



KOOTENAI TRIBE OF IDAHO

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2006010050

Mr. Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power & Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Ave., Ste. 1100
Portland, OR 97204

October 5, 2006

Re: Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Draft Recommendations for FY07-09
BPA Fish & Wildlife Projects

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Tribe) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) recommendations to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for FY07-09 project funding. As you know, the Tribe has been actively engaged in the development of subbasin plans and the subsequent project solicitation process in the Mountain Columbia Province.

We appreciate that the Council generally respected the work of the Mountain Columbia Provincial Oversight Group. The Tribe understands the Council's difficult job in developing its recommendations. The Tribe would like, however, to reiterate its support of the original recommendations of the Mountain Columbia Provincial Oversight Group submitted to the Council in June. Tribal, state and federal managers invested significant time and effort in evaluating and recommending the most appropriate projects for implementation of the biological objectives found in the Kootenai and Flathead subbasin plans and also in providing a balanced provincial budget.

Finally, we appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Council and other entities in the Columbia River Basin in the restoration of the fish and wildlife resources that are so important to the Tribe. The successful restoration of our lost native fish and wildlife resources and their habitats is essential to the culture and the health of the Tribe. Please contact Sue Ireland, our Fish and Wildlife Director, at 208 267-3620 with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Porter
Jennifer Porter, KTOI Chairperson

OCT 05 2006