

June 29, 2018
Priest Lake Coldwater Bypass Summary

Clark Fork Settle Agreement

In 1999, Avista and 26 other parties signed the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement, charting a path forward for the next 45 years to address natural resource issues in the Clark Fork River basin. This Agreement embodies the principles of collaboration and adaptive management among state and federal agencies, five Native American Tribes, local governments, landowners, recreationists, non-governmental organizations, and Avista. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission incorporated the Agreement into the 45-year license issued to Avista in 2000. Avista is required to implement the terms of the License.

CFSA Management Committee

The Management Committee is comprised of 27 voting members, including Avista, and meets twice a year to review projects for the year's implementation plan, vote on funding, and discuss the direction of current and future projects.

Avista's involvement in this project is:

- A) Through the MC, the funding of a feasibility study was approved in 2018.
- B) The coordination of the logistical elements, including issuing a Request for Proposal.(This is the case for many of the projects carried out under the License.)

Project Background

- Augmenting the Priest River with cold water from Priest Lake has been investigated by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Kalispell Tribe for a number of years. The Kalispell Tribe funded a study in 2014 to investigate if there was adequate cold water in Priest Lake to support a bypass project.
- Fall of 2017 IDF&G submitted a formal proposal to the Management Committee to fund a feasibility study of the cold water bypass.
- After a number of revisions to IDFG's proposal, it was included in a 2018 Annual Implementation Plan to be reviewed and approved by the Management Committee
- On March 13, 2018, the Management Committee approved the proposal for funding of a feasibility study.
- IDFG and Avista worked collaboratively to develop and submit a Request for Proposal to a list of contractors developed by IDF&G and Avista.

What's Next?

- IDFG will select a contractor and work with the contractor to evaluate the feasibility of the effort. That process will include public input, which IDFG has already started.
- For technical questions regarding the feasibility study, please contact Kiira Siitari at IDFG (208) 769-1414 or kiira.siitari@idfg.idaho.gov.
- For Clark Fork License or Settlement Agreement questions please contact Nate Hall at Avista (406) 847-1282 or nate.hall@avistacorp.com.