



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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February 28, 2011

Robert Walton
Chair, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
Pacific First Building
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97204-1339

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Dear Chair Walton:

This letter serves as formal notice that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) will withdraw from the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) effective April 1, 2011. This notice is provided consistent with Section 406 of the CBFWA Charter.

Our withdrawal, as unfortunate as it is, is based on the following factors:

1. The fish and wildlife management "landscape" in the Columbia Basin has changed significantly in recent years. Some of the changes have diminished the need for regionally-based coordination among the Basin's fish and wildlife managers. Other changes have created opportunities for the fish and wildlife managers to work together in regional and sub-regional forums that focus attention and efforts on specific topics of common interest.
2. Given this changing landscape, the demands on staff of the fish and wildlife agencies to effectively participate in and contribute to efforts to plan, implement and evaluate activities that affect fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin have increased dramatically. This requires us to set priorities for how we staff those forums that deal with issues of significant interest to Oregon. Given our current staffing levels, the demand for our participation forces us to make difficult choices.
3. Although we share common interests with other fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia Basin, and remain committed to working closely with others on those interests, we believe we will be more effective by investing available coordination dollars in our staff, rather than in a shared centralized staff and its associated infra-structure.

The Department supports the policy directives in the CBFWA work plan, especially those related to assessing and reporting on the status of fish and wildlife and how they respond to management actions. As such, we will continue to work with our co-managers on issues of common interest to collectively manage, protect and restore Columbia Basin fish and wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

Roy Elicker
Director

cc: Jann Eckman, Acting Executive Director, CBFWA

