



**NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION
 COUNCIL
 JANUARY 13-15, 2009**

In Missoula, the Council re-elected Idaho's Bill Booth as chairman for 2009 and wrapped up work on a new fish and wildlife program, with a vote to approve it scheduled in February. The Northwest Energy Coalition unveiled seven New Year's resolutions for BPA with respect to conservation, and the Wind Integration Forum is revving back up to tackle ticklish new questions about turbines. Next Meeting: February 10-12 in Portland, Oregon.

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FOR OPENERS

Nominating Bill Booth to serve a second term as Council chair, Dick Wallace cited Booth's "steady, calm leadership" and respectful approach to other Council members and the

Council's constituents. Jim Yost nominated Montana's Bruce Measure to serve again as vice-chair in 2009, saying that the team effort of the past year should continue in the coming year. Both votes were unanimous.

THE AGENDA



New F&W Program Will be the Region's Valentine

The Council held an all-day work session on its draft fish and wildlife (F&W) program, aimed at getting a final version

ready for an approval vote at the February meeting. At the outset, Booth said the Council needed to spend some time on five issues that had not been resolved: biological objectives, wildlife strategies, resident fish mitigation, the Fish Passage Center (FPC), and implementation provisions.

With respect to biological objectives, staffer Patty O'Toole said there had been a lot of discussion about the quantitative goals for anadromous fish in the program, including the goal of increasing salmon and steelhead runs to an average of 5 million annually by 2025 and achieving smolt-to-adult return rates (SARs) in the 2-6 percent range for listed salmon and steelhead. The draft program, as now written, "continues to include" a set of quantitative goals and related timelines for anadromous fish, including the 5 million goal, Booth noted. It also calls for the Council, within one year of adopting the new program, to work with F&W agencies, tribes, and others to initiate a process to assess the value of quantitative biological objectives for the program, and if they are determined to be useful, to develop an updated and "scientifically rigorous" set of such quantitative objectives, he said.

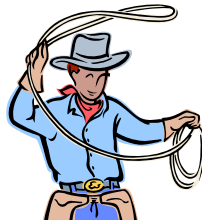
Tom Karier pointed out that increasing fish runs to 5 million annually by 2025 would have to be a regional process and not something BPA could do on its own. He suggested revising the language in the draft to say: "the ability of the region to achieve these goals will depend on the coordinated actions of many parties to improve fish habitat and passage, improve hatchery operations, and limit harvest on potential spawners." The Council agreed to that change.

Karier also suggested adding new language that says: "In the process of assessing the value of the SAR goal, the Council should consider refocusing on metrics that are consistent with the Biological Opinion (BiOp) and productivity metrics that measure adult fish returns relative to juvenile outmigration (i.e., fish in and fish out). Whatever metric is selected should minimize the risk to wild fish from tagging and handling."

The Council agreed to add that language. The program, as amended, now says that after the process to determine new quantitative goals

concludes, the Council "will then consider adopting revised quantitative objectives in a future amendment process."

Wildlife Wrangle



We received a lot of comments to maintain the 2-to-1 crediting ratio for wildlife mitigation, O'Toole noted. The draft says the Council continues to endorse that crediting ratio, but "the ratio only applies when

loss estimates are not inaccurate due to stacking." [Stacking refers to using multiple target species as indicators for the same habitat type, according to a Council staff document.]

Oregon has objected to the language about stacking from the beginning, and I understand it is aimed at the Willamette, said Melinda Eden. What are we trying to accomplish with it? she asked. Washington supports the stacking language, stated Karier. He suggested adding a "technical footnote" that explains stacking in more detail.

There is no definition of "stacking," said Joan Dukes. To put something into the program that has no definition is problematic, she stated. Oregon wants to have flexibility to be able to negotiate with BPA about Willamette wildlife mitigation, Dukes said.

This language is saying the 2-to-1 ratio worked for everything except now the Willamette, she continued. This is a big one for us -- we need the ability to negotiate like everyone else did, Dukes added.

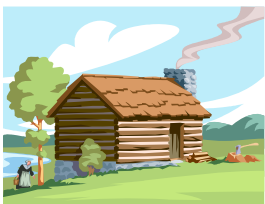
Oregon has been unsuccessful in negotiating a wildlife mitigation agreement for the Willamette with BPA, Eden said. We are trying to use the Combined Habitat Assessment Procedure (CHAP) or another tool to remedy the difficulties with wildlife loss assessments, she

stated. BPA had the opportunity to redo the loss assessments and declined to do so, Eden noted.

She suggested deleting the sentence that says "the ratio only applies when loss estimates are not inaccurate due to stacking," and adding new language that would say: "however, when loss estimates appear inaccurate due to habitat unit stacking and those inaccuracies cannot be resolved through the use of a different cost-effective crediting tool or approach, then the 2-to-1 ratio will not apply to the remaining stacked habitat units."

After further discussion, the Council adopted Oregon's suggestions, but added in the words "when the loss estimates appear inaccurate due to habitat unit stacking and those inaccuracies cannot be resolved through the use of a different cost-effective crediting tool or approach, *recommended by the Wildlife Crediting Forum and approved by the Council*, then the 2-to-1 ratio will not apply to the remaining stacked habitat units." The Council also added a technical footnote that provides more information about stacking.

R-Fish Decisions



Staffer John Shurts explained that the program contains a new section on resident fish mitigation and that it derives from

recommendations from the Salish-Kootenai tribes and others. It recognizes and describes resident fish mitigation settlement agreements, he said.

The Council asked staff to include in the section a list of the elements that should be in resident fish settlement agreements. The Council agreed to language that says: "where a resident fish loss assessment has been developed for a particular hydro facility or for an entire subbasin using the

best available scientific methods, and the loss assessment has been accepted as part of the program, the Council encourages mitigation settlement agreements that represent full mitigation for the identified losses."

Fish Passage Center

The Council agreed to replace "the program calls for the continued operation of the FPC" with language, proposed by Washington, that says "the program calls for the continuation of the fish passage functions currently conducted by the FPC." The Council discussed whether the section should contain any specific references to the center itself, versus references to "fish passage center functions."

Dukes objected to language that does not specifically reference the FPC. The Power Act calls for giving deference to F&W managers and tribes, and we received comments from every state manager and tribe saying they want to leave the FPC as is, she said. "To me, we are flying in the face of the Act," Dukes added.

Rhonda Whiting questioned whether the Council would want to specifically name one entity. She suggested referring to the functions in the program, but said "to create a contract with one specific entity is not consistent with the program."

The FPC has always been a bit of an anomaly in the program, said Karier. The language that refers to the FPC specifically is essentially "earmarked" funding for a particular entity, he stated. Our idea is to eliminate the earmark, but we are listening to the region about the need for the functions the FPC performs, Karier said. The FPC needs to go through our funding process and scientific review like other projects, he added. The new language actually makes it more consistent with the Act, Karier stated.

He recommended inserting into the program: "the FPC Oversight Board will ensure that FPC

products that involve analysis will be subject to peer review prior to release."

The managers want to continue this center, and that's what we ought to do, stated Eden. Plus, it's in the Accords, she noted. Eden said Oregon would support compromise language that says: "analytical products requested of the FPC by managers would be released to the inquiring party, but not to a broader audience without broader peer review."

After further discussion, the Council agreed to recommendations from staff about which parts of the document should contain references to the center or which to its functions. The Council also okayed this language about peer review: "The FPC Oversight Board shall determine the requirements for peer review of analytical products before dissemination to an audience broader than the managers requesting the analysis."

After these decisions, Dukes asked again why the Council is changing the language about the FPC. This has been a contentious issue we've had to deal with all along, replied Booth. The majority on the Council would like to see some change in the way the FPC operates, he said.

We've heard comments ranging from remove it from the program altogether, to maintain its contract as part of the program, Booth stated. There's dissatisfaction with the current operation of the FPC, he said. I see this language as saying that the FPC's functions need to continue, Booth stated. But the language is a step back from a full endorsement of the operations of the FPC on the part of the majority of this Council, but not the full Council, so let's move on, he summed up.

Implementation Provisions

The Council discussed new language in the implementation section that deals with multi-year action plans that will be put together starting in 2009. The Council agreed to several revisions to make sure that implementation needs are addressed for areas of the program not covered under the BiOps or the Accords.

At Oregon's suggestion, language in the section was revised to say: "the Council recognizes the funding commitments already made by BPA and other federal agencies to certain measures. Those commitments must not come at the expense of sufficient funding for other program priorities." Yost said the Council needs to set time aside to talk about how all the multi-year action plans will fit together.

The Council spent the rest of the work session on a page-by-page walk-through of the program, making revisions. For example, in the section dealing with data management, the Council added the following language, suggested by Dukes, to the section on High-Level Indicators: "the Council, *in consultation with F&W managers and others*, will adopt and periodically update high-level indicators for the purpose of reporting success and accomplishments to Congress, the region's governors, legislators, and citizens of the Northwest."

The Council also added this new language about the priorities for funding improvements at the Willamette projects under NOAA Fisheries' Willamette River BiOp: "Priority work at the Columbia and Snake dams funded through the Columbia River Fish Mitigation (CRFM) should not go unfunded because of the diversion of CRFM funds to implement the Willamette BiOp." The Council also encouraged the Corps "to seek alternative funding for Willamette BiOp implementation using existing or new authorities, if necessary."

O'Toole said staff would get a new version of the document to the Council by the end of the month so it can be reviewed before the February meeting.



NWEC Touts BPA's Conservation Muscle

Nancy Hirsh of the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWEC) told the Council the economic

and environmental benefits of energy efficiency have never been as clear as they are today. Energy efficiency has even become "the darling of the media," she said.

We concur with many of the statements made by utilities at your meeting last month, Hirsh told the Council. For example, they said they have increased their interest in doing energy efficiency, she stated. There are many reasons for the rise in interest, Hirsh noted, citing new laws and policies in Washington and Oregon, Idaho's 2007 state energy plan, and Montana's climate action plan. Clearly, it's an issue "at the fore" of the thinking of government, utilities, and the public, she said.

Now is the time to challenge BPA to take on a new role and expand its commitment to raising conservation acquisition levels, Hirsh stated. The Northwest can provide a model for the rest of the country, she added.

NWEC recommends these seven areas of focus for BPA, Hirsh said:

1. The Regional Technical Forum should become even more important -- it needs an increase in funding and more staff, and BPA should be the principal funder.
2. Because research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) projects are "a natural" for BPA, it should increase its efforts to carry out such projects.

3. BPA should fund programs at technical colleges and community colleges to train people for green jobs.
4. Comprehensive, broad-based marketing and message campaigns, such as those encouraging recycling, are effective, and BPA should "maintain the buzz" for energy efficiency by funding them.
5. BPA should provide funds so the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance can be expanded, and BPA should fund market transformation efforts beyond NEEA.
6. NWEC wants energy efficiency and conservation to cover all of the region's load growth, and to do that, the region will need a more aggressive focus on monitoring and verification of savings. BPA should fund monitoring and verification, no matter who does the monitoring.
7. BPA should increase funding for low-income weatherization work in the region and help utilities and the states expand their commitments to weatherization.

Hirsh said NWEC also sees a role for BPA working directly with utilities. BPA needs to create off-the-shelf energy-efficiency programs that utilities can customize, she recommended. We also want to work with BPA on its backstop role during the agency's upcoming public process on energy efficiency, Hirsh stated.

BPA's backstop role does not mean BPA should dismantle its conservation program because others are doing more conservation, she said. We don't want to repeat the scenario where if the level of conservation drops off, BPA has to jump back in, but has lost all its experienced conservation staff, Hirsh added.

A strong, vibrant conservation program at BPA means strong utility programs, she continued. We don't want BPA to sit on the sidelines and watch utility implementation -- we want it to be a partner in that implementation, Hirsh said.

Jim Morton of the Human Resources Council in Missoula, an agency that does low-income weatherization, explained the key role BPA funding plays in such programs. The need is growing, and BPA must increase program flexibility so states can target funds to reach hard-to-reach audiences, such as cluster tribal housing and mobile home parks, he said.

There are long waiting lists for weatherization services in both Montana and Idaho, Morton stated. The Council has made decisions in the past that have really helped us, and we look forward to working with the Council and BPA to expand the availability of weatherization programs, he added.

One question to be answered, according to Hirsh, is whether conservation funding should be included in Tier 1 rates. NWEC sees a role for a substantial Tier 1 conservation budget within BPA, and for BPA to work with utilities on Tier 2 conservation resources, she stated. We encourage you to send a strong message to BPA to maintain, if not grow, its conservation budget, Hirsh told the Council.

People in the interior have talked about having conservation programs that suit their individual needs, said Measure. What works in the I-5 corridor isn't necessarily what works in Missoula or Browning, and you need to be sensitive to that, he added.

I encourage BPA to work more closely with utilities, responded Hirsh. I don't hear a lot of conflicts between what you say and what the customers said to us, said Karier. The utilities told us they want to do more, he noted. It may be important to find a policy or mechanism that would let utilities do that, while making sure regional programs are funded and that there is a backstop, Karier said.



BPA Wants a Win-Win

Mike Weedall of BPA told the Council the federal agency will launch a regional discussion January 27 on BPA's role and the role of others in achieving public power's share of the Council's energy-efficiency target for post-FY 2011. The world of energy efficiency doesn't stay static, and we've got new drivers, such as Tier 2, the federal economic stimulus package, and new tools for energy efficiency, he stated.

Weedall said BPA would conduct the process in two phases. Phase 1 would focus on policy issues and kick off with a meeting in Portland January 27, he reported. That will be followed by meetings in the Tri-Cities, Seattle, Spokane, and Idaho Falls, Weedall said.

Based on what we hear, we'll put together a proposal by the end of April or May, and then we'll move into Phase 2, which will deal with implementation issues, he stated. Phase 2 will begin in May and last for three to five months, according to Weedall. At the end, our goal is to have a region that is stronger and more flexible and has the right tools, he said. "That would be a win-win for all of us," Weedall added.

The Council sent a letter to BPA about principles for Phase 1, and we will participate in the process, Karier said. How much funding will be available for your program? Booth asked. Our budget varies from year to year, and this year, our budget is in the \$130 million range, Weedall replied. About \$80 million is available for us to use to pay incentives, he noted.

The region has been successful in driving the costs of energy efficiency down, Weedall said. Although our spending has been down, we've

been acquiring more conservation, he noted. It seems, if you offer the right incentive, you can get the behavior you are looking for, Weedall concluded.



WIF to Sniff Out New Answers to Wind Mysteries

Staffer Jeff King reported on what's been happening in the region since the Wind Integration Action Plan was adopted in 2007. We have learned that wind has a low capacity value (5 percent) and that supplementary peaking capacity will eventually be needed, he said. That new capacity could bring additional flexibility with it if it is properly chosen, King noted.

We've found that wind integration costs are lower than previously estimated, he said. Numerous proposals for new transmission projects benefitting wind are being pursued in the region, King reported. We have learned that improved short-term wind forecasting can greatly reduce the demand for system integration services, and that there are low-cost, largely institutional measures, such as control error sharing and sub-hourly scheduling, that can extend the supply of system flexibility, he noted.

The Wind Integration Forum Policy Steering Committee met in December and developed a set of proposals for further work on wind integration issues, according to King. The committee recommended extending the charter of the Wind Integration Forum (WIF) for two more years, he said. They also suggested revitalizing the Technical Work Group, which King called "the geeks who support this effort."

He said the steering committee recommended numerous tasks, including:

- Full implementation of area control error sharing
- Exploring the feasibility and benefits of sub-hourly scheduling
- Assessing and carrying out upgrades to Southern and Northern Intertie dynamic scheduling limits
- Establishing dynamic scheduling capability across other Pacific Northwest interchange points
- Assessing the value of a regional wind forecasting network
- Setting up a pilot project to access third-party flexibility
- Developing a synthetic hourly wind data set to complement long-term hydro and temperature data
- Testing the ability to assess flexibility/hydro constraint tradeoffs
- Evaluating future demand for and supply of system flexibility on a regional basis
- Identifying options for extending system flexibility
- Assessing the nature and extent of the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) market, with a focus on issues associated with REC "stripping."

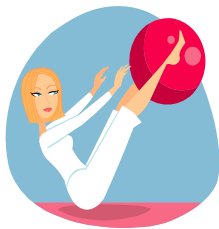
REC stripping, according to King, is when a California utility contracts for a wind project in the Northwest in order to get the RECs associated with the project. They don't care where the energy from the project goes, and it gets dumped on the Northwest market, he said. Some people are very concerned about this issue, King told the Council.

Does BPA support area control error sharing? Measure asked. I think they do, replied King. Measure said they didn't in the past. I think they were convinced by a recent pilot project, King stated.

It appears there is more wind "in the chute" than we need or can regulate, and there have been ramp-up and ramp-down problems with wind in the Gorge, Booth said. Are you addressing this? he asked. In a nutshell, there's an oversupply, said King. There's not a fundamental need for the energy, but the states, especially California, have very aggressive renewable portfolio standards, he added. We'll see continued development of wind whether or not the energy is needed, King predicted.

Are wind integration costs being added to wind costs, and we let BPA pay them because it's "politically correct?" Yost asked. Those costs are already added to the cost of wind, and there are rate cases going on around the region where those costs are being discussed, replied King.

The steering committee and others in the region, including BPA, think the study proposals that I outlined can give us the ability to integrate 6,000 MW of wind in the region "without too much pain," he stated. We'll bring a proposal to extend the WIF charter to you in March, King told the Council. Utilities need to support this effort, he noted, pointing out the Technical Work Group, which mostly consists of utility representatives, will soon start meeting regularly again.



High-Level Indicators Really Shaping Up

The Council approved a working list of High-Level Indicators (HLI) in July, and since then, we've located a lot of data for the indicators and have been working on their development, reported Karier. The HLI measure levels and changes in fish abundance and survival, harvest, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat, he explained.

Karier noted that some of the HLI have been completed, and he reported on the status of each biological indicator to date. He said, for example, that the indicator dealing with abundance of adult fish is being developed in conjunction with the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's (CBFWA) *Status of the Resource* report.

For the indicator, "fish population status and trends for each Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), especially listed ESUs," Karier pointed out that while this information is essential for NOAA Fisheries, it is not yet available from that agency, "even after all the BiOps." NOAA Fisheries doesn't have an annual report of the numbers of listed fish, and we are working with them and waiting for its development, he said.

Data for the indicator, "survival rates through the hydro system for adult and juvenile fish," is available and is particularly important for the Council's program, according to Karier. Data is also available from BPA for the indicator, "wildlife habitat units by dam," and we expect the data can be further refined as part of the Council's upcoming Wildlife Crediting Forum, he stated.

Karier also described "implementation indicators," which he said are "actions we think will contribute to success, but aren't by themselves the ultimate measures of success." One such indicator is "instream passage improvement by additional habitat made accessible." He said the data is available from BPA's PISCES system, and as a result, we can report on "how many miles or acres of habitat we open up each year."

Data on two other indicators -- how much riparian habitat has been improved, and the number of installed fish screens -- is also now available from BPA, Karier pointed out.

He said he hopes the Council will adopt these indicators, subject to future revisions, in February or March, and release them for public comment. After that, we will post them on the Web site and start using them and keeping them updated, Karier added.

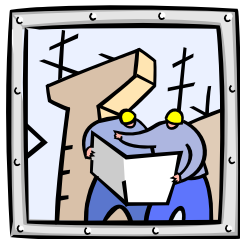
Brian Lipscomb of CBFWA said discussions of the Council's HLI have been helpful to his organization as it prepares "the next iteration" of the *Status of the Resource* report. The HLI provide us a way to "focus the conversation" and to get necessary data and make it available, he stated.

Are the HLI going to be part of the *Status of the Resource* report? Whiting asked. The Council needs to send reports to Congress and the governors, and we will include the HLI in those, replied Karier. The *Status of the Resource* report is a complementary effort, and on our Web page that features the HLI, I envision having a link to the *Status of the Resource* report, he added.

Booth said the Council would target the March meeting for a final discussion of the HLI, and he urged Council members to review them. We need to focus on what data the region needs, how it can be used, and who will use it, Booth stated. "It's time for Council members to start weighing in on this process," he said.

How About Some Peeks at the Power Plan?

Staffer Massoud Jourabchi described elements of the draft economic and demand forecasts for the Sixth Power Plan, pointing out electricity consumption grew by 2.8 percent in the first nine months of 2008. He said the behavior of Northwest customers is becoming similar to that of people elsewhere in the



country, and he noted the rising contribution of ICE (information, communication, and entertainment) to electricity use.

Jourabchi said key base-case economic drivers are showing a slowdown in the region's economy, in population growth, demand for housing, and manufacturing output. The Northwest is becoming more of a summer peaking and less of a winter peaking area, he noted. By 2015, 2020, or even sooner, we'll become a summer peaking region as a whole, Jourabchi said.

King explained the staff's assessment of the different types of generating resources available to the region over the next 20 years. The assessment has become more complicated now that capacity has become much more important, he said.

Of all the generating technologies, natural gas is the most flexible, according to King. He presented comparisons of different resources and their costs in the early 2020s and discussed how risks associated with the choices affect costs. The three important sources of risk are fuel price uncertainty, CO₂ allowance costs, and investment risk, King said.

Conservation Potential

Staffer Tom Eckman described the Sixth Power Plan's assessment of regional conservation potential, noting that the Fifth Power Plan identified nearly 4,600 aMW of "technically available" conservation potential. Of that amount, the plan identified 2,700 aMW that were economic to pursue and set that amount as the plan's target over 20 years, he said.

Eckman described new factors affecting conservation estimates, such as changes in laws, markets, and in the demand forecast. He also noted increases in available conservation potential from new sources, such as distribution

system efficiency improvements, improvements in consumer electronics, and changes in data and technology.

Eckman summed up the adjustments to the Fifth Power Plan's estimates of achievable potential that will be reflected in the draft of the Sixth Power Plan. These include: a reduction of 875 aMW for program accomplishments; a reduction of 450 to 500 aMW for the impact of codes and standards; an increase of 400 to 500 aMW for utility distribution system efficiency improvements; an increase of 100 to 200 aMW for industrial sector efficiency; and an increase of 2,800 aMW as a result of new efficiency options.

Staffer Charlie Grist explained what Council staff has been looking at in terms of commercial sector savings. Utility distribution system efficiency is a new area not included previous plans, he noted. It could represent a savings of almost 500 aMW by 2030 from system optimization, line drop compensation, end-of-line voltage feedback, and home voltage regulation, Grist said.

Eckman explained conservation potential in the agricultural sector, pointing out there are 70 to 75 aMW of potential savings in the irrigation sector. This year for the first time, the plan looks at conservation potential in dairy milk production, he said. That area has a potential of 5.5 aMW savings, according to Eckman.

Right now, for the Sixth Power Plan, it looks like there could be about 5,500 aMW of "technically available" conservation potential, he reported. We are still looking at how much of that is cost-effective, Eckman told the Council.

Staffer Terry Morlan described the introductory chapters of the Sixth Power Plan. The two themes shaping up for the plan are: how we deal with policies that address climate change, and

the need for the region to provide more capacity and ancillary services, he said.



Fish Dollars Flavor In-Lieu Stew

Staffer Mark Fritsch described a funding

request for a project to do operation and maintenance (O&M) on fish screens in Oregon. The funding, he said, is being requested by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to cover the anticipated loss of Mitchell Act funds. BPA and Council staff have raised concerns this request may run up against the "in-lieu" prohibition in the Power Act, Fritsch stated. Section 4(h)(10)(A) of the Act prohibits BPA from funding an action in lieu of funds authorized or requested from other entities under other agreements or provisions of law, according to a Council document.

Although the project might appear to present a "classic case" of an in-lieu problem, we think the provision may not apply, staffer Sandra Hirotsu said. But it is up to BPA to make the in-lieu determination, she added.

BPA's Greg Delwiche said the agency hasn't made that decision yet. There's no question about the importance of doing O&M on screens, and the region has to find a way to do it, he added. BPA is being asked to fund \$250,000 of this, and NOAA Fisheries funding is being reduced each year, Delwiche stated.

Given the national and regional economic climate, the appropriations situation is not likely to be favorable for additional funds in the upcoming years, he said. I've heard the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife may get a 20 percent across-the-board cut, Delwiche noted. We should anticipate many conversations like this one, and we'll need to

consider how the region will handle the \$10 million to \$30 million of requests like this we could get, he told the Council.

You indicated that NOAA Fisheries put the Mitchell Act dollars into hatcheries, instead of screens, Dukes said to Hirotsu. What happens if hatchery funding is moved back to the screens -- would that then be an in-lieu problem for hatchery funding? she asked. That could be, replied Hirotsu.

We may have to decide between continuing the O&M for projects like this and new projects, and new projects may suffer, said Yost. The Council will have to look at shortfalls in federal funding and how they will affect our overall budget, he stated.

This is a key issue for the Council, agreed Karier. Our priority is to make sure we don't lose valuable investments like these screens, he said. One solution, as budgets get tight, will be more cost-sharing, Karier added.

The Council passed a motion that recommends BPA provide \$198,302 for the Oregon Fish Screens Project, if BPA determines the in-lieu prohibition does not apply. The motion requests a written explanation if BPA decides the prohibition does apply and requests BPA to work with NOAA Fisheries and ODFW to ensure continued funding for the O&M in some other way. The motion calls on BPA and NOAA Fisheries to find a way to fund the screen program in FY 2010 and beyond, including full restoration of Mitchell Act funding if that is the only legal way to fund the screens.

END NOTES

First Accord Project Gets Go-Ahead. The Council approved the first Columbia River Fish Accord project that has been able to meet the Independent Scientific Review Panel's criteria. The project is the Genetic Assessment of Columbia River Stocks, and its price tag is \$9,420,886 for FY 2008 through 2017.

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Council 2009 Calendar

February 10-12	Portland, OR
March 10-12	Boise, MT
April 14-16	Skamania, WA
May 12-14	Walla Walla, WA
June 9-11	Whitefish, MT
July 14-16	Portland, OR
August 11-13	Spokane, WA
September 9-10	Oregon
October 7-9	Ketchum, ID
November 12-13	Teleconference
December 8-10	Portland, OR