

## **DRAFT for Members Review & Approval Members Teleconference August 6, 2008**

August XX, 2008

Gregory K. Delwiche  
Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife  
Bonneville Power Administration  
905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Delwiche:

The fish and wildlife agencies and Tribes of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA Members) are concerned that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is contemplating to manage the contract for future habitat evaluations performed by project number 200600600 using the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP). As you are aware, the BPA currently contracts with the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation (CBFWF) to conduct the HEP assessments across the Basin. The HEP coordinator is supervised as an employee of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA). This helps assure consistent and efficient products for the rate payers' investment. The contracting arrangement also provides accountability to the agencies and Tribes which are the entities with the statutory responsibility for managing the fish and wildlife resources of the Columbia River Basin. The Members of CBFWA have never considered that CBFWF serves only as a conduit for the funding.

It is important not to confuse the technical work that produces a HEP assessment with the more complex process of crediting benefits against the losses ledger and resolving associated policy implications. The CBFWA Members are the leading technical experts on the application of HEP. The proper implementation of the process requires close coordination, involvement, and subsequent peer review from local managers with knowledge of local conditions. Participation on HEP teams by qualified BPA staff has always been encouraged to assure a transparent process. Applying net credit for a project against the losses ledger is a separate process. For these reasons it is important to the Members of CBFWA that the BPA continue to contract with the CBFWF for the HEP work and the program continue to be supervised by CBFWA.

It is our hope that we are all in agreement that the HEP assessments must be objective and technically robust, with the subsequent products displayed and utilized in a transparent manner. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA Executive Director, at 503/229-0191

Sincerely,

Larry Peterman, Chairman  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc:  
CBFWA Members