



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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 fish and wildlife agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville 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

April 4, 2007

Tom Karier, Ph.D., Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
705 West First Avenue, MS-1
Spokane, WA 99201

Stephen Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Dr. Karier and Mr. Wright:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's (CBFWA) Members are currently refining and summarizing management objectives for fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin. The Members intend to provide this information as recommendations to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) during its call for amendments to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (F&W Program). The CBFWA Members will submit their recommendations so the NPCC can respond to the Northwest Power Act requirement that the F&W Program be consistent with the existing plans of the fish and wildlife managers.

The CBFWA's recommendations for management objectives will build on and improve the existing F&W Program, including the NPCC's 2000 Program, 2003 Mainstem Amendment, and Subbasin Plans by refining existing objectives and providing the linkage between subbasin level objectives and regional scale goals. The recommendations will also incorporate goals and objectives contained in recovery planning, existing Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) biological opinions, US v. Oregon agreements, the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the Clean Water Act.

The fish and wildlife managers, working with their local and regional partners, will develop and recommend to the NPCC a framework for the F&W Program that is consistent with and incorporates, as appropriate, critical elements in state and tribal fish and wildlife management plans, recovery plans, and biological opinions. During the next several months, the fish and wildlife managers will collaboratively work with others to refine the definitions for focal populations, biological objectives, and determine how best to express limiting factors, strategies and actions at the population scale. This framework will explicitly integrate existing data management systems for comprehensively managing population/subbasin-scale information and ensure that objectives are expressed in common and consistent terms across the basin.

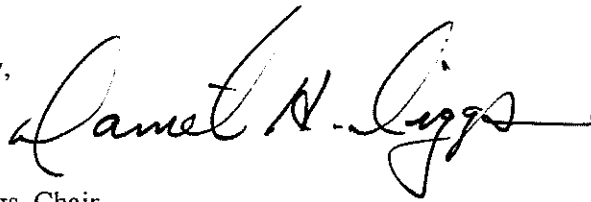
Pending regional agreement on management objectives and the set of critical factors limiting our success, the managers intend to develop strategies and actions necessary to successfully protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin. We anticipate including these strategies and actions in the set of recommendations the fish and wildlife managers submit to the NPCC during the proposed

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amendment process in 2007. Through that process, specific BPA responsibilities can be defined and funded.

It is the fish and wildlife managers' intent to work closely with our local and regional partners to ensure our efforts incorporate their input, garner their support, and build on their existing activities. Through collaboration and partnering we can ensure an amended F&W Program is comprehensive and is implemented based on a thorough understanding of linkages and obligations as called for by the Northwest Power Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Diggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Diggs, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

cc: CBFWA Members
NPCC Members
Greg Delwiche, BPA