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From: Keith Wolf

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To: Baugh, Zenobia

Subject: Comment on document 2006-7

Comments on proposal 2006-7 Columbia Basin Data Center.

Currently, the configuration of any regional database (Data Center) should be done with caution and quite a bit of skepticism and tough questions within and outside PNAMP. For example, we have been able to develop and deploy a simple and adequately powerful (and cheap) relational database in one of the subbasins in the Upper Columbia that can link all RME data to any portal system and retain ownership and accountability. This system is currently using a standardized data dictionary (John Day) and has inherent flexibility for future upgrades and configurations as agreed guidance or requirements come forward. Thus, data can be rolled up and comparable analysis can occur now, and in the future, as new or different indicators and analytical processes emerge out of forums such as PNAMP and CSMEP.

I think many believe that a Columbia Basin Data Center could succeed if done with care, caution, strict rules and the highest degree of QA/QC through ownership, not transfer, of data. However, it would have to do it in a cost-effective manner. Others equally believe that this kind of project creates its own weather and often falls of its own weight if it does not adhere to the Keep-it-Simple (KISS) principle.

My experience is that *capacity mixed with institutional process ethic* equals little progress and failure to reach simple objectives. On-the other hand, *capacity mixed with a production and products ethic* is what I personally implore PNAMP to support. If the Data WG recommends, and the PNAMP SC agrees, then some form of framework recommendation could be compared to the current proposal. The *Columbia Basin Data Center* proposal suffers from the former malady (i.e., capacity mixed up in a process and institutional process) as far as I can tell-and that does not achieve regional objectives. I believe the objectives can be (must be) refined and attained in a much more simple and cost-effective manner.

Many of the fish and wildlife managers are squarely in favor of simplicity, data sharing, and ownership/accountability for data quality and clear analytical processes. These are derived from standardized indicators, protocols and metrics. In sum, a simple system (portal perhaps) with unfettered access across all programs and management entities is needed. Requirements for folks to use a common data dictionary get's the job done without creating unnecessary, complex and costly bureaucracies. These that have proven to under perform more often than they either meet or

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exceed expectations across the County and in Canada also.

In summary, NPCC and BPA must get clearer direction from a larger and more encompassing constituency (14 tribes, state agencies etc.). Right now the data management issue is heavily driven by some federal agencies wishing to create large expensive and possibly unnecessary institutions. The track record in this regard has been poor regarding unregulated access and timely delivery of a management product for decision-making. At worst, these processes will require funding levels which I believe could be detrimental to implementation of the baseline F&W program. It should not be lost on anyone that that would mean we'd have an inadequate level of data to manage making decisions more error bound and dependent upon assumptions and vulnerable to critical uncertainties.

Simply put, the cost of institutional solutions to data and data management are out of line with the current resources needed to implement subbasin, BiOp and recovery plans. The costs of developing a simple and functional portal system, for instance, appears to be much more in line with competing, yet equal, priorities

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