



May 18, 2009

Bill Booth, Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
450 West State St.
Boise, ID 83720-0062

Subject: Fish & Wildlife High Level Indicators

Dear Chairman Booth,

On behalf of the PNUCC Board of Directors I commend the Council's efforts to effectively communicate the progress of the fish and wildlife mitigation efforts in the Columbia River Basin including those associated with your Fish and Wildlife Program. The time, energy and money being invested in improving conditions for the region's fish and wildlife species is extraordinary, and it is imperative that our decision makers, governors, Congress and the Administration recognize what is being accomplished.

The concept of a suite of biological indicators that are regularly and consistently reported will go a long way to improve the understanding of the progress the region is making in our mitigation efforts. The bits of information the Council has included in previous reports to the governors on the cost of implementing the Fish and Wildlife Program including fish counts, fish passage survival statistics, water temperatures and habitat acres purchased are a good start.

We encourage the Council to move forward with high-level indicators by building on what you have been doing and summarizing information that is readily available. The implementation indicators you are proposing that rely on data from Bonneville Power Administration's database, PISCES will provide a means for tracking the progress toward meeting the regional goals for habitat and stream reach improvements, land acquisitions, and in stream passage improvements.

For those indicators where information is lacking, PNUCC is counting on the Council to provide the leadership necessary to coordinate with the many entities engaged in fish and wildlife monitoring and evaluation to acquire the needed data. With the Council's leadership the region can be assured there is an efficient, well coordinated effort that provides the information you are seeking without expanding the region's monitoring and evaluation efforts.

The desire for the most complete set of data creates a challenge for the Council. There will be many ideas brought before the Council to collect more interesting and compelling information. We predict that you will be faced with the task of scrutinizing each new data collection proposal to ensure the additional information provides sufficient value to what is already being considered. The Council will have to remain diligent in their work to sort through such proposals. To assist you with your screening, the PNUCC Board recommends that the Council formalize the high level indicators with the commitment that this work be accomplished with no increase to the Fish and Wildlife Program budget.

Again, thank you for striving to improve communication of the region's work and what is being accomplished in the fish and wildlife arena. PNUCC looks forward to a set of high-level indicators that demonstrate the Northwest's strong commitment to fish and wildlife mitigation efforts in the region and shed light on what is working well and what needs improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Sanders".

Jim Sanders
PNUCC Chairman

cc: NW Power & Conservation Council Members
Tony Grover, NWPCC
PNUCC Board of Directors
Greg Delwiche, BPA