



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

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Oct #20.2

October 15, 2001

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr., Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

On October 5, 2001 the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members Management Group (MMG) discussed the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) request to reallocate funding from the Eagle Lakes Ranch Acquisition Project (#200002500) to the Rattlesnake Addition Project (#25020). Both the Eagle Lakes Ranch Acquisition and Restoration Project and the Rattlesnake Slope Addition Project have completed the Columbia Plateau rolling provincial review and received a "fundable" recommendation from the Independent Scientific Review Panel and "high priority" recommendation from CBFWA. The attached letter describes the request in detail. Because the Eagle Lakes Project is no longer viable, the Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that the Draft CBFWA Fiscal Year 2002-2004 Province Work Plan for the Columbia Plateau Province be amended to reflect the elimination of the project and the reallocation of approximately \$1,645,000 of carry forward funds earmarked for the Eagle Lakes Project to the McWhorter Ranch acquisition.

On October 10 the Wildlife Committee approved the FWS request with the condition that 1) no wildlife mitigation credits from this project will be charged against wildlife construction and inundation losses for Chief Joseph or Grand Coulee dams and 2) the remaining funds be provided through the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) exceptions process for the Columbia Plateau Province. The MMG agreed to forward the Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation for consent mail action by the CBFWA Members, which was approved today, October 15. The CBFWA Members recommend approval of this request by the NWPPC to be forwarded to the Bonneville Power Administration for funding.

If you have any questions, please call Brian Allee at CBFWA (503) 229-0191.

Sincerely,

Rodney W. Sando, Chair
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

Cc: Doug Marker, NWPPC
Bob Austin, BPA
CBFWA Fish and Wildlife Managers, Members Management Group

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