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From: Walt Mintkeski [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, December 27, 2002 11:07 PM

To: comments@nwppc.org

Subject: document 2002-16, or "Draft Mainstem Amendments"

Mark Walker, Public Affairs, Northwest Power Planning
Council
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Walker,

The Northwest Power Planning Council, created by Congress in 1980 to balance the needs of salmon recovery with energy production, is proposing to take actions that would significantly harm endangered wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. It wants to reduce the amount of water in the Columbia and Snake Rivers, which helps fish migrate to sea.

I oppose the Council's "Draft Mainstem Amendments" because it is an attempt to modify part of the Council's overall Fish and Wildlife Plan so that Columbia and Snake River dams are operated in a way that: 1) reduces water flow for salmon in the crucial spring and summer migration months, and 2) questions the validity and effectiveness of spilling water - and young salmon along with it - over the dams.

The Council instead recommends that more salmon and steelhead be siphoned from the river and transported around the dams in barges and trucks, a strategy that has failed for over 25 years.

This draft proposal to slash the already-small amount of water allocated to Columbia and Snake River salmon is scientifically unsound, illegal, fiscally wasteful, and contrary to the repeatedly-expressed wisdom and wish of the people of the Northwest. Salmon need water!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Walt Mintkeski

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