



BPA seeks proposals to aid fish affected by power emergency operations

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration is looking for projects that could increase survival of fish in the Columbia River Basin this summer. Specifically, BPA is looking for proposals that can go into effect this year to address adverse impacts on fish that resulted from emergency hydro operations this past winter and spring. (This solicitation is for proposals over and above the high priority projects that BPA recently announced it would fund.)

The proposals must address only fish that have been affected by the emergency operations, not by the drought in general. Based on estimates from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Northwest Power Planning Council, BPA's emergency operations are expected to have the greatest impact on middle and upper Columbia salmon and steelhead stocks. Impacts on Snake River salmon and steelhead are estimated to be quite limited. Barging fish around dams, which is considered to be most effective in low water years, is expected to counter some of the negative effects.

The primary focus of the solicitation is to address impacts of the power system emergency on salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. However, BPA also recognizes that the power emergency will affect some non-listed salmon, steelhead and resident fish species and will consider proposals targeted at addressing those impacts. All proposals will receive independent scientific review. Proposals also will be evaluated to ensure they are consistent with the Endangered Species Act, the Northwest Power act, federal tribal treaty and trust responsibilities, and state laws.

Proposals can be presented under four categories: 1) actions to increase tributary flows; 2) tributary habitat passage improvements; 3) tributary diversion screening; and

4) fish stock relocation and outplanting. BPA expects any proposals for water acquisition projects to increase flows to be coordinated with states and other agencies with appropriate water rights authorities. Since BPA wants to see actions that can be initiated quickly, environmental reviews, landowner agreements and other actions must be completed to implement the projects within the year.

This solicitation is meant to identify only those short-term actions that can be taken this year to help fish affected by this year's power system emergency. Although it is anticipated that some of the benefits to affected fish resulting from these actions will continue in the long term, they must be implemented this

year. Additional actions to help fish affected by the power system emergency may be funded after this year's hydro operations. However, longer-term mitigation and recovery actions will continue to follow the review processes established by the Northwest Power Planning Council and those described for the federal agencies' Implementation Plan for the 2000 Biological Opinions on the Federal Columbia River Power System. Proposals that are not approved for funding under this solicitation may be re-submitted for funding in the appropriate Council Provincial Review.

Copies of the solicitation for proposals, including criteria, are available by calling the BPA information center in Portland (503) 230-7334 or outside Portland 1-800-622-4520. Callers should ask for the "BPA 2001 Action Plan for Fish in Response to the Power System Emergency." Forms and instructions can be found on the following Web Site:
<http://www.efw.bpa.gov/EW/PROPOSALS/ActionPlan/RFP.htm>

Proposals are due by close of business May 24, 2001. Proposals can be submitted electronically or mailed to the following address.

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905 N.E. 11th Avenue
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