



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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May 17, 2007

Greg Delwiche, Vice President,
Environment, Fish and Wildlife
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Delwiche:

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) appreciate that you and your representatives have met with us individually over the past several months to evaluate funding levels for projects for FY08-09 and to optimize implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program within our general areas of responsibility. According to your February 9, 2007 decision letter (linked at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/budget/2007/bpa/Default.htm>), it appears funding for several ongoing projects that support critical regional collaboration efforts has been reduced. These projects include the Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP), the Comparative Smolt Survival study, NOAA hatchery research project, Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project and others. We request that ongoing projects in the Mainstem and Systemwide category of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) project selection process be funded until a deliberate process can be initiated to adjust those recommendations in an open and transparent manner.

We understand you did not have the opportunity to participate in many of the province level decision making processes for project selection. However, BPA representatives were very active in the Mainstem and Systemwide Review Team. The MSRT provided reviews of all projects in the Mainstem and Systemwide category. The MSRT was a thorough and thoughtful process that included representatives from your agency and other non-CBFWA members. The recommendations represented compromises from all participants and the hard work and collaboration should be honored until a better process is initiated.

Several processes are currently under way to address many of the ongoing Mainstem and Systemwide projects. Discussions among the five "coordination" project sponsors are proceeding to develop definitions to guide funding recommendations for FY08 and FY09. It is anticipated that project funding recommendations for NPCC consideration will be completed in the Fall of 2007 for these projects (and possibly for an additional project to support the Upper Snake River Tribes). The contract year for most of these projects begins in April; therefore, adequate time is available to support your contracting requirements.

The CBFWA has established a Data Management Framework Subcommittee that will develop recommendations for "data management projects" working closely with the Northwest Environmental Data network project. We anticipate providing recommendations for this suite of projects in July for FY08-09 funding. We will also be providing a funding recommendation for the CSMEP project consistent with this framework.

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 Department of 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

Mr. Delwiche, BPA

May 17, 2007

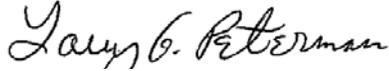
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We reiterate that BPA should provide FY08-09 funding for critically important ongoing projects in the Mainstem and Systemwide categories that support regional decision making. These projects will potentially be lost or unnecessarily delayed, if funding is not provided.

The NOAA Fisheries' representative to CBFWA abstained from taking a position on this action.

Thank your for consideration of these recommendations. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Brian Lipscomb at (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,



Larry Peterman, Vice-Chair
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members
NPCC Members
Steve Wright, BPA