



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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 Fish, Wildlife & 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
Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

June 9, 2008

Mark Walker
Public Affairs Division Director
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the seventh annual report to the Northwest Governors on Bonneville Power Administration expenditures to implement the Council's Program. The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) commend the Council on providing this report to the region and support the continued development of the report.

It is our belief that this report and the Status of the Resource Report (SOTR) should be merged into one reporting effort. We are currently working with the Council and others to design a monitoring and evaluation program, with data management priorities, to support this level of reporting into the future. It is our desire for the report to the Northwest Governors to be one example of an executive summary of data available real-time in the SOTR. We would like to see greater reference to the SOTR in this report (e.g., see www.cbfwa.org/sotr for further detail), and possibly a summary paragraph in the Summary section. Our current 2006 SOTR reports Bonneville (and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund) spending by province and subbasin for the most recent rate period 2002-2006. This may be a useful and convenient reference for your target audience. You may even choose to send hard copies of the SOTR in conjunction with mailing your report to the governors. Copies are available upon request.

Finally, to be consistent with the current Fish and Wildlife Program, Figure 10A should be modified to demonstrate the Habitat Unit goal of the Program, rather than only the habitat units lost and the habitat units acquired. It is our belief that this graph implies adequate progress towards the Program's wildlife obligations when in fact we have barely mitigated 25% of the construction and inundation losses as defined by the 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program, after 20 years of implementation. At the current rate of protection, the Program will not be able to meet its wildlife habitat unit goal.

The fish and wildlife agencies and tribes of CBFWA are prepared to work closely with the Council to provide any data necessary to support annual reporting for the Program. We have established a viable framework for supporting basinwide reporting in the SOTR and will work with the Council to establish stable and reliable data management and reporting into the future.

Sincerely,

Larry Peterman, Chairman
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc:
NPCC Members and Staff
CBFWA Members