

CONFIDENTIAL Comments to:  
*The Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the  
Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*

Mr. Tony Grover  
Fish and Wildlife Division Director  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

2001010007

**Mr. Grover:**

The following are comments specific to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's, Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Draft for Public Review, September 2, 2008: Council document 2008-11):

**Juvenile Fish Passage**

**Need:** Improve downstream survival of anadromous fish species

**Action:** Install river-grade flume/canal connecting Lower Granite pool (and all downstream reservoirs) with tidewater in lower Columbia River

**Purpose:**

- 1 - Collect and pass smolts in historically timely fashion (2-3 wks from headwaters to tidewater);
- 2 - By-pass aquatic predators

**Potential Concerns:**

- 1 - Risk of disease within flume/canal system
- 2 - Concentration of aquatic/avian predators at tidewater outlet

**Tertiary Benefit(s):**

- 1 - Efficient use of reservoir water, particularly during drought
- 2 - Improved/sustained reservoir fisheries
- 3 - Reduced mainstem aquatic predator populations due to reduced food source

**Adult Harvest**

**Need:**

- 1 - Eliminate "take" of upstream migrating threatened/endangered adult anadromous fish species by netting/trapping/snagging methods
- 2 - Assure equitable (legal) verification of tribal fish harvest/allocation

**Action:** Install diversion gate and holding pond at Bonneville dam. Divert/hold upstream migrating adults on alternate days.

**Purpose:**

- 1 - Identify/release all threatened/endangered adult anadromous fish species to continue upstream migration
- 2 - Validate/verify equitable tribal and sport fishing allocations
- 3 - Equitably distribute tribal food, ceremonial and commercial allocations involved tribes.

**Potential Concerns:**

- 1 - Contentious allocations between tribal entities (to be resolved through CRITFC or joint tribal governing body)

CONFIDENTIAL Comments to:

*The Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the  
Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*

2 - All upstream commercial and/or tribal net/trap/snag harvest methods prohibited (only sport fishing techniques allowed)

**Tertiary Benefit(s):**

- 1 - Efficient tribal harvest of fish in premium conditions (weight/flesh quality)
- 2 - Reduce contentious relations between tribal and sport fishing interests

Questions

- ⋄ I am aware of circumstances involving the water resources division of the Nez Perce Tribe insisting that funds be expended (and/or are expending) to protect naturally marginal (low gradient, fine substrate, shallow) anadromous fish habitats. These projects appear to be palliative in both need/benefit. What entity within the BPA monitors to assure that Nez Perce Tribe-proposed fish projects are both necessary and effective? ...how effective? ...what actions have been taken to verify/validate need/effectiveness? ...what adjustments/decisions have been made to correct or improve practices based on verification/validation?
- ⋄ The water resources division of the Nez Perce Tribe conducts an extensive amount of "monitoring". There appears to be duplication with both state and federal monitoring programs/practices. How is water resources division of the Nez Perce Tribe information being used to improve smolt survival or adult migration? ...what inferences/decisions are being generated from this monitoring(?) that would improve these conditions? ...how is the tax/rate payer being served (efficiency/effectiveness) in promoting the health and productivity of anadromous fish species?
- ⋄ Under what authority is the water resources division of Nez Perce Tribe allowed to spend BPA funds to inventory and treat noxious weeds? ...noxious weeds on National Forest managed lands? ...palliative measures with respect to fish species and habitats in coniferous forest habitats/environments!

Most Respectfully,



**DENNIS E. TALBERT**