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CBFWA

State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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March 4, 2011

Mr. Robert G. Walton  
Chair, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority  
Pacific First Building  
851 Southwest Sixth Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1339

Dear Chair Walton:

This letter serves as formal notice that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will withdraw from the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) effective April 1, 2011. This notice is provided consistent with Section 406 of the CBFWA Charter.

We first notified the membership of our intention to withdraw in 2010, in order to provide CBFWA and the members with time to plan for the impacts of our decision to withdraw. We reiterated our decision in our letter abstaining from a vote on the work plan for 2011-2012. We have provided our rationale for our decision on several occasions, and provide those again below.

1. The fish and wildlife management "landscape" in the Columbia Basin has changed significantly in recent years. Some of the changes have diminished the need for regionally-based coordination among the Basin's fish and wildlife managers. Other changes have created opportunities for the fish and wildlife managers to work together in regional and sub-regional forums that focus attention and efforts on specific topics of common interest.
2. Given this changing landscape, the demands on staff of the fish and wildlife agencies to effectively participate in and contribute to efforts to plan, implement and evaluate activities that affect fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin have increased dramatically. This requires us to set priorities for how we staff those forums that deal with issues of significant interest to Washington. Unfortunately, given our current staffing levels, the demand for our participation forces us to make difficult choices.
3. Although we share common interests with other fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia Basin, and remain committed to working closely with others on those interests,

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we believe we will be more effective by investing available coordination dollars in our staff, rather than in a shared centralized staff and its associated infra-structure.

We support the policy directives in the CBFWA work plan, especially those related to assessing and reporting on the status of fish and wildlife and how they respond to management actions. As such, we reaffirm our commitment to working collaboratively with our co-managers on issues of common interest to collectively manage, protect, and restore Columbia Basin fish and wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip Anderson  
Director