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Bill Booth, Chairman
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

2009005017

May 18, 2009

RE: F&W High Level Indicators

Dear Bill,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) proposed fish and wildlife High Level Indicators.

PPC supports the use of metrics to determine regional progress on implementation of fish and wildlife mitigation efforts and appreciates the leadership of the Council in that respect. The Council has and should continue to play a key role in providing reports on indicators of success such as those outlined as High Level Indicators in the document issued March 13, 2009. As noted in the specific comments below, PPC continues to recommend the Council take care to ensure that development and use of the indicators is appropriate the scope of its Program.

In response to the requested areas of comment:

1. *Potential of the Council's draft indicators to effectively communicate the Program's progress:*

A portion of the proposed indicators could be used to communicate Program progress. While the implementation indicators, hydro survival and wildlife metrics are appropriate to communicate the Program's progress, other indicators such as the abundance, habitat productivity, harvest, hatchery, and life cycle mortality indicators are outside the scope of Program responsibility.

2. *Which indicators, among those suggested by the Council or other indicators used in the region, are the most important to inform Congress, Governors and other regional decision-makers about Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife?*

The biological indicators proposed represent the type of high-level information that is important to Congress, Governors, and other regional decision makers. As these indicators reflect activities beyond the Council Program, it is important that they be developed and managed in partnership with other regional entities and efforts.

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3. *How should these indicators be derived to assure alignment with similar indicators used by the region to report to decision-makers?*

Significant regional resources are currently dedicated to collecting information about the status of Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife and the development of High Level Indicators should not result in the need to invest in additional collection of information. We recommend the indicators be derived through regional coordination to capitalize on existing processes and information and to minimize potential for duplication of effort.

4. *What is the availability of existing data to support these indicators and what is the quality of the available data?*

A variety of entities collect this data, including the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program. The Council should evaluate data availability and quality through existing regional forums. In order to provide the region with a useful tool to assess fish and wildlife status and mitigation efforts while maintaining consistency with the Northwest Power Act, the Council should act collaboratively to develop and implement High Level Indicators. Working with other appropriate entities in the region will ensure the proper indicators are being used and will best determine the appropriate data sources to support them.

Again, PPC is very supportive of the Council's pursuit and dissemination of data relating to fish and wildlife conditions for use by the region. We look forward to working with you to better define these indicators and the regional collaboration needed to address the above points.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Scott Corwin
Executive Director