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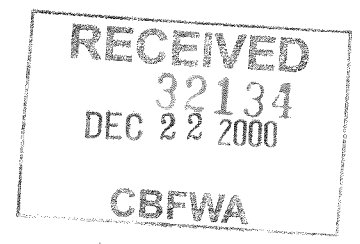
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December 21, 2000



Ms. Sarah McNary
Manager, Fish and Wildlife
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621; KEW
Portland, OR 97208

Sarah
Ms. McNary:

On December 18, 2000 at a special meeting conducted via telephone conference call, the Council unanimously voted to recommend that Bonneville fund the acquisition of a purchase option for a conservation easement on what is known as the "Holliday Property" in the John Day River basin, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

The option would preserve the region's ability to acquire the easement until the High Priority project selection process is completed. In that selection process, the proposed easement will receive review from the Independent Scientific Review Panel. The Council will be informed by these reviews, and will have the opportunity to compare the value of this project relative to others which are also seeking funding before making its final recommendation on the easement.

In deference to the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Budget MOA, the Council's recommendation to secure the option was made contingent upon a review by, and lack of objection from, CBFWA. I am advised that CBFWA has now completed its expedited review of the option proposal and the members were unable to reach a unanimous position on the matter, and therefore neither objects to, nor supports, the option. Thus, the Council's recommendation to fund this proposal stands, and is hereby provided you.

The Council recommends that the funds come from the Fiscal Year 2001 unallocated anadromous placeholder. Securing this purchase option at this time will preserve the ability to fully review a conservation easement acquisition proposal in a "priority subbasin" that has been developed and supported by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I thank you in advance for your continued and prompt attention to this matter. As you know, time is of the essence due to real estate market factors. If you have further questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

D. Robert Lohn
Director, Fish and Wildlife

Cc; Larry Cassidy
Bob Austin
Patty O'toole
Brian Allee