



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific First Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
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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 fish and wildlife 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 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

September 2, 2009

Mr. Bill Booth, Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 77204-1348

Dear Chairman Booth:

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) have reviewed the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) document "Tagging Report, A Comprehensive Review of Columbia River Basin Fish Tagging Technologies and Programs" (Report). In addition, the CBFWA Members reviewed the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) staff recommendation to the Council dated May 28, 2009. The Report is a good summary of existing tagging technology and the limitations of various technologies; however, the CBFWA Members do not support all Report or Council staff recommendations.

The CBFWA Members recommend that the Council delay any action on the Report or staff recommendation until the framework for a basin-wide Research Monitoring and Evaluation program is established. The establishment of a decision framework and identification of key management questions will determine the type and magnitude of marking and tagging programs required with consideration of the limitations of tag type. The decision framework will be informed by the region-wide workshops scheduled to be completed by the end of September, and CBFWA Members, along with Council and BPA staff, are expected to provide recommendations based on these workshops.

The CBFWA Members also offer the following comments and recommendations for your consideration:

- We recommend against establishment of additional committees and processes for coordination and oversight as proposed. Many of these proposals are already being implemented. Establishment of additional committees and processes would be inefficient, duplicative, and result in unnecessary expenditure of funds.
- Many of the specific marking issues and questions identified in the Report are more appropriately addressed by individual researchers or research groups specific to their project as a condition of funding. These issues include analytical methods and the anticipated management application of results.

Chairman Booth
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
September 2, 2009
RE: CBFWA Comments to ISRP/ISAB's Tagging Report #2009-1
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Thank you for consideration of our comments on the Report and the Council staff recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elmer Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elmer" being more prominent than the last name "Ward".

Elmer Ward, Chairman
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: Council Members and Staff
CBFWA Members