

*Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
NOAA Fisheries
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

February 19, 2015

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Walla Walla District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Subject: USACE Walla Walla District solicitation number W912EF-15-R-0018

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Vail:

The state, tribal, and federal fishery management agencies recently became aware of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Walla Walla District solicitation request for biological services (solicitation number W912EF-15-R-0018). The request for proposal (RFP) for biological services was originally issued on February 12, 2015, and re-issued a second time on February 17, 2015.

The USACE Walla Walla District is requesting biological services for fish condition monitoring and barge loading calculations at smolt transportation projects. For the past several years these USACE tasks have been integrated with the larger Bonneville Power Administration-funded Smolt Monitoring Program for cost effectiveness, efficiency, and to minimize fish handling.

We are concerned that the RFP does not accurately reflect present implementation agreements that integrate the USACE tasks and the Bonneville Power Administration-funded Smolt Monitoring Program. The presently implemented integration of the Smolt Monitoring Program and USACE tasks represents a significant success in collaboration, coordination, and cost effectiveness. Staffs of states, tribal, and federal agencies, including the USACE and Bonneville Power Administration, worked successfully together to integrate the smolt monitoring and USACE tasks, developing a well implemented data collection and data sharing program. It is

imperative that the collaborative, transparent, data sharing, cost effective and efficient structure of these integrated activities continue. Because the RFP as written does not contribute to this objective, we are requesting that the RFP be recalled and revised in collaboration with the state, tribal, and federal co-managers.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,




William Tweit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Chris Kern, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Rob Lothrop, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



Peter Hassemer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game



Ritchie Graves, NOAA Fisheries



Howard Schaller, US Fish and Wildlife Service

cc: Brigadier General John S. Kem, Commander North Pacific Division USACE
Colonel Jose L. Aguilar, Commander Portland District USACE
Nona R. Fincher, Contract Office, USACE-ED