ~20 screening systems and report problems to appropriate agencies. Although important problems with diversion screening may be detected, the proposal does not offer specific, direct, one-time, on-the-ground benefits. It is unclear what diversions (size, location, etc.) are involved and what proportion would be surveyed if only 20 are visited.

Project ID: 26013

Adult Spring/Summer Chinook and Steelhead Transport -- Snake River Basin -- Nez Perce Tribe

Sponsor: Nez Perce Tribe

Province: Mountain Snake

Subbasin: Clearwater

FY01 Request: \$195,267

Short Description: U.S. v. OREGON "Applegate Process" coordinated use of surplus 2001 chinook/steelhead salmon by salmon managers in Snake River basin. Adults transported for natural spawning or broodstock, passage around dewatered areas, and to diminished population areas.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not Fundable. Inadequate proposal. The proposal is to place many adults on the spawning grounds and, hopefully, achieve some of the results described in the proposal, particularly with respect to future genetic and abundance input into subsequent year classes. The proposal describes the expected benefits of the outplanting actions with general, but quite vague, statements. It is not possible to evaluate the proposal from a scientific or technical merit, as the goals, objectives, and tasks (p. 8, proposal narrative) contain insufficient detail for such review.

The proposal does not provide an adequate description of the pros and cons of its proposed actions. For example no information is provided on specific actions other than a list of participating hatcheries and satellite facilities and a list of target rivers. Given the tremendous concern and scrutiny that has been applied to stock specific actions in the upper basin, such as captive brood or supplementation, and the carefully measured processes that have been used to evaluate and determine actions there, large-scale actions such as proposed in this proposal have as much potential to do damage as good.

In the proposal, we are unable to determine which stocks will be collected and into what locations they will be transplanted. We are unable to determine whether stocks will be transferred within or among basins. Hatchery principles have undergone significant scrutiny and refinement over the last decade and stock transfers, except under very specific circumstances (which do not include excessive hatchery returning adults), have been universally recommended against.

We understand the immediacy of the proposed project and its associated actions. However, we are concerned that the enthusiasm for the larger-than-expected run and any actions taken in association with it not jeopardize the technical rigor of existing longer-standing management actions and research programs. If the proposal is funded in some fashion, we recommend in the strongest terms possible that monitoring and evaluation protocols be expanded or put in place so that the basin can adaptively learn from the actions taken.

The record run of chinook that is causing this problem raises some interesting questions. With the greatest run in recorded history (70 years), one might conclude that all available habitats will be seeded with eggs

and fry. The proposal here suggests that the problem is too many fish to the hatcheries and not enough to the streams, therefore, the need to outplant (or is it?). Does this mean that outplanting in the past has not been successful and the only success is with fish released from hatcheries? What is the justification for outplanting these fish? If outplanted, they could cause disruption of the abundant (?) naturally spawning component of the population.

Project ID: 26016

Entiat Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations

Sponsor: Chelan Conservation District

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Entiat

FY01 Request: \$173,000

Short Description: Purchase, establish, and operate stream gages in eight critical reaches of the Entiat. The operations will include installation of the gages, telemetry, data recording, and associated activities.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This is a proposal to purchase and install the hardware (on-site and telemetry site) needed to monitor flow and temperature in four reaches of the Entiat River. This proposal assumes that installing stream gages and thus, having the ability to monitor in-basin stream flows in real time, will translate into management actions that will keep more water instream for anadromous fish than would occur without the gages and associated telemetry stations. While this is a tempting argument and may in fact be true, the proposal does not provide examples of how this might occur or reference any documentation that provides the reviewers confidence that such linkages are in place and would be utilized. It is not clear how data will be provided to managers on a real-time basis, or how and by what arrangement, the data will be used by managers to improve survival and productivity of ESA species. No map is provided showing the subbasin and the proposed gauging stations. No specific personnel are listed for the proposed work. No specific description or flow chart is provided that shows how data would be routed and how decisions on water management would be affected. There is no funding to operate and maintain the monitoring program once the hardware is in place. The sponsors insist that the project has benefit for the affected broods, but until operating funds are found and committed for the long-term, no data will be available.

This is one of 2 or 3 such proposals. A comprehensive program to monitor flow and temperature might be developed and submitted for study by the Council and BPA. The proposal should be developed with input from all entities to ensure that an efficient program is in place, it can be maintained into the future, and management entities are satisfied with the need for such a system and the suitability of the data management system. Projects 26016, 26017, and 26029 should be included in such a plan. The Entiat subbasin is in the upcoming Columbia Cascade Province; a solicitation for that province is scheduled for fall of 2001.

Project ID: 26017

Okanogan Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations

Sponsor: Washington Department of Ecology

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Okanogan

FY01 Request: \$172,000

Short Description: Purchase, establish, and operate stream gages in eight critical reaches of the Okanogan. The operations will include installation of the gages, telemetry, data recording, and associated activities.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This is a proposal to purchase and install the hardware (on-site and telemetry site) needed to monitor flow and temperature in four reaches of the Okanogan River. This proposal assumes that installing stream gages and thus, having the ability to monitor in-basin stream flows in real time, will translate into management actions that will keep more water instream for anadromous fish than would occur without the gages and associated telemetry stations. While this is a tempting argument

and may in fact be true, the proposal does not provide examples of how this might occur or reference any documentation that provides the reviewers confidence that such linkages are in place and would be utilized. It is not clear how data will be provided to managers on a real-time basis, or how and by what arrangement, the data will be used by managers to improve survival and productivity of ESA species. No map is provided showing the subbasin and the proposed gauging stations. No specific personnel are listed for the proposed work. No specific description or flow chart is provided that shows how data would be routed and how decisions on water management would be affected. There is no funding to operate and maintain the monitoring program once the hardware is in place. The sponsors insist that the project has benefit for the affected broods, but until operating funds are found and committed for the long-term, no data will be available.

This is one of 2 or 3 such proposals. A comprehensive program to monitor flow and temperature might be developed and submitted for study by the Council and BPA. The proposal should be developed with input from all entities to ensure that an efficient program is in place, it can be maintained into the future, and management entities are satisfied with the need for such a system and the suitability of the data management system. Projects 26016, 26017, and 26029 could be included in such a plan. The Entiat subbasin is in the upcoming Columbia Cascade Province; a solicitation for that province is scheduled for fall of 2001.

Project ID: 26018

FISH PASSAGE ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION PROGRAM

Sponsor: Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation, Operations Division

Province: Lower Columbia

Subbasin: Willamette

FY01 Request: \$93,500

Short Description: Develop fish passage barrier assessment methodology for road / stream crossings, inventory county owned facilities, prioritize passage barriers to core habitat area for threatened and endangered fish species.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. The proposal does not meet the solicitation criteria. The proposal area is below the mainstem Columbia dams and the proposal does not demonstrate that there would be benefits to species that are impacted by this year's emergency operation. It does not offer immediate on-the-ground benefits. The proposal offers a logical assessment and prioritization process that would take advantage of low flow conditions to identify passage problems; the opportunity for such a safe and comprehensive inventory and evaluation may disappear next year. However, potential actions to improve passage would occur later.

One of the strengths of the proposed work is the linkages that have already been formed with other pertinent land and resource managers. This includes data sharing, utilization of in-place protocols and survey methods, and defined avenues for integrated decision-making. The budget looks appropriate to the proposed tasks. The Lower Columbia Province review is scheduled for the late fall and winter of 2001 and the proposal might be resubmitted for that solicitation.

Project ID: 26019

South Fork Clearwater, Selway, and Salmon River Basins Monitoring and Evaluation of Spring / Summer Chinook Salmon Outplant Program

Sponsor: S.P. Cramer & Associates

Province: Mountain Snake

Subbasin: Clearwater

FY01 Request: \$75,200

Short Description: Conduct spawner survey of outplanted chinook salmon to determine spawner distribution, spawner ratio of hatchery to wild fish, and number of redds per fish stocked.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable; inadequate proposal. This proposal would conduct spawning ground surveys of chinook to aid in outplanting (in some undefined way). The proposal could be fleshed out in significantly more detail

and become fundable as a good and useful research project, but it does not fit the current solicitation. The proposal fails to show that the work would provide immediate, direct, on-the-ground benefits enhance Idaho chinook in future. The proposal provides almost no detail on locations, methods, and relationship to other projects. Resumes of personnel are included and are informative. Probably the most glaring omission from the proposal was the lack of described linkages to other ongoing projects in the Clearwater and Salmon River subbasins. Surely there are some projects that are monitoring spawner returns in these subbasins. How would this additional funding and work integrate with those projects?

The Mountain Snake Province, including the Clearwater subbasin, solicitation is currently open for submittals of proposals, and this proposal might be rewritten and resubmitted.

Project ID: 26021

Purchase Tribal Wind Power

Sponsor: Sovereign Power, Inc

Province: Systemwide

Subbasin: Out Of Basin - Missouri

FY01 Request: \$34,080

Short Description: Sovereign Power, Inc., and Siyeh Development Corporation wishes to sell the output of a wind turbine in Browning MT to BPA

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable. Inadequate proposal. This proposal is incomplete and does not include the necessary information to meet the solicitation criteria such as description of direct, on-the-ground benefits to impacted species. This is a proposal to sell wind-generated power to BPA so that they can reduce power generation by a like amount yielding benefits for the affected brood(s). This might be a good idea, but it requires more development and specification of detail to allow scientific review. Bonneville's engineering staff could estimate the potential spill benefit associated with the proposal and biologists could use these data to assess the fishery benefits that could be expected from the proposal.

Project ID: 26022

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Westside Pump Fish Screens

Sponsor: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Province: Lower Columbia

Subbasin: Willamette

FY01 Request: \$15,000

Short Description: Screen two water pumps to protect ESA fish species

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable. Inadequate proposal. Biologically, this project may be worth implementing, however the proposal is incomplete and does not include the necessary information to meet the solicitation criteria. No map is provided showing the area and the pump stations proposed for screening. No specific discussion of the pros and cons of the proposed action is provided. No discussion is presented that allows the reviewer to understand the magnitude of the potential benefits to ESA stocks of the proposed actions. The proposed activities would occur below the dams and the proposal does not demonstrate that there would be benefits to species that are impacted by this year's power emergency operation. Rather, the proposal's scope is focused on addressing adverse effects of drought conditions on Sauvie Island wetlands.

Project ID: 26023

Restore long-term bull trout migration corridor in Pipe Creek at the Kootenai River

Sponsor: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Province: Mountain Columbia

Subbasin: Kootenai

FY01 Request: \$210,000

Short Description: Restore proper channel dimension, pattern and profile to approximately 2 miles of stream upstream from the confluence of Pipe Creek at the Kootenai River to ensure long-term fish passage to spawning areas in the headwaters.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. This proposal does not relate clearly to the current power emergency, is planned to happen anyway in the future, and does not appear that it can be accomplished quickly. Thus, immediate benefits are not apparent. No compelling argument is presented to expedite funding under this solicitation. This is a proposal to improve what is perceived to be needed improvement in passage of bull trout in Pipe Creek, Kootenai River. The proposal shows bull trout numbers steadily increasing in recent years making it difficult to follow the sponsor's reasoning for the poor passage conditions. The proposal does not make a convincing argument that conditions altered in the Kootenai River by the emergency action exacerbated problems for bull trout destined for Pole Creek. The proposal contains appropriate detail on planning and methods of stream reconstruction.

Project ID: 26024

Clackamas County 2001 Fish Passage Improvements in the Clackamas, Abernethy and Molalla River Watersheds.

Sponsor: Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development / Road Maintenance Division

Province: Lower Columbia

Subbasin: Willamette

FY01 Request: \$1,438,864

Short Description: Restore 26 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat in 3 Willamette River subbasins to both ESA-listed anadromous and resident species of fish by remediating 14 existing culvert barriers with fish passable structures.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under the current solicitation. This proposal does not meet the scope of the solicitation. This proposal is for a project that is below the dams and does not focus benefits on species that are impacted by the power system emergency operations. However, the proposal is well done and is technically sound. One strength of this proposal is the prior identification of nearly 1000 culvert-stream crossings, of which the 14 identified for replacement in this proposal, are recognized passage barriers to anadromous chinook, coho, or steelhead. This is a relatively expensive proposal at \$1.4 million, yet it also notes nearly a million dollars of cost share. Permitting appears to be in place for 13 of the 14 proposed sites. The Lower Columbia Province proposal solicitation is scheduled for late fall of 2001, and the proposal might be resubmitted at that time.

Project ID: 26026

Transfer Lemhi Water Users (L-6 to Salmon River (S-14)

Sponsor: State of Idaho Office of Species Conservation

Province: Mountain Snake

Subbasin: Salmon

FY01 Request: \$2,860,000

Short Description: The objective of this project is to change the source of water for these properties from the Lemhi River at L-6 diversion to the Salmon River at S-14 diversion. This would leave an additional 13 cfs of water flows through the critical reach of the Lemhi.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable, this proposal is not adequately justified under this solicitation and is more appropriate for the Mountain Snake Province review. This is a proposal to provide tributary flow increase and passage improvements in the Lemhi River, as such the proposal meets the threshold criteria for this solicitation. This proposal would change the source of water for farming near the Lemhi confluence with the Salmon

River from a Lemhi diversion to the Salmon. This would allow 13 cfs of water to continue down the critically water-short lower Lemhi while the needed water is taken from the Salmon, which is apparently less water-restricted. The diversion would be eliminated, thus aiding passage in the Lemhi.

This proposal may offer a water transfer that will benefit fish in the Lemhi while doing minimal harm in the Salmon and could be especially beneficial if the Lemhi instream flow is increased immediately in 2001. However, this proposal did not convince reviewers of the net benefit of switching water removal from the Lemhi to the Salmon. The proposal could leave more water in the Lemhi, but what about the Salmon? Is the goal to move water around (at significant cost) so that each stream has minimum calculated needed flow (and not more)? From the regional fish population's perspective, does it matter whether the 13 cfs comes from the Lemhi or from the Salmon? What information suggests that passage is a problem in the lower portion of the Lemhi River? What information suggests that reducing the Salmon River by 13 cfs will not increase risk to fish in that system? The proposal does not contain specific enough information to answer those questions. This seems a risky strategy that could result in unintended negative consequences.

It appears from the proposal that intended benefits from this project will not likely be immediate because planning, permitting, and landowner agreements will likely take most of 2001. Due to the likelihood that the actual water transfer will not occur this year, this project (with revisions) would be more appropriate for review in the Mountain Snake Province review. The context provided in the provincial review process is needed for a project of this nature. Proposals for the Mountain Snake are due July 20, 2001.

Project ID: 26029

Wenatchee Subbasin - Stream Gaging Installation and Operations

Sponsor: Chelan County Watershed Program

Province: Columbia Cascade

Subbasin: Wenatchee

FY01 Request: \$163,000

Short Description: Purchase, establish, and operate stream gages in eight critical reaches of the Wenatchee. The operations will include installation of the gages, telemetry, data recording, and associated activities.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable under this solicitation. Although this project meets the ESA criterion, it does not meet the criterion for a one-time, on-the-ground action for benefit of fish. It also does not meet any of the four functional criteria for this solicitation. This is a proposal to set up water and temperature gauging stations in eight critical reaches of the Wenatchee River. It is a long-term project that could be begin in 2001, but is intended to have ongoing operations (as reflected in budgets of outyears). There is no doubt that the objectives are good and the work is needed for benefit of fish in the basin. However, the benefits will be in the future as the data from these monitoring stations are incorporated into plans for future water right acquisitions, land purchases, etc. or the monitoring of current water-related actions. In addition, although the types of data to be collected are useful for river and fishery managers they need to demonstrate that managers will use the information they will generate. This project may be appropriate for submittal in the Columbia Cascade Province solicitation coming up in the fall of 2001. It should be included as part of a comprehensive project to provide temperature and flow data in the Columbia Cascade Province/mid-Columbia or larger area as part of a responsive management program. Projects 26016, 26017, and 26029 could be included in such a plan.

Project ID: 26032

Adult Fish Transportation Vehicle Acquisition

Sponsor: Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Province: Mountain Snake

Subbasin: Salmon

FY01 Request: \$150,000

Short Description: Purchase an adult fish transport truck to enable fish managers and hatchery programs to outplant wild/natural salmon and steelhead above dewatered or modified habitats to ensure spawning environments are available to these fish.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable. Inadequate proposal. This proposal is for the purchase of a fish-hauling truck only and not for specific uses of the truck to benefit fish. None of the solicitation criteria are directly satisfied by this purchase, although one could presume from the proposal that the truck would be used for fish in beneficial ways. One could argue that the responsibility for purchasing vehicles should be with the projects that use them, rather than funding a separate project. The proposal is very brief and incomplete.

Project ID: 26035

Taneum Creek Water Rights & Restoration

Sponsor: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Yakima

FY01 Request: \$530,000

Short Description: Conservation purchases of key Yakima River floodplain properties in the Kittitas Valley reach.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable. Inadequate proposal. The proposed action meets the solicitation criteria. However, this is a very brief and inadequate proposal for two water right acquisitions in the Yakima River floodplain and placement of 200 rootwads in the stream that leaves unanswered questions about satisfying the solicitation criteria and normal proposal-review criteria. An ESA species (Mid-Columbia steelhead) would be affected, as well as unlisted upper Yakima spring chinook and bull trout. The brief discussion under rationale suggests that the water obtained with the rights might not actually remain in the stream. Thus the criterion of adding to tributary flow may not be satisfied (the other three functional criteria are not relevant). The Stanford upwelling rationale for habitat value is given in the abstract but not discussed in the text. The placement of rootwads is not justified or presented in the text as an objective, simply stated in the abstract. Neither the justification nor rationale sections of the proposal refer specifically to the solicitation criteria. Although the water right purchases might be worthwhile, the proposal is not an adequate justification for funding them under this solicitation. The root wad work is totally unsupported.

Project ID: 26037

On-Farm Water Conservation opportunities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho

Sponsor: IRZ Consulting, LLC

Province: Columbia Plateau

Subbasin: Umatilla

FY01 Request: \$2,500,000

Short Description: Conduct on-farm water conservation services for farms in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. We will contact and enlist farms to participate with one-year water conservation measures. Anticipated water savings ranging from 10% to 50% and energy savings 10 to 20%.

ISRP Recommendation:

Not fundable, inadequate proposal. This proposal is incomplete and does not include the necessary information to meet the solicitation criteria such as description of direct on the ground benefits to species impacted by the power emergency. Specific activities, location of activities, populations to benefit, and methods are not described. There is no basis for judging the potential of the proposal for helping to address problems caused by the emergency action.

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