

OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor



P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0195

NATHAN A. FISHER
Administrator

300 North Sixth Street, Suite 101
Boise, Idaho 83702

May 18, 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 Idaho's comments on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) draft list of High Level Indicators (HLIs).

The Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC) is dedicated to planning, coordinating and implementing the State's actions to preserve, protect and restore species listed as threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act including implementation of the FCRPS BIOP, NWPCC Sub-Basin plans, and ESA Section 6 agreements. Its mission is to coordinate policies and programs related to the conservation of threatened, endangered and candidate species in Idaho.

Idaho sees merit in the effort to identify a regionally agreed upon set of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the region's anadromous fish recovery efforts. It is our understanding one of the primary uses of HLIs will be to update elected officials. We agree with this assessed need. Given the extraordinary demands on members of Congress, the Council would be well served to focus policy makers' attention on three to five indicators.

In order to truly represent the highest level of indicators the number of indicators should be reduced from 17. Ultimately, the success or failure of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program will not be determined by the number of projects implemented, fish screens installed, or acres conserved via easements. The Council should focus solely on a reduced number of biological indicators.

Given the Council's oft stated desire to evaluate and potentially reduce the level of resources currently committed to research, monitoring, and evaluation (R,M,&E) , any adopted biological indicator should not require new work or additional resources. The current fiscal environment, coupled with the existing funding commitments, does not permit an expansion of an already significant R,M,&E component.

Thank you for your consideration. Your efforts to carry out the mandates of the Northwest Power Act are appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan A. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nathan Fisher