



**NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION
COUNCIL
May 15-16, 2007**

At the Council meeting in Walla Walla, climate change researchers predicted less snowpack, flow pattern shifts, and losses of salmon habitat and laid out a menu of mainstem operational changes that could be beneficial. The Council considered what to do about the Willamette wildlife crediting anomaly and learned that plug-in hybrid electric vehicles could boost the region's load by 7,000 MW. General counsel John Shurts summed up the aftermath of the recent Ninth Circuit Court decisions as "quite a snarl." Next Meeting: June 12-13 in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

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FOR OPENERS

Lt. Colonel Anthony Hofmann, District Commander for the Corps of Engineers, welcomed the Council to Walla Walla. He said the district is the center of expertise for fish passage and spends \$55 million annually on such projects, including screens, collection facilities, and barging. Hofmann reported that Removable Spillway Weirs (RSWs) are in place at Lower Granite and

Ice Harbor dams and that RSWs will be installed at Lower Monumental this October and Little Goose in 2009. The Corps recently installed a Temporary Spillway Weir (TSW) at McNary Dam, which allows flexibility in testing different ways to attract juvenile fish, he pointed out. TSWs are a very good concept, and we are putting them to work with good results, Hofmann said.

With about 4,400 MW, our district is the second largest hydro producer behind the Portland district, he noted. We maintain 173 navigable miles of water from Umatilla to Lewiston, Hofmann said. Sixteen percent of our work force is deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, so "we're doing some heavy lifting there," he added.

THE AGENDA

Mainstem Operations If It's Too Darn Hot



Robert Bilby and Nate Mantua presented an overview of the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) new report on climate change impacts on Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife (F&W). Mantua said the earth's climate has been warming in the last century and a half, mostly due to human activities, and that the warming rate for the Pacific Northwest over the next century is projected to be in the range of 0.1 to 0.6 degrees centigrade per decade.

The main impacts will be more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, and diminishing spring snowpack, with altered streamflows, he predicted. Peak river flows will likely increase, and water temperatures will continue to rise, according to Mantua.

As a result, all future climate scenarios predict increases in wildfires in western North America, including the Columbia Basin, Bilby said. Temperature increases will render 2 to 7 percent of the trout habitat in the Northwest unsuitable by 2030, he stated. Salmon habitat may be more severely affected because salmon can only occupy areas below barriers and thus are restricted to lower, and warmer, elevations within the region, Bilby said.

Salmon habitat loss would be most severe in Oregon and Idaho, with potential losses exceeding 40 percent by 2090, he predicted. In Washington, the worst case for loss of salmon habitat is 22 percent less by 2090, according to Bilby. Increased frequency and severity of flood flows during winter could affect overwintering juvenile fish and incubating eggs in streambeds, he added.

Water temperature increases in the mainstem will accelerate the rate of egg development of fall chinook and lead to earlier emergence at a smaller average size than historically, making them more vulnerable to predators, Bilby said. The effects of increased water temperatures on adult salmon could mean delayed dam passage, failure to enter fish ladders, increased fallback, and loss of energy reserves, he explained.

Among the actions the ISAB recommends to address climate change impacts are:

- Flow augmentation from cool or cold-water storage reservoirs to reduce water temperatures, and if this strategy requires additional storage reservoirs, consideration of the benefits and negative impacts of increasing the number of dams in the basin.
- Use of RSWs to reduce the time juvenile salmonids spend in the warm water of the dam forebays.
- Reduction of temperatures in the ladders using water drawn from lower, cooler strata in the water column of the dam forebays.
- Transportation strategies more focused on temperature criteria for initiating full transport of juvenile fall chinook.
- Evaluation of transporting immigrating adults through the lower Snake River when water temperatures reach near lethal limits in the late summer.

- Expanding the predator-control program to include smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, and channel catfish.
- Opening backwater, slough, and other off-channel habitats along mainstem reservoirs and the estuary to encourage increased flows through these areas to reduce water temperatures and provide cool-water refugia.

Climate change needs to be more thoroughly considered in regional planning, Bilby said. Very few of the subbasin plans really used climate change as a factor affecting their strategies, he noted. The ISAB recommends that assessing climate change impacts and developing a strategy to address them be required in subbasin plan updates, Bilby stated.

If the ocean environment becomes less productive, "density-dependent interactions" will intensify, which may result in lower ocean survival rates for wild salmon, he said. If this occurs, reductions in hatchery releases during poor ocean conditions may enhance survival of wild stocks, but more research on the topic is needed, Bilby added.

If there were a loss of half the habitat, that would be dire for wild salmon, said Council chair Tom Karier. Would that undermine our efforts to purchase habitat for salmon, and does it mean we should be looking more at hatcheries? he asked.

Some of the mitigating measures for tributaries we've recommended may be useful, and if we increase summer flows, we can reduce losses, Bilby said. Are there some areas that will just be losses? Karier asked. Yes, and subbasin planners should try to identify them – that's important in future planning and strategies, Bilby replied.

You make a great case for reducing greenhouse gases, but it is also true that salmon and steelhead have an amazing adaptive ability, said Larry Cassidy. The last century and a half have seen incredible changes in the Columbia Basin, and salmon have shown the ability to hang in there, responded Mantua. Climate change is something they will have to deal with, he stated. We need to do a risk assessment and locate specific opportunities for mitigation because some areas aren't good opportunities, Mantua added.

This report is timely and will be part of our next F&W amendment process, Karier said.

Niners Scuttle BPA's Best-Laid Plans



Staffer John Shurts reported that on May 3, the Ninth Circuit Court released two opinions, *PGE v. BPA*, involving the residential exchange agreements, and *Golden Northwest Aluminum v. BPA*, involving challenges to BPA's 2002-2006 rates. The decisions have lots of implications, and together, "they make quite a snarl," he said.

Shurts explained that the *PGE v. BPA* case deals with BPA's decision to make a settlement of residential exchange benefits with the investor-owned utilities, in accordance with the Bonneville Project Act. The Ninth Circuit Court ruled that the settlement agreements were not consistent with the Northwest Power Act, he said. The court invalidated those agreements and remanded the matter back to BPA, Shurts noted.

In the Golden Northwest Aluminum case, public utilities challenged the exchange costs they were being assigned in BPA's rates, and the court agreed with the publics, Shurts

said. The rates charged to the publics were invalidated, and that case was also remanded to BPA, he added.

For both cases, BPA has 45 days to file for an *en banc* rehearing at the Ninth Circuit, or 90 days to petition to the Supreme Court, Shurts explained. I would think they would file for a rehearing, he said, but he added that the *PGE v. BPA* decision is "one of the better written opinions I've seen out of the Ninth Circuit in some time."

Shurts said the decisions have numerous implications. First, the publics will seek reimbursement for the overcharges to them in the FY 2002-2006 period, as well as FY 2007, he noted. Someone will have to figure that out, and it's not going to be easy, Shurts stated.

BPA's current rate case is now at FERC for review, and it has the same problem embedded in it, he pointed out. Someone will have to figure out "how to unpack that," Shurts said.

Another question that arises from the decisions is, does the region have a residential exchange left? he continued. If BPA isn't selling power to the DSIs, in whose rates can the costs of the exchange be placed? Shurts said.

The decisions also throw into question the future of the Regional Dialogue, which BPA tried to use to organize a whole set of issues, including how to resolve the residential exchange going forward, he explained. Also, the residential exchange is central to the basic structure of the Northwest Power Act, according to Shurts. Now with the court's decision, "we are peeling back layers of a very complicated Act and the way its benefits have flowed," he stated. Some

people are asking if it is time for new legislation, Shurts said.

In the past, BPA had a special level of deference at the Ninth Circuit, he noted. The court mentioned it in the decision and then ignored it, Shurts said. Now the question, in the eyes of the Ninth Circuit is, "is BPA a special agency with a special mission or not?" he stated.

Shurts predicted lots of discussion about what the decisions mean with respect to BPA's authority. The Council is well-positioned to help BPA and its customers try to figure out a way forward, he added.

Melinda Eden asked about the implications for the few remaining DSIs and whether their rates could rise precipitously. The few aluminum companies that remain in the region are on the edge of economic viability, and they are not a source of additional revenues to fund the exchange, replied staffer Terry Morlan.

There were three main issues in the Golden Northwest case, Shurts noted. Besides the question of whether it was appropriate to spread residential exchange costs to the publics, there was the question of whether the publics had to pay the costs of BPA selling power to the DSIs, and the court said they did, he said.

The third issue was a challenge from the Yakama and Umatilla tribes to BPA's rates, according to Shurts. The tribes said BPA didn't correctly project its F&W costs and that BPA's cost projections were not reasonable, he said. The court agreed, saying BPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously, and remanded the matter back to the agency, Shurts stated.

This could open up all BPA rate cases to arguments about whether F&W costs, or any other of the agency's costs, are reasonable, he noted. "It will be a different world for BPA if that holds," Shurts predicted.

Are Utilities the Gas Stations of the Future?



Steve Marshall, formerly with Snohomish PUD and now with the Cascadia Center of the Discovery Institute, gave a presentation on the possibilities and promise of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). PHEVs are the next evolution of hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius, but they have larger batteries that can be charged by plugging them into ordinary 120-volt electric outlets, he said. We have a convergence of bipartisan support and the technological capability to replace oil with electricity in vehicles, Marshall stated, adding "utilities may well be the gas stations of the future."

A PHEV can get 100 to 150 miles per gallon, he said. PHEVs are on the manufacturing line now, and General Motors will have its version ready by 2010, Marshall added.

In the Northwest, half our CO₂ emissions come from transportation, he pointed out. Biofuels are questionable because corn-based ethanol uses a lot of petroleum to make and move around, Marshall said. At the end of the day, we'll have to rely on electricity, he stated.

Marshall reported on a conference held May 7 that identified next steps. One is having federal agencies make fleet purchases of PHEVs, and he said the President has already issued an Executive Order requiring

agencies to do that when the technology becomes commercially available.

At the conference, Marshall said FERC Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff talked about the possibility of fleets of PHEVs plugged to the grid being able to provide ancillary services, such as voltage support and spinning reserves. FERC could order Independent System Operators to buy such services from those vehicles, he stated.

Marshall said the story of PHEVs could resemble what happened with cell phones: "they used to be big and expensive, but now they're small and everywhere."

The questions to be addressed, according to Marshall, are how soon PHEVs can be put into use, what are the implications, and how can PHEVs provide services back to the grid. He noted that Washington State just passed legislation for a pilot program for plug-in hybrids.

If utilities are to become the gas stations of the future, we need to plan for that, Marshall said. Loren Baker, formerly with Power Resource Managers, told the Council that the technology for PHEVs "is really here." Vehicles can charge on regular circuits, with no new infrastructure needed, he said.

PHEV batteries will take six to eight hours to charge, according to Baker. I did a study and found that if half of the vehicles in the Northwest were PHEVs, and they were charged in the evening around 10 pm, they would create a 7,000-MW demand, he said. Since the PHEV-charging load will be significant, we will need a load management system that works for utilities, Baker added.

What if everyone comes home from work and charges their car? Cassidy asked. The peak would go up by 7,000 MW all at once,

replied Marshall. You need a way for utilities to send a signal to the cars that allows charging at a particular time or not, he said. The vehicle would have something installed, like a cell phone chip, that has the ability to allow recharging only during off-peak hours, Marshall noted.

Utilities will have to think about working with transportation officials, automakers, and others to make this work, he said. But utilities are beginning to get enthusiastic about this, Marshall added. Plus, you'll be shifting from foreign oil to domestic electricity, he said.

A car buyer will know from day one that there's a load management aspect to owning a PHEV, said Baker. How do you replace the gasoline tax with PHEV metering? Will utilities have to collect taxes? Jim Kempton asked. The Department of Transportation is looking into how to replace gas tax revenues, replied Marshall.

We are trying to get a grant and move forward on a demonstration project in the next few months, Marshall said. When we start our work on the Sixth Power Plan in a year or two, we'll look at this issue, Karier stated.



Willamette Wildlife Losses Out of Whack

Karier prefaced a discussion of Willamette wildlife mitigation by noting that there's been a longstanding dispute over how wildlife losses have been assessed and credited there. One question before the Council is whether a new methodology, the Combined Habitat Assessment Procedure (CHAP), should now be used in the Willamette, he said. Karier pointed out that

in the past, the ISRP recommended funding CHAP elements for some projects, but not in the Willamette.

Greg Delwiche of BPA gave an overview of the Willamette wildlife mitigation program, noting it had one of the first Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) wildlife loss assessments performed on its eight Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) dams. The loss assessments were done in 1985, and they were "a subjective analysis," he said.

"Looking now in the rear-view mirror," we see the Willamette assessment is inconsistent with what was done subsequently elsewhere in the basin, Delwiche stated. For example, he said the ratio of habitat unit per inundated acre was 1.39 for Dworshak, while in the Willamette, it was 5.29.

Delwiche said the costs per acre are higher in the Willamette than the rest of the region, citing \$3,400 per acre there versus the lowest-cost area, which is \$337 per acre for Grand Coulee and the Lower Snake. One reason for the higher cost, he pointed out, is heavy population development in the Willamette. While I'm not making a recommendation today, the question is whether we should redo the previous habitat assessments in the Willamette or use another method to calculate losses, Delwiche said.

A few years ago, a different BPA Administrator was given the option of redoing the assessments and chose not to, Eden noted. And land values are only going to increase, she added. Staffer Peter Paquet said at that time, BPA thought it would cost too much to go back and correct the loss estimates. As a result, "the Willamette has continued to plague us," and the bottom line is we haven't gotten the mitigation moving forward, he added. We think the CHAP tool

could help us get past some of the problems we've had, Paquet said.

Michael Pope of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife said his agency thinks the Northwest Habitat Institute's CHAP methodology could be used to replace HEP for the Willamette, while also linking back to HEP. HEP is no longer used in the Northwest and is an "antiquated and simplistic process," he stated.

Are you arguing against using HEP? Karier asked, adding "we've used it for three-quarters of the Columbia Basin." We need a process that works better for habitat assessment, but it has to link to HEP, Pope replied.

HEP Meets HAB

Tom O'Neil of the Northwest Habitat Institute said CHAP includes a new approach, the Habitat Appraisal and Barter (HAB) method, which incorporates current ecological thinking and accounts for multiple species. HAB measures habitat quality using diversity, complexity, and available habitat size, he explained. CHAP is adaptive and can be refined and updated – it will not be used to recalculate the original loss assessments, O'Neil said.

Would CHAP solve the problem that the Willamette's loss estimates are much higher than elsewhere in the region? Karier asked. The Willamette is unique in that habitats there have been pretty degraded, said Pope. Another question is whether this formula is affordable, said Cassidy. If you have degraded habitat, shouldn't there be a cost share by the city or county? he asked. This could be a good policy change, but very expensive, Cassidy added.

There is a lot of cost sharing in the Willamette, replied Pope, noting that the restoration cost there is estimated at \$2,000 per acre. This crediting issue, with the Willamette's rising prices, could swamp the Council's program, stated Karier.

The sooner we resolve this, the better, and what we've heard today is a positive beginning toward doing that, said Eden. The price tag will continue to go up in that area, and the mitigation obligations are still there, added Joan Dukes. Mitigation hasn't been stopped in its tracks there, responded Delwiche, noting several significant acquisitions.

Karier asked staff to report back on what alternatives are available for Council action. Eden suggested the ISRP look again at all the projects for which CHAP was proposed. Let's include that in the range of alternatives staff will look at, agreed Karier.



ISAB: Latent Mortality Can't Be Measured

Tom Poe of the ISAB presented the findings of the panel's Latent Mortality Report, undertaken at the request of NOAA Fisheries. He said latent mortality refers to the mortality associated with the FCRPS that occurs after fish pass Bonneville Dam as juveniles that would not occur absent the hydro system.

Poe said NOAA Fisheries asked the ISAB to review a set of hypotheses about the causes of latent mortality and that those hypotheses are to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Passage (COMPASS) model. The question, he said, is how much mortality is due to pre-Bonneville Dam factors and how much to factors related to

"post-Bonneville life-cycle segments," such as the estuary and the ocean.

Some of the alternative hypotheses, according to Poe, are that latent mortality is related to water travel time, or based on arrival timing at Bonneville Dam, or that the existence of the Snake River dams accounts for a latent mortality of 59 to 64 percent.

There's a considerable difficulty in trying to estimate latent mortality because we can't get data from a dam-less condition – we can only use indirect data, he said. Why couldn't you use rivers where there are no dams that might be comparable? Cassidy asked. It's difficult because every system is so different in terms of fish populations, climate regimes, flow patterns, and other factors, replied Poe.

He said the ISAB decided not to assign weights to various hypotheses, as the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) had urged. Instead, the ISAB recommends that all the hypotheses and data be merged into a single model, Poe stated. The ISAB thinks this would be the most scientifically rigorous approach to reducing the number of alternative hypotheses, he said.

Did you find any consistency or connectivity among the hypotheses? Bill Booth asked. Some hypotheses were related, but none of the relationships verified the others, replied Poe.

The ISAB concluded that the hydro system causes some fish to experience latent mortality, but strongly advised against continuing to try to measure absolute latent mortality, he said. "Latent mortality relative to a damless reference is not measurable," Poe added. The focus should be on the total mortality of in-river migrants and transported fish, which is the critical issue

for recovery of listed salmonids, he said. Efforts would be better spent on processes, such as in-river versus transport mortality, which can be measured directly, Poe stated.

The ISAB recommended future monitoring and research to quantify biological factors contributing to variability in estimated post-Bonneville mortality, he said. In particular, the ISAB recommends acoustic tags continue to be developed and used to assess mortality in the lower river, estuary, and ocean, Poe added.

Since you've said that latent mortality isn't really measurable, how does the ISAB conclude that some latent mortality exists? Karier asked. We know stress makes salmonids more vulnerable to predators, and that historically, the question of water travel time is important, and we know there's a cost to the fish in the smoltification process, replied Poe. But most of these things are indefinite and difficult to show in the field, he said.



What's Up? Jacks

Robin Ehlke of the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife updated the Council on the status of the spring chinook salmon run. The 2007 preseason forecast, based on jack counts, was 78,500 upriver spring chinook, she reported. That includes 9,200 Upper Columbia fish, 1,200 of which are wild; and 38,500 Snake River spring chinook, with 13,100 wild fish, Ehlke said. Our constraints, put in place for managers before the run begins, include Endangered Species Act (ESA) impact limits, *U.S. v. Oregon* impact allocation, and non-Indian allocations, she explained.

The impact limits for 2007 are: Treaty Indians, 7 percent at 78,500, and 7 percent at 82,000; non-Indians, 1.5 percent at 78,500, and 2 percent at 82,000, Ehlke said. The 2 percent for non-Indians is allocated between sport and commercial fisheries, with 0.855 percent to sport, and 0.645 to commercial, she noted, adding that all the fisheries are managed with a buffer of 10 percent.

The upriver spring chinook count at Bonneville Dam in March was less than the 10-year average, but within expectations, Ehlke reported. The lower-river sport fishery is about normal, with 1,100 fish caught; the lower-river commercial fishery had three openings, landed 2,700 fish, and closed March 23 because it met the impact limit, she said.

In April, the upriver spring chinook count at Bonneville Dam was within our expectations, and we didn't need to update our preseason forecast, Ehlke continued. We closed the lower-river sport fishery April 15, right in line with our predictions, she said. In the mainstem below Bonneville Dam, there were 67,200 angler trips, with 5,600 chinook kept, which is about comparable to recent years, Ehlke stated. Between Bonneville Dam and McNary, there was a minimal catch, and the fishery closed May 4, she said.

By April 30, 30,700 upriver spring chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is within expectations, Ehlke continued. The run appears to be slightly late, she noted. Other chinook stocks have been tracking within our expectations, Ehlke added.

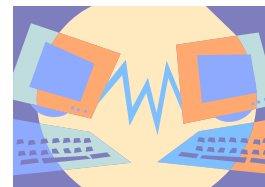
As of May 14, 54,000 upriver spring chinook were counted at Bonneville Dam, she reported. Over 10,000 of those are jacks, which is a record high, Ehlke said.

We've seen 21,300 fish through May 11 at McNary, and 8,300 fish through May 13 at Lower Granite, which is ahead of the 10-year average, she noted. At Priest Rapids, 2,000 fish had passed as of May 11, Ehlke added.

Staffer Jim Ruff said the good news to take away from the presentation are the high jack counts, which are "a preview of coming attractions" for the next few years. This year we see a 270 percent increase in the jack count at Bonneville Dam over the 10-year average, and at Lower Granite, a 128 percent increase, he noted. These are good numbers, and we hope they will hold up in the next few years, Ruff added.

Karier asked Ehlke if she had any theories about the late starts of the fish. Some say it is temperatures, or flows, or marine mammals, she replied. It could be a number of things – there's not one thing that answers that question, Ehlke said.

AHA Meets APE



Paquet kicked off a discussion of two analytical tools being used in the region to support salmon recovery planning and hatchery reform, the All-H Analyzer (AHA) and the All-Population Evaluator (APE). He said both the Congressionally mandated Hatchery Reform Project and the review of Mitchell Act hatcheries under NEPA are using the two tools.

Chip McConnaha of Jones and Stokes explained that AHA analyzes a single fish population in regard to the four Hs, while APE is a tool for "rolling up" AHA results for all fish populations to evaluate biological performance at the province or Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) levels. For the Council's program, the tools can help

in the development of biological objectives at the provincial, subbasin, and basin scales, he said.

Jesse Schwartz of Jones and Stokes said APE pulls together AHAs and allows a comparison of how different fish populations are doing and different subbasins are performing. The next step is to refine the variables for the non-habitat Hs, such as future hatchery policy, and how the hydro system is going to be configured in the future, McConnaha explained. We also need to decide how to address climate change in the models, he noted.

We hope to work with the Council on the development of biological objectives, McConnaha said. You are "holding this out on a platter" and saying "this could be available," but what's the trigger? Kempton asked. We have biological objectives for each subbasin plan, and these tools enable the Council to evaluate biological objectives provided by various groups, replied Paquet. Is there additional funding required to make this work? Kempton asked.

We may need to hire technical assistance or a consultant to help us run the model, look at the biological objectives in the subbasin plans, and roll them up to the provincial or ESU scale, Paquet said. Since this tool is in the public domain, other groups will be able to use it, and that could mean a more structured debate on biological objectives if everyone is using one common tool, he stated.

I disagree with using this to set biological objectives, said Tom Iverson of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA). This is a valuable tool to test your objectives, but it can't set them, he added. It will also be useful to CBFWA because we are currently extracting

objectives from the subbasin plans, evaluating limiting factors, and getting ready to develop strategies and actions, Iverson pointed out.

The Council understands this is a tool that provides a starting point for discussion, said Eden. I favor getting the technical assistance so the Council can evaluate what the fish managers bring us, using the same tool, she stated.

F&W Amendments Are Tastier If You Add Biological Objectives



Paquet reported that an Ad Hoc Biological Objectives Workgroup has been meeting to discuss how to address biological objectives in the Council's upcoming F&W amendment process. Members of the group include Council staff; BPA reps; customer groups, including PNUCC, the Public Power Council, and RiverPartners; and F&W managers, he noted.

The group has agreed on six points to guide its activities, according to Paquet. Those include: identifying opportunities to improve the articulation of biological objectives in the Council's program; determining the risks and benefits of including new biological objectives in the program; identifying the role the objectives will play in program implementation; and discussing the relationship of the objectives to BPA's mitigation responsibility.

The bottom line, Paquet said, is the group will discuss objectives, but not develop them. We hope by having this kind of dialogue before we get into the amendment process it could lessen the debate during that process, he stated.

Getting Ready to Crunch the FY 2008 Numbers



In a presentation on the FY 2008 start-of-year budget process, staffer Patty O'Toole said if the Council is going to make recommendations to BPA for FY 2008, it needs to be done soon. In the next few weeks, BPA will lay out a revised budget, and we'll respond to that, she said. Then it will become the "working budget" for FY 2008, for tracking program and project spending, O'Toole noted.

In March, BPA identified about \$17-20 million that was available for project funding in FY 2008 and 2009, but it looks like after BPA makes the latest round of adjustments, the unallocated funding is likely to be around \$11-12 million, she said. These funds will be available for Council recommendations and Biological Opinion (BiOp) needs, and BPA has told us that additional BiOp needs will be coming down the road, O'Toole explained.

Out of the \$17 million, how much is allocated for BiOp needs? Eden asked. They haven't given us that kind of detail, replied O'Toole. I think we need to get that kind of detail, Eden said. I'm not convinced that all the BiOp responses have to come out of the Council's program, stated Cassidy.

END NOTES

Advice from Kirby Heath. Kirby Heath of the Warm Springs Tribes read a statement from CRITFC about the Fish Passage Center Oversight Board expressing reservations about the Council's ability to play a neutral role. CRITFC is asking the Council to postpone seeking candidates for the board until the Council meets with tribes and addresses their concerns, he said.

The Council spends a lot of time on "things that are really down in the weeds," such as very detailed budget adjustments for F&W projects, and "tinkering with oversight for the FPC," according to Kirby. These "seem like a job for an accounting staff, not the hand-picked representatives of the governors of the four states," he stated.

Heath suggested the Council help the Warm Springs and others work on "a complete and clear" F&W plan that "does what the law requires and meets all of our needs." If you don't refocus your energy in that direction, you will find others have developed it without you, he said.

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Council 2007 Calendar

June 12-14	Bonnors Ferry, ID
July 10-12	Portland, OR
August 14-16	Washington
September 11-13	Portland, OR
October 16-18	Missoula, MT
November 13-14	Coeur d'Alene, ID
December 11-13	Portland, OR