



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific First Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | Website: www.cbfwa.org

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 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

February 3, 2009

Mr. Bill Booth, Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Booth:

The Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) recently adopted a charter to formally establish the Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC). The FSOC has been facilitated by CBFWA for a number of years, but until now had not been operating as a chartered committee. The functions of the FSOC include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Providing CBFWA Members with technical information necessary to facilitate effective planning and implementation of fish screening projects in the Columbia River Basin;
- (2) Facilitating discussion among fish managers of the technical merits and implications of projects and issues to find consensus agreement;
- (3) Providing a forum for federal, state, Tribal, and private entities to exchange information on fish screening concerns in the Columbia River Basin; and,
- (4) Planning and implementing the Bi-annual Pacific Northwest Fish Screening and Passage Workshop.

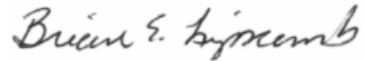
As you are aware, Mitchell Act funding for fish screens is currently inadequate to fully cover necessary operation and maintenance costs, and further reductions in Mitchell Act funding for screens are possible. The CBFWA Members recently assigned the FSOC to work with the CBFWA Members Advisory Group (MAG) to identify annual funding needed to cover costs of screen replacement, operation and maintenance, and to develop strategies to maximize the likelihood of obtaining this funding.

We note in Tony Grover's January 21, 2009 letter to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) regarding the Oregon Fish Screens Project that the Council is also interested in a comprehensive strategy for fish screening including the Mitchell Act Program. As FSOC completes its work, we would be glad to share it with the Council, BPA, and others, and collaboratively pursue any strategies.

Mr. Bill Booth, Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
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We look forward to resolution of this important aspect of the Fish and Wildlife Program. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Ward at dave.ward@cbfwa.org or (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,



Brian Lipscomb
Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: Tony Grover, NPCC
NPCC Members
Bill Maslen, BPA
Greg Delwiche, BPA
CBFWA Members
FSOC Members