



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

May 07, 2009

Nancy Leonard
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland OR 97204-1348

Dear Ms. Leonard:

Thank you for accepting comments on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) list of High Level Indicators (HLIs) for use in the Fish and Wildlife Program. We provided extensive comments on these indicators in July 2008 (http://www.nwccouncil.org/fw/program/hli/2008_07/cbfwa.pdf) and appreciated your consideration of our suggestions at that time. The March 13, 2009 request for comments appears to focus on data sources from which you will acquire the data for your reports. We have commented on this aspect of the HLIs in both our July letter and in our Program amendment recommendations. We would like to reiterate the importance of the Status of the Resources Report (SOTR) and website for transmitting this information to the region. Our desire is for efficient and effective access to data that minimizes multiple and duplicative requests to the individual collectors of data across the region. We are encouraged by this effort to regionally agree on HLI's.

The agencies and Tribes of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) have devoted significant effort over the past two years to develop recommendations for the Council on biological objectives, high level indicators, and reporting. We are currently working on a monitoring and evaluation strategy to support reporting of the indicators we identified, those prioritized for recovery monitoring, and those prioritized in the newly adopted Fish and Wildlife Program. The 2009 Program identified a process for developing biological objectives and we encourage the Council to pursue that process with earnest. It may be premature to establish many of the HLI's prior to establishing the Program's objectives. We encourage the Council to ensure these efforts are coordinated.

The agencies and Tribes have aligned the SOTR report and website with salmon and steelhead recovery monitoring, biological opinion implementation monitoring, and the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program. We would like to use the SOTR website to disseminate our data to regional entities such as the Council's M&E Report. We request that the Council rely on the SOTR for regional data needs and ensure that future reports to the region's governors and Congress are consistent with the SOTR. We are working to ensure that the SOTR products are consistent with salmon recovery monitoring and reporting needs and state-level reports such as the biennial Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) report and the

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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Nancy Leonard, NPCC

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Washington State of the Salmon report. Through the CBFWA forum we are committed to developing common reporting standards and providing data in a timely manner.

Thank you for consideration of our comments and we look forward to working closely with the Council in developing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan for the Program to support regional reporting of HLIs. If you have questions please contact Brian Lipscomb at (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elmer Ward", written in a cursive style.

Elmer Ward, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: Council Members
BPA Staff
CBFWA Members