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Columbia County Board of Commissioners

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Dayton, Washington 99328
(509) 382-4542

May 17, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Subject: Support for and Approval of Walla Walla Subbasin Plan

Dear Chair Danielson:

Columbia County has been working for over a year with others involved in our subbasin to develop the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan. We provided significant guidance throughout the process, from policy-level decisions to discussion of specific language. A public review draft of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan was distributed on April 12, 2004, with the public comment period closing on April 23, 2004. Public comments have been addressed in and responses appended to this plan.

On May 4, 2004, the Water Resource Inventory Area 32 Planning Unit recommended approval of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan. Columbia County agrees with the Planning Unit's recommendation and hereby submits the subbasin plan for review by the Northwest Power & Conservation Council. This plan represents a joint effort on behalf of local stakeholders to identify priorities for aquatic and terrestrial species habitat restoration and protection. These priorities are scientifically-based and take into account local opportunities and issues of concern. While we agree with the majority of information provided in the plan, areas of disagreement have been noted and will be addressed by ongoing discussions in the appropriate forum.

We approve this plan to guide the expenditure of Bonneville Power Administration project funding through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council for the next several years. This plan is provided with the recognition that additional refinements and scientific

District 1
Dwight Robanske

District 2
Richard Jones

District 3
Charles G. Reeves

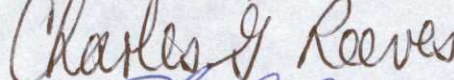
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understanding is needed. New information and plan implementation over time will likely result in updated priorities and strategies. Columbia County does not view this plan as the subbasin's Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance plan for listed species (aquatic or terrestrial), but it will inform the ESA compliance process that is being conducted through other planning efforts. We look forward to the opportunity for further refinement of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan and the benefits that will be achieved through its implementation.

Sincerely,

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS:

Charles G. Reeves, Chairman



Richard W. Jones, Commissioner



Dwight Robanske, Commissioner

