

Kalispel Tribe of Indians

12 October 2007

Tom Karier, Chair
Rhonda Whiting, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Ave., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Chairman Karier and Member Whiting,

The Kalispel Tribe has endured a longer than anticipated process to collaborate on the definition of coordination along with the four other coordination contractors, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) staff. Since the beginning, the Tribe has espoused a philosophy that coordination is a simple activity associated with the individual sovereign that is well supported under the Power Act (Act). We believe the fish and wildlife managers and tribes broadly agree to that principle and yet the document has been sufficiently edited and wordsmithed, reducing emphasis of that principle. As a result we cannot support it.

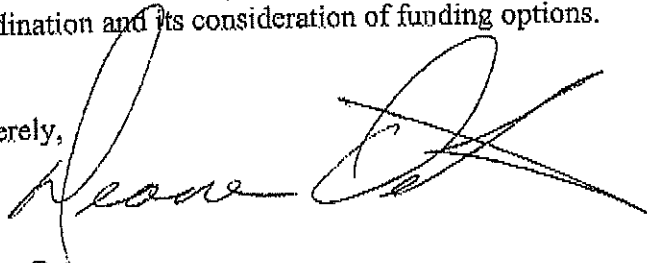
The final document, although partially agreeable, is more of a guidance document for contracting than a succinct answer to the Council's initial request. The essential pieces are missing or obscured from the Tribe's perspective. We see it more simply and clearly: coordination is the sovereign's ability to represent its interests and engage in the processes that affect those interests as they relate to the program and its implementation. As non-coordinating bodies, membership organizations such as CBFWA and UCLT cannot represent our interests, but they may enhance them through facilitation of common interests.

We have incorporated recent ISRP information to better define our activities and deliverables. We see coordination activities boiling down to interactions with the Council, BPA, fish and wildlife agencies, ad hoc committees, and standing processes to represent our Tribe's needs and interests related to the Program and its implementation. The deliverables are simply attendance and the development of materials to support the individual sovereign interests. These can be easily reported and tracked.

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We had much higher hopes as to the final product, but we feel strongly that much good effort and work was accomplished during this process. There is no agreement to a funding level or strategy and we consider that regional coordination should be accomplished within the funding targets as set by either the Council or BPA. We look forward to a fair and representative decision by the Council in regard to regional coordination and its consideration of funding options.

Sincerely,



Deane Osterman
Director, Kalispel Natural Resources Department

cc: Greg Delwiche, Vice President of Environment, Fish, and Wildlife, BPA
Bill Maslen, Director of Fish and Wildlife Division, BPA
Larry Cassidy, Northwest Power and Conservation Council member
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