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Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Northwest
Power and
Conservation
Council

Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

October 13, 2009

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CBFWA

Brian Lipscomb
Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97204


Dear Mr. Lipscomb:

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) invites you to participate in its Wildlife Crediting Forum.

As you are aware, the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to develop a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin and to make annual funding recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration for projects that enhance, mitigate, and protect fish and wildlife populations adversely affected by the operation and maintenance of the Columbia River hydropower system.

Mitigation for wildlife losses has been based on use of the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP). Loss statements, using HEP, have been prepared for inundation of wildlife habitat caused by the construction of the Columbia River hydrosystem. Losses are expressed in terms of Habitat Units (HUs) by species for each hydroelectric project. Under the terms of the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, mitigation activities funded by Bonneville are credited against the loss statements. For a number of years, regional stakeholders have disagreed about how to credit habitat units acquired through various mitigation activities.

The Council revises its Program every five years. In the 2009 revision, the Council called for the initiation of a Wildlife Mitigation Crediting Forum to: "1) recommend a commonly accepted ledger of habitat units acquired; 2) recommend to the Council ways to resolve issues about accounting for habitat units; and 3) develop a common data base for tracking, assigning and recording habitat units." In addition, "[a]s part of the crediting forum, the Council will work with Bonneville and the managers to develop a comprehensive agreement on the proper crediting method for construction and inundation losses or strategies that will allow parties to reach long-term settlement agreements. Once completed, the Council will consider adopting the comprehensive agreement into the Program." The Wildlife Crediting Forum will advise the Council regarding the following issues, which the Forum will address in the following sequence:

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- (A) Developing and recommending to the Council a commonly accepted ledger of habitat units acquired by Bonneville
- (B) Developing a common data base for tracking, assigning and recording habitat units
- (C) Recommendations to the Council on ways to resolve issues about accounting for habitat units
- (D) Reviewing issues related to wildlife crediting, such as the frequency and use of the Habitat Evaluation Procedure following the initial baseline evaluation. The forum could also provide recommendations on acceptable alternative evaluation procedures

The Council will contract with a coordinator/facilitator to undertake activities necessary to carry out these activities.

It is anticipated that much of the work of the forum will be of a technical nature. Accordingly, we ask that you appoint a technical representative to the forum in addition to yourself. The first meeting of the Forum will likely occur in early December 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Grover', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Grover
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

**Wildlife Crediting Forum
Distribution list:**

Jason Kesling, BPT
Cameron Heusser, Cd'AT
Anders Mikkelsen, Cd'AT
Ronald Peters, Cd'AT
Richard Whitney, CCT
Dale Becker, CSKT
Art Soukkala, CSKT
Tracy Hames, YN
Reynold Leno, CTGR
Jenny Barnett, CTUIR
Carl Scheeler, CTUIR
Doug Calvin, CTWS
Rick Hayes, CTWS
Terry Luther, CTWS
Katherine Cousins, IDFG
Steve Elam, IDFG
Gregg Servheen, IDFG
Matt Berger, KT
Ray D. Entz, KT
Sue Ireland, KTOI
Norm Merz, KTOI
Scott Soult, KTOI
Alan Wood, MFWP
Loren Kroneman, NPT
Keith Lawrence, NPT
Angela Sondenaa, NPT
James Noyes, ODFW
Michael Pope, ODFW
Eric Rickerson, ODFW
Aren Eddingsaas, SBT
Michael Haddix, SBT
Lynneil Brady, SPT
Carol Perugini, SPT
B.J. Kiefer, STI
D.R. Michel, UCUT
Dan Diggs, USFWS
Nate Pamplin, WDFW
Ken MacDonald, CBFWA

