



February 7, 2003

Mark Walker
NWPPC
851 SW 6th Ave. Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) is providing the attached consensus recommendation regarding the description of the Fish Passage Center (FPC) in the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPC) Draft Mainstem Amendments (Draft Amendment) to the *2002 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program*.

The FPC was established cooperatively to provide technical support for the state, tribal, and federal fishery agencies. The Draft Amendment proposes the reduction in the role of the state, tribal, and federal fishery managers relative to oversight of the FPC, and does not provide an adequate role for the tribal entities that depend on the FPC for technical support. We believe the FPC has been and continues to provide regional services and that the management structure as it currently exists is functioning. The fish and wildlife managers believe that direct supervision of the FPC by the CBFWA Executive Director is essential to assure that FPC activities complement existing and future activities of federal, state, and tribal fish and wildlife managers.

This is a consensus recommendation from the CBFWA. Individual CBFWA members may also be submitting their individual recommendations and comments on the Draft Amendment.

Sincerely,
[signed]

Rod Sando, Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

cc: Michele DeHart, FPC
Rob Lothrop, CRITFC

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FPC Amendment Recommendations

The mainstem plan calls for the continued operation of the Fish Passage Center. The primary purpose of the Center is to provide technical assistance and information to the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes in particular and the public in general on matters related to juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead passage through the mainstem hydrosystem and to the implementation of the water management measures in the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat throughout the mainstem. In performing this function, the Fish Passage Center shall:

- Plan and implement the annual smolt monitoring program;
- Gather, organize, analyze, house, and make widely available monitoring and research information related to juvenile and adult passage and to the implementation of the water management and passage measures that are part of the Council's program;
- Provide technical information necessary to assist the agencies and tribes in formulating in-season flow and spill requests that implement the water management measures in the Council's program, while also assisting the agencies and tribes in making sure that operating criteria for storage reservoirs are satisfied; and
- In general, provide the technical assistance necessary to coordinate recommendations for storage reservoir and river operations that, to the extent possible, avoid potential conflicts between anadromous and resident fish.

The Council may, with consultation and agreement of the fish and wildlife managers, revise the functions of the Fish Passage Center as the region develops a comprehensive data management system.

No analyses by the Fish Passage Center should be considered proprietary. All analyses, whether in draft or final form, are to be posted on the Center's internet site within 24 hours of completion.

The Council has established an oversight board for the Fish Passage Center, with representation from the National Marine Fisheries Services, the tribes, the Council, and others, to ensure that the Center carries out its functions in a way that assures regional accountability and compatibility with the regional data management system.

Operation of the Fish Passage Center includes funds for a manager and for technical and clerical support in order to perform the functions stated above. The fish passage manager is selected for knowledge of the multiple purposes of the regional hydropower system and of the water needs of fish and wildlife, as well as the ability to communicate and work with the fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, Council, project operators, regulators, and other interested parties, including members of the public