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Rhonda Whiting Montana

March 1, 2007

TO: Council Members

FROM: Judi Hertz

RE: Update on Upper Snake River Tribes' Compact:

Tana Klum of CBFWA asked me to give you this information on the above item on the Council Meeting agenda. For your information, at the close of Council business on Tuesday, March 13, the Tribes will sign the compact. Those of you not on the Executive Committee are welcome to stay for the signing ceremony, which will take place in the room where the Council Meeting is being held.

The Shoshone - Paiute Tribes, the Shoshone - Bannock Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribe, are pleased to address the Northwest Power and Conservation Council by announcing the formalization of the Upper Snake River Tribes' (USRT) Compact.

The sovereign governments from each of the three Tribes have pledged their support by passing resolutions to create this Compact and approve its corresponding Charter. The primary goal of the Charter is to facilitate Tribal unity to protect and nurture all Compacting Tribes' rights, languages, cultures and traditions in addressing issues related to the Upper Snake River Basin; and, protecting Treaty Rights. Although each Upper Snake Tribe still maintains and protects their individual rights as a sovereign tribal government, the Compact is envisioned to create a coalition similar to that of the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) and the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT).

Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourselves with this exciting and historic event. We look forward to interacting with you and addressing the significant concerns of the Upper Snake River Tribes in the near future.

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