



Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

P.O. Box 1269
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Ph# (208) 267-3519
Fax (208) 267-2960

March 31, 2009

Mr. Greg Delwiche, Vice-President
Mr. Bill Maslen, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Re: Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority – RM&E Funding

Dear Mr. Delwiche and Mr. Maslen:

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho supports, along with the other CBFWA Members, the work plan proposal for \$1,895,202 to coordinate member participation in various processes from the 2009 Amended Fish and Wildlife Program and Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (“RM&E”) for the 2008 Biological Opinion.

The Tribe urges the Bonneville Power Administration to work with CBFWA to identify additional funding as needed to support CBFWA and Member participation in development of essential RM&E frameworks. Development of these essential frameworks will not take the place of or duplicate sovereign forums such as the Regional Implementation Oversight Group. Instead, the Tribe views development of these essential frameworks as necessary technical assistance for the fish and wildlife managers’ use in those sovereign-to-sovereign discussions.

The Tribe looks forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Aitken, Sr., Tribal Council
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

cc: Sue Ireland, Kootenai Fish and Wildlife Director
Billy Barquin, Kootenai Attorney General
Brian Lipscomb, CBFWA Executive Director