

A Brief History of the StreamNet Project

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StreamNet resulted from the consolidation in 1995 of two Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)-funded data management projects, the Northwest Environmental Database (NED) and the Coordinated Information System (CIS). A brief historical outline of the steps involved in getting StreamNet to where it is today is as follows:

StreamNet Basic History

- 1984 Hydro Assessment Study / Pacific Northwest Rivers Study (PNRS):
As a part of the NWPPC Hydro Assessment Study, the PNRS was “designed to produce a consistent and verifiable river resource database.” The assessment phase was conducted in 1985, review completed spring 1986 and information was entered into computers by fall 1986. This system was updated and enhanced in following years.
- 1988 Protected Areas; Northwest Environmental Database (NED):
One of the primary uses of the PNRS efforts was the designation of over 40,000 miles of streams in the Columbia Basin as “Protected Areas” from additional hydropower development. This protection remains in place today. The PNRS was renamed the Northwest Environmental Database in 1988.
- 1991 Coordinated Information System (CIS):
As a component of the Sub-Basin Planning process and follow-up to work initiated by the NWPPC for anadromous fish data, the CIS was initiated to compile and establish a regional data system. The components of the system are described in Section 3.3 of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.
- 1993 CIS regional management/administration moved to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission had initiated and maintained this role for CIS until this time.
- 1995 NED and CIS merged to form StreamNet:
These two major data programs were merged for various reasons and renamed StreamNet: Northwest Aquatic Information System.

Funding History, Geographic Scope and Project Focus

Northwest Environmental Database (FY 1984 – 1995)

Funding:

1984 – 1995 All funding was received from BPA contracts. Funding for the NED was from outside of the F&W Program Budget. Each State Fish and Wildlife Agency contracted directly with BPA.

Geographic Scope:

Initially was the Columbia Basin, but as the project matured, the geographic scope of the NED expanded to include the entire States of WA, OR, ID, and MT.

Project Focus:

The primary focus of the NED project was based on what do we know about a river/stream. Major data categories included: resident fish, wildlife, cultural features, natural features, recreation, stream protection, and hydropower development or potential. NED initiated the use of the EPA river reach system and hydrologically based data in the region. Much of the data were qualitative in nature.

Coordinated Information System (FY 1989 – 1995)

Funding:

1989 – 1992 All funding was received from BPA contracts. Funding for the CIS was part of the F&W Program Budget, under the Anadromous Fish group of projects. Each participant contracted separately with BPA.

1993 Project administration was moved to PSMFC. One primary contract between BPA and PSMFC was established, with sub-contracts to participating organizations.

1994 – 1995 The primary funding source continued to be from BPA (F&W Program). BPA COTR strongly suggested to CIS participants that they work towards obtaining “shared funding” from others (i.e. NMFS, EPA, etc.)

Geographic Scope:

The geographic scope for CIS was the range of anadromous fish in the Columbia Basin.

Project Focus:

The primary target of the CIS project was tabular data regarding anadromous fish in the Columbia Basin.

StreamNet - BPA Contract (FY 1995 – present)

Funding:

1995 – present NED and CIS projects were merged to form StreamNet. The primary BPA contract for all activities of the merged project was with PSMFC, with sub-contracts to participating organizations. The merged project added MT to participants PSMFC was sub-contracting to. All funding was from the F&W Program, under the Anadromous Fish group of projects.

Geographic Scope:

The geographic scope of StreamNet was by default the entire states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana (scope of the NED project). However, the primary funding source for the project was the NWPPC F&W Program – with a primary focus on the Columbia Basin.

When additional funding was received from NMFS and EPA, the geographic scope of the project legitimately expanded to coastal Oregon and Washington, and California.

Project Focus:

The current project focus can be somewhat derived from the project goal and objectives, and current Statement of Work.