



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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October 6, 2006

Rick Sherwood, Chairman  
Spokane Tribe of Indians  
P.O. Box 100  
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Dear Chairman Sherwood:

As the Chairman of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), I am writing to provide an update on several key discussions of regional importance to all of the tribes and other fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia River Basin. As we deliberated on these issues at our recent meeting in Astoria, Oregon, the CBFWA Members continued to note, with regret, the absence of your input to the discussions and invite you to consider participating with the CBFWA whether or not your Tribal Council decides to rejoin as a full member. Because you are an entity with fish and wildlife management authority, there are funds available for your attendance and participation in these meetings and discussions which would cover both time and travel. We could also help to keep you informed by providing you with the agendas and actions notes for our meetings. The CBFWA Members prefer to discuss these issues with your valuable input as we exercise our collective authority to help formulate the policies that affect all of our resources.

As the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) works on its final recommendations of projects to mitigate, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife resources affected by the Federal Columbia River Hydropower System (FCRPS), the CBFWA has continued to analyze the total breadth of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Our analysis has been disturbing, and we are concerned that the progress envisioned in the subbasin planning process for the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program may be lost through the FY 2007-2009 project selection process due to insufficient funding. We have communicated this concern to the NPCC in a letter to their Chairman dated August 30, 2006; numerous essential needs that will not be met at the current funding level were identified in this communication. Our hope is that this list of needs will be the basis for further discussion with the NPCC, and Bonneville Power Administration to identify more funding opportunities.

In an effort to develop an effective Fish and Wildlife Program evaluation tool that works from a regional prospective and helps the fish and wildlife managers clearly articulate the status of fish and wildlife resources across the region, the Members are currently implementing the Status of the Resources Project and developing the associated *Status of the Resources Report*. This project includes an interactive website that will provide the region with historical project information, the current status of fish and wildlife populations, and the extent to which the managers are attaining regional biological objectives. The CBFWA members envision using the results from this effort to assist in the development of recommendations for any adjustments that need to occur during the NPCC's amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Program. Our plan is to promote this report and website using an aggressive public relations campaign so that all of the region's stakeholders appreciate the value in the efforts of the CBFWA to restore the basin's fish and wildlife resources.

The CBFWA sponsored a Data Management Workshop on September 20-21, 2006, to discuss a data management framework, that will support adaptive management for the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program. Key management questions need to be addressed at the basinwide scale regarding how data can be collected, shared, and presented to address these questions. Resolution of these management questions will provide a greater level of detail for CBFWA's Status of the Resource Project. This initial workshop focused on re-prioritizing the data that is managed by StreamNet and the Northwest Habitat Institute. These projects support regional access and distribution of key data necessary to inform regional decision making.

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 government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead 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

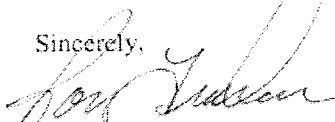
Chairman Sherwood  
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The CBFWA Members recently agreed to reactivate the Fish Passage Center Board of Directors. This action renews and emphasizes the management role of the CBFWA Members in Columbia River issues and management, including river operations. This is an important step that promotes the management role that each CBFWA Member brings to regional decisions associated with the operations of the FCRPS.

Again, the CBFWA Members continue to deliberate these issues and invite your valuable input. The members have worked diligently to address all of the original concerns outlined in your May 2005 letter of withdrawal. As stated in our previous letter, our goal is to be an organization that assists all of the fish and wildlife managers in their efforts to restore Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife resources.

If you would like to join in our discussions or if there is anything else we can do to assist you, please call me (406) 675-2700, ext. 1003, or Brian Lipscomb, the Executive Director of CBFWA, (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,



Ron Trahan, Chair  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

Cc: CBFWA Members  
NPCC Members  
Greg Delwiche, BPA

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