

Conserving Land
for People

February 9, 2001

Mr. Tom Giese
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
2501 SW First Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97201

**Re: NWPPC High Priority Projects
Project ID: 23012
Arrowleaf/Methow River Conservation Project
Project Sponsors: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and
the Trust for Public Land**

Dear Mr. Giese:

Thank you for the opportunity to correct an error in the report of the ISRP Review of Fiscal Year 2001 High Priority Proposals, dated February 1, 2001. The ISRP expressed very strong support for the project, yet it was categorized as a "Category B" proposal. It appears this resulted from an error in interpreting how much the project sponsors are requesting from the Fish and Wildlife Program.

The Arrowleaf project sponsors are requesting \$3.75 million for the purchase of conservation easements over approximately 600 acres of the 1,020-acre Arrowleaf property. TPL negotiated the purchase of the property at a total project cost of \$17,055,000, which is the amount erroneously stated as being requested from the Fish and Wildlife Program. To the contrary, a Fish and Wildlife Program ("FWP") appropriation of \$3.75 million to this project will be leveraged against an innovative combination of private and other public funding sources to complete the project. This cost-sharing arrangement is of the type looked upon with approval by the ISRP in its review of the Camp Creek Ranch project, a Category A proposal. That, at a perceived cost to the FWP of \$17 million, the ISRP stated that the Council "should look at the cost of this purchase relative to other purchases" is the only negative comment made by the ISRP strongly indicates that this project should properly have been a Category A proposal, as it is in CBFWA's review.

Thus, the ISRP comment that the cost of the project to the FWP is excessive should be disregarded. Instead, focus should be placed on the ISRP's other comments. The ISRP unanimously supported the project. The Arrowleaf property is "clearly desirable." This

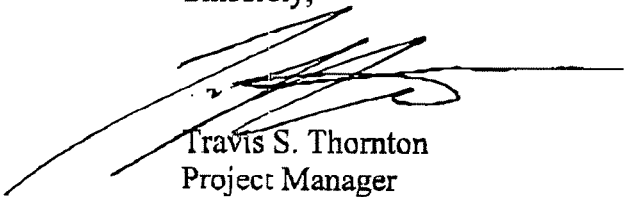
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project presents "an important opportunity that should be seized upon by the Council and BPA." The property has "many wildlife and habitat features that approximate pristine condition."

We request that CBFWA point out this error in its revised report to be issued on February 15. TPL will submit additional comments directly to the Council within the designated comment period. Thank you for your assistance with this matter, and please contact me immediately with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Travis S. Thornton
Project Manager