

Methow Subbasin Summary

APPENDIX E – LETTER REQUESTING COMMENTS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED

September 20, 2001

TO: Methow Subbasin Summary Team (and all interested individuals)

FR: Alison Squier - Lead Writer & Joe Foster - Team Leader

RE: Methow Subbasin Summary – Request for Comment and Information for
Inclusion in Special Appendix

As most of you have come to know directly or indirectly, a document called the Methow Subbasin Summary, which is intended to identify and catalogue existing information and activities in the Methow Subbasin, is currently being developed. This document is being developed as part of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish & Wildlife Program, Rolling Provincial Review.

Under the 1980 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, the Northwest Power Planning Council is directed to prepare a program to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin that have been affected by the construction and operation of hydroelectric dams while also assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply. The Act also directs the Council to inform the public about fish, wildlife and energy issues and to involve the public in its decision-making.

In 2000 the Northwest Power Planning Council made a number of changes to the Fish & Wildlife Program process. Those changes included adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to its fish and wildlife program that is oriented around a basinwide vision for fish and wildlife, which is in turn, supported by specific biological objectives and action strategies. Under this new process the Columbia River Basin has been organized into eleven Provinces with 63 watershed-based subdivisions called Subbasins. Subbasin summaries are being developed for each of these Subbasins.

These Subbasin summaries are intended to identify and catalogue existing information and activities necessary to make informed choices about the types of fish and wildlife mitigation and restoration projects that should be supported and funded within each Subbasin. The Subbasin summaries are the first step in a process that will culminate in the development of Subbasin Plans that will ultimately guide fish and wildlife restoration activities in each Subbasin (to learn more about the fish and wildlife program please refer to the Northwest Power Planning Council's web site at www.nwcouncil.org).

A number of you have expressed a desire to actively participate in the development of the Methow Subbasin Summary and have concurrently expressed your frustration at the very tight deadlines for submission of materials and review of documents. We also recognize that there are important differences of opinion regarding current habitat conditions within the Subbasin, interpretations of existing data, and disagreements regarding the nature of information being included or excluded from the Subbasin Summary.

We share your frustration with the short development timeline for the Methow Subbasin Summary. However, the overall timeline is not in our control. The timeline for this process was developed by the Northwest Power Planning Council and the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority (CBFWA). The “kick-off” date to begin the Methow Subbasin Summary process was July 31, 2001, and the final Subbasin Summary document must be turned in to the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority on September 28, 2001.

Our intention is to do the best possible job of representing existing conditions within the Subbasin, which includes, clearly acknowledging and presenting the differences of opinion regarding those conditions. We do not want to gloss over these differences or exclude your participation in this process.

Some of you have told us you will not have time to adequately review the document given the existing deadlines, or have expressed concerns that your expertise and intimate knowledge of the Methow Valley will not be reflected to your satisfaction in the document that is being developed. Therefore, we are adding a special appendix to the document that will contain letters with any comments you wish to submit regarding the 1) development process and timeline for the Subbasin Summary, 2) content of the Subbasin Summary, and/or 3) information about existing information and activities within the Subbasin.

The deadline for submission of letters for inclusion in the comment appendix of the Methow Subbasin Summary is: Wednesday, September 26, 4:00 p.m.

Please submit all materials by email to Alison Squier at: alison@softridge.net and to Joe Foster at: fostejh@dfw.wa.gov

Appendix E

To: fostejhf@dfw.wa.gov

From: Jay Lucas

Methow Valley Sport Trails Association

re: II A; existing goals, objectives & strategies

(I believe this to be the closest section to which addresses my concern of ancillary cost associated with fish & water projects.)

The idea of having an agency, whether it be USFWS, NMFS, BPA,ect., to come into the valley to do a project and not to have them consider the total financial implications to all, from the very beginning, has to be changed.

Although we all continue to work towards better habitat, it should not be done at the expense of others. The example that hits home for us is the USFWS Goat Creek project #1998-02900. Three agencies funding this project, NRCS,USFWS, & BPA, all having budgets in the millions, are doing a project that will require us(a small non profit) to replace an eight year old existing bridge that cost less than \$5,000, with one that costs \$150,000. That's more money than we can possibly generate for capital projects in over 5 years. If these projects are that important, money should be found for the "entire project".

Sincerely,

Jay Lucas

Executive Director

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