



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

January 5, 2007

Tom Karier, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Chairman Karier:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members have reviewed the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) proposed Innovative Project Solicitation, and offer a recommendation. The CBFWA suggests that the Council utilize the current suite of unfunded 2007-09 proposals as the reservoir from which to select innovative projects. The Council should begin working with the fish and wildlife managers as soon as possible to (1) develop ranking criteria that address critical fish and wildlife protection, enhancement, and mitigation needs, and (2) determine which proposals meet these criteria. The Council could then make funding recommendations by March 2007. The CBFWA offers this recommendation as an alternative for a FY 2007 decision; however, funding should not be restricted to FY 2007 only.

Use of existing proposals will minimize the time devoted to "process" and will facilitate rapid project implementation. This reduction in process time will benefit the fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin through more expedient action.

Please contact Brian Lipscomb at (503) 229-0191 to begin discussions on how CBFWA and the Council can work together to develop innovative criteria and determine which proposals meet these criteria. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ron Trahan, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Cc: Council Members
CBFWA Members
Greg Delwiche, BPA