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**RECEIVED**

October 13, 2009

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CBFWA

Mr. Elmer Ward, Chairman  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority  
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97204-1339

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your comments and recommendations regarding the fish-tagging report to the Council by the Independent Scientific Advisory Board and the Independent Scientific Review Panel. I appreciate that the CBFWA members do not agree with all of the recommendations in the report or all of those subsequently made by the Council's staff.

According to your letter, the CBFWA members recommend against establishment of additional committees and processes for coordination and oversight as proposed by the ISAB. The members also suggest that many of the specific marking issues and questions identified in the report are more appropriately addressed by researchers or research groups.

However, the Council is committed to a collaborative approach to monitoring and evaluation, and this includes marking fish and gathering and assessing data from marked fish. Section II.D.9.a of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program states:

The Council recognizes there is a wide range of parties involved in research, monitoring, and evaluation for different and legitimate purposes as well as a number of efforts to coordinate that work. It will be critically important to continue the collaboration and partnerships that have been developed. The Council will involve a wide range of parties in the region to establish, oversee, and periodically adjust guidelines for monitoring and evaluation efforts coordinated through the Program. This involvement will occur with representatives from the Council, Bonneville, federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, the Corps, the Bureau, and others as necessary.

The Council staff will report at the Council's December meeting about how the ISAB's recommendations are being considered or implemented by others in the region. Thank you again for your comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Crow  
Executive Director

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