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August 14, 2009

Mr. William C. Maslen
Manager, Fish and Wildlife Division
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council's decision on a Columbia River Fish Accord proposal. This recommendation was made by the Council at its meeting on August 12, 2009.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status of this Council action. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting in August.

Willamette Falls Lamprey Escapement Estimate, Project #2008-308-00

In 2008-2009, Bonneville, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (the "Action Agencies") signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWSRO), the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). The agreement with these Tribes and CRITFC is referred to as the Three Treaty Tribes MOA. The Action Agencies also signed agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT), and the states of Idaho, Montana and Washington. These agreements, the Columbia Basin Fish Accords, fund actions that will deliver specific, scientifically-sound results for the region's fish and wildlife.

As set forth in the guidance document outlining the review process for the Accords, the Council recognizes Bonneville's commitment to Accord projects. The Accords do not, however, alter the Council's responsibilities with respect to independent science review or the Council's role following such review. As with all projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program, Accord projects are subject to review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and the Council provides funding recommendations based on full consideration of the ISRP's report and the Council's Program.

On June 3, 2009, the Council received from Bonneville a Columbia Basin Fish Accord proposal from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon for #2008-308-00, *Willamette Falls Lamprey Escapement Estimate*.¹

The proposal was submitted to the ISRP for review, and on June 23, 2009 the ISRP provided a review (ISRP document 2009-23). The ISRP found that the proposal “Meets Scientific Review Criteria (in part)”. No public comment was received on the ISRP review.

The goal of this project is to develop abundance and escapement estimates for adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls. Proposal objectives will address the lack of population information in the Willamette River and address how lamprey behavior and vulnerability to predation may affect abundance estimates. Following are the three objectives associated with the implementation of the proposal.

Objective 1 *Investigate the performance of a half-duplex PIT tag interrogator at the Sullivan Plant at Willamette Falls to detect PIT tagged Pacific lamprey for a population estimate.*

Objective 2 *Develop a protocol for long-term monitoring and index of abundance of adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls.*

Objective 3 *Create a Willamette River Pacific Lamprey Working Group to coordinate research and monitoring activities and provide technical guidance*

The ISRP found the proposal met scientific review criteria for Objective 3, but requested a response for Objectives 1 and 2. The ISRP noted that the proposal was concise and well thought out, but concluded that additional details on the methods used to investigate the feasibility of the half-duplex PIT tag census technique (Objective 1) and the protocol for monitoring and indexing abundance (Objective 2) are needed prior to fully implementing the project.

CTWSRO appreciates the review and feels the comments received are helpful and will take these items into account in providing a response to the ISRP in the near future. As the ISRP noted, the sponsor is well aware of the uncertainties associated with the implementation of the project, but appreciates the need for this worthwhile project.

Based on the ISRP review, and the confidence that the sponsor understands the need to address the items raised by the ISRP in the implementation of this project, the Council supports Objective 3 for implementation with the condition that full implementation of the project depends on a favorable review of the response requested by the ISRP for Objectives 1 and 2.

¹ The proposal is listed in the May 2008 agreement in Attachment B, Lamprey.

Sincerely,

Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

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