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April 16, 2009

RECEIVED

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

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0048542
CBFWA

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council's decision regarding an urgent within-year request received from the BOG Management Group for Bonneville funding in Fiscal Year 2009. This recommendation regarding this request was made by the Council at its meeting on April 14, 2009.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status this Council action.

Habitat and Biodiversity Information System for Columbia River Basin, Project #2003-072-00

As part of the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2009, the BOG reviewed 13 requests. Of these, eight requests were slated to have a recommendation from the Council at the May meeting.

On April 8, 2009, it was brought to the attention of the BOG Management Group that the request associated with Project #2003-072-00, *Habitat and Biodiversity Information System for Columbia River Basin* needed to be addressed prior to May. This was due to the failure of the projects main storage server on April 7, 2009. On April 8, 2009 the management group supported the request and actions were taken to seek a recommendation at the Council meeting the following week.

The request was originally reviewed by the BOG on January 7, 2009 and was slated for a decision as part of the Council's recommendation regarding within-year requests, for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 at the May Council meeting. At the time of the original request the project sponsor (Northwest Habitat Institute) requested \$64,294 (*work element description: To buy replacement hardware for equipment that is 5 years and older. Also to cover cost for re-installation, upgrading software and re-establishing network and systems in an orderly manner*) to address equipment replacement that was operation beyond its normal service life. In January

the project had loss use of its plotter, but they were also aware of the needed attention for the other components that were out dated and aged (i.e., the server).

As part of the BOG request, detailed information regarding the request was provided (please see attachment 1). This support information is very detailed and complete.

The principal goal of the project is to develop common data sets and methods for fish and wildlife in regards to inventorying, monitoring, evaluating habitats, and to make this information available for planning purposes. This system is called Interactive Habitat and Biodiversity Information System (IBIS) spatial databases and its interactive Internet is recognized as a regional data and information system primarily for the terrestrial resources, with equal capabilities to address resident and anadromous fish habitat resources. These datasets are integral to subbasin planning efforts in that they provide species range maps, wildlife-habitat relationship maps and data. IBIS additionally serves as a source of core wildlife data that sets the foundation for a regional wildlife data repository

It is important to note that this project is currently part of the Wildlife Category Review. Of the 36 projects that were reviewed by the ISRP, this project was one of the twelve that met "Scientific Review Criteria" (ISRP document 2009-7). The ISRP stated the following.

Among other uses this information would be in future subbasin planning efforts. This product was used during subbasin planning in all subbasins. Regular updating is necessary to ensure current data are easily available to users. With advances in small scale mapping and data storage the product may be useful for monitoring of noxious weeds.

In the future ISRP recommends that more formal efforts be used to document use of the products produced by the project as well as to evaluate user satisfaction with services provided.

This project has not received any funds for equipment upgrades or replacement since 2004. It seems at this time it is important to maintain and protect the integrity of the services (and data) that the project provides to the Columbia River basin. Additional detail regarding the future of the project, especially expansion, will be addressed as part of the Wildlife Category Review.

Based on the staff presentation and the information provided the Council recommends that Bonneville fund this budget adjustment request of \$64,294.

Sincerely,



Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

cc: Jamae Hilliard Creecy, BPA
Peter Lofy, BPA
Christine Read, BPA
Paul Krueger, BPA
Greg Dondlinger, BPA
David Byrnes, BPA
John Piccininni, BPA
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Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA
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