



## OWYHEE PROJECT POWER COMMITTEE

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Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Council Members:

The following are the comments of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project on the proposed amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The Committee manages a hydroelectric project on the Owyhee River. The Committee is made up of elected representatives from Owyhee Irrigation District and the South Board of Control.

The Committee believes amendment of the program is due based on the continuing efforts of many people to address anadromous fish recovery and the information gained since 1994. The Committee believes it is time to remove the demand for an additional one million acre feet of water from the Upper Snake River basin.

Notwithstanding the impacts on the agriculture based economy of the area, it remains clear that flow augmentation is not based on sound management or science. It will not recover fish nor does it contribute to recovery. It is simply not a prudent investment either for the region or the fisheries resources. In fact, the absence of any flow-survival relationship brings into question the validity of even using 427,000 acre feet which is currently in the program.

We will continue to monitor and participate as appropriate in the region's efforts. However, we believe that efforts to recover fish must reflect a balance between the needs of the people and the need of the fisheries. Only by adopting a socially and biologically based protocol will a sustainable and long term solution be seen. Flow augmentation is not that type of approach.

Sincerely

Michael W. Horton,  
Secretary and General Counsel