

SRBA 2012 Round 6 Request for Proposals

Background

In 1987, the State of Idaho commenced the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). Stemming from a water rights dispute between the State of Idaho and Idaho Power, an Idaho Supreme Court ruling on a water rights dispute between the State of Idaho and Idaho Power Corporation, affected 150,000 water right claims throughout the entire Snake River basin and its tributaries.

In 1993, as part of the SRBA process, the Nez Perce Tribe filed 3 sets of claims to water rights that had been established by treaties in the mid 1800's. After protracted negotiations, the State of Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe and Federal natural resource management agencies came to agreement on what would become called the Snake River Water Rights Agreement. Passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2004, the Snake River Water Rights Act ratified the agreement which would "(1) finally and fully determine the Tribal claims to water rights, (2) set out the understanding and criteria necessary to provide long-term ESA compliance for water use in the Snake River basin in Idaho and for timber land management activities on state and private lands, and (3) protect existing water uses."

The SRBA Agreement establishes a Habitat Trust Fund to provide funding for habitat improvement projects under instream flow and forestry practices improvement programs administered by the State of Idaho. The primary focus of the Habitat Trust fund is to benefit ESA listed aquatic species by improving instream flows, fish habitat and removing barriers to fish passage.

Request for Proposals

The Idaho SRBA Board is pleased to announce the request for SRBA Round 6 project proposals. There is approximately \$11 million available to fund projects benefitting Idaho's anadromous fish habitat. Project proposals will be accepted until May 30th 2012. The SRBA Board will place greater weight to project proposals that are most closely aligned to the goals and objectives outlined in the SRBA Agreement Term Sheet. For a general description of the priorities specified within the agreement, please review the accompanying guidance documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Edmondson at 208-334-2189 or by e-mail at mike.edmondson@osc.idaho.gov.