



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 3, 2006

2006010046

Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: NWPCC Proposal #200711200 – Teanaway Watershed

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) draft list of FY 2007-09 fish and wildlife project funding recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) strongly supports the recent funding proposal by the Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) (Proposal #200711200), in which the KCT plans to implement actions in the Teanaway watershed that will protect critical habitat with a series of conservation easements along the North Fork Teanaway River. Additionally, the KCT's proposal will help restore floodplain function using priorities outlined in the *Teanaway Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)*, which will reduce water temperatures and enhance instream flows.

Among the specific reasons for Ecology's support of the KCT's proposal are the following:

- The KCT has a good understanding of the needs of the watershed and is aware of Ecology's findings related to the TMDL studies.
- KCT has brought significant match to the proposal including considerable Salmon Recovery Funding Board cash and in-kind project management labor.
- The KCT's proposal incorporates (1) floodplain protection using conservation easements and habitat restoration with large woody debris, riparian planting, and (2) grazing solutions. Both of these elements are considered necessary for long-term watershed health, and full restoration of anadromous fish species.
- The Teanaway watershed is nearing the tipping point in regard to conversion to uses other than natural resources (i.e., imminent division of large tracts of private timber land into residential parcels). Time is of the essence for protection of this key watershed.

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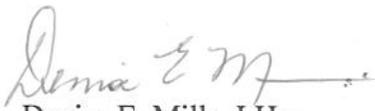


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- The Bonneville Power Administration's investment in the Teanaway to date is significant, and the KCT project will help protect that investment.
- Ecology recognizes the need for actions in the Teanaway to maintain the watershed's function as critical aquatic habitat.

Please feel free to contact either Jane Creech of my staff, or me, at any time regarding this project. You may reach Jane by phone at (509) 925-2557 or by e-mail jton461@ecy.wa.gov, or me at (509) 457-7107.

Sincerely,



Denise E. Mills, LHg
Section Manager
Water Quality Program

DEM:ww

cc: Larry Cassidy
Tom Karier
Tony Grover
Jane Creech