

KITTITAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 6, 2014

ACTION REQUESTED: Requesting the Board of County Commissioners to approve and sign the consultant agreement for the Naneum, Wilson and Cherry Creek Watershed Assessment

BACKGROUND: This Naneum, Wilson and Cherry Creek Watershed Assessment project proposes to assess existing conditions in the Naneum, Wilson and Cherry Creek watersheds in order to work toward the development of long-term management plans that address floods, infrastructure, fish habitat needs, and irrigation in streams and ditches north and east of the City of Ellensburg.

The assessment will rely upon frequent and meaningful communication with stakeholders, including landowners, agencies, irrigation districts, local governments and non-profit organizations. With landowner permission, project partners will inventory the streams and their tributaries for fish screens, passage barriers, irrigation control structures and habitat suitability. Fish surveys above and below the passage barriers will also be completed. Water rights and points of diversion will be mapped, with particular emphasis on potential efficiencies offered by dual water right situations. The historic and current management of flows between the streams will be researched and documented.

This assessment is a critical first step toward determining what is needed to restore fish passage into the Upper Naneum watershed, and towards consensus on priority salmon recovery actions in these Upper Yakima tributaries. This project is expected to benefit steelhead trout, chum salmon, and spring-run Chinook salmon.

The project will be completed through a partnership with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Kittitas Conservation District, Yakima River Basin Wildlife Enhancement Program and the US Forest Service. A technical committee with representatives from resource

agencies will be convened, and landowners will be involved throughout the process.

The Flood Control Zone District advertised for consultant qualifications and chose Jacobs as the most qualified. Four firms responded to the request for qualifications.

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| INTERACTION: | Flood Control Zone District, Public Works |
| RECOMMENDATION: | Approve and sign the consultant agreement |
| HANDLING: | Please return two originals to the Flood Control Zone District. |
| ATTACHMENTS: | Jacobs Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement, Scope of Work, and Cost Estimate |
| LEAD STAFF: | Christina Wollman, Public Works Department, Planner III |