

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2005 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #05 - 07

**“REQUESTING THAT THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
PROVIDE FULL FUNDING FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION,
MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT IN ITS 2007-09 RATE CASE”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian treaties, executive orders and the federal Trust Responsibility, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

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WHEREAS, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has a Trust Responsibility to the Columbia Basin tribes; BPA funds measures to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife under the Northwest Power Act and recovery efforts under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); BPA is developing fish and wildlife costs for Fiscal Years 2007, 2008 and 2009 for inclusion in its next rate case, in which BPA will establish the rates it will charge for the electricity that it markets from the federal dams; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC) has determined that the federal hydropower system was responsible for the loss of five to eleven million salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River, the loss of resident fish and resident fish habitat, and the loss of wildlife and wildlife habitat that were damaged by the construction, inundation and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS); and

WHEREAS, the NWPPCC has set a goal to double existing salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River (from 2.5 to 5 million annual returns) and set goals to mitigate for wildlife and resident fish losses caused by the construction, inundation and operation of the FCRPS; and

WHEREAS, the NWPPCC has adopted specific policies and recommendations for resident fish substitution for areas where salmon and steelhead runs are completely blocked by federal dams; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Basin fish and wildlife managers worked with watershed councils, community groups, the NWPPCC and BPA to develop subbasin plans for the entire Columbia Basin to address the goals, biological objectives, and other requirements of the NWPPCC's 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program, and have developed cost estimates for implementing these subbasin plans; and

WHEREAS, the heads of NOAA Fisheries, BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation have asserted their "firm commitment to ensure the survival of Columbia Basin salmon" and other fish and wildlife, and written approvingly of these subbasin plans, stating that "... a remarkable collaboration of local citizens, landowners, tribes and state and federal agencies has produced draft fish and wildlife plans for 59 Columbia River sub-basins"; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive schedule to implement subbasin plans will result in efficient and cost-effective protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, while delayed implementation will result in greater actual costs and opportunity costs; and

WHEREAS, federal actions to address the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife impacted by the FCRPS have thus far been inadequate; and

WHEREAS, aggressively implementing subbasin plans will address federal laws and the federal Trust Responsibility and Environmental Justice and equity issues, and will result in significant progress toward achieving the goals of the Northwest Power Act, the ESA, and the United States' treaty obligations and Trust Responsibility to Columbia Basin Indian tribes; and

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WHEREAS, implementing the subbasin plans will support rural and tribal economies, construction and recreation jobs, and tribal and non-tribal fisheries, and will improve environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, implementation of subbasin plans is consistent with, and will further, the goals of the NWPCC's 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians requests that BPA, the NWPCC, and other regional decision-makers support adequate funding for fish and wildlife in the BPA rate case; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these funding commitments must be directed to address the impacts to fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin above Bonneville Dam as a first priority, that such funding must be directed to measures that complement the tribes' existing and future fish and wildlife management, that such funding not be used to support mass marking activities, and that such funding will only support those projects that are wholly consistent with the federal government's treaty, trust, and other obligations to the Basin's tribes; and

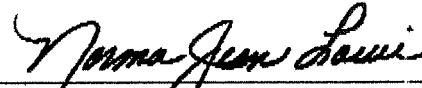
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians supports the budget developed by the fish and wildlife managers for the implementation of the subbasin plans and other measures to address the Integrated Program, including the proposal submitted to BPA by the Upper Columbia United Tribes; the Integrated Program budget (for implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program and the FCRPS Biological Opinion) identifies funding needs of \$189 million in FY 2006, \$250 million in FY 2007, \$300 million in FY 2008, and \$350 million in FY 2009.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel Portland Airport in Portland, Oregon, on February 10, 2005, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary