December 10, 2002

Mark Walker
Public Affairs
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Draft Mainstem Amendments

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter is in reference to the modifications to the Fish and Wildlife Plan for the Columbia and Snake Rivers suggested by the Northwest Planning Council. I am strongly opposed to further reductions of the amount of water in these rivers. Does the Planning Council really believe the Salmon can survive with less and less water? I also believe that spilling water over the dams does help salmon in their migrations and do not believe barging them out is a sustainable or suitable solution.

The Council's proposal violates its legal obligations under the Northwest Power Planning Act by ignoring the best scientific recommendations of the region's federal, state, and tribal fisheries scientists. Moreover, the Council's proposal directly contradicts the federal Salmon Plan, which calls for increases in water flow and "spill" for salmon. The Council's proposed changes would weaken an already anemic federal effort to recover imperiled salmon and steelhead.

Please reconsider the proposed amendments.

Thank you,

Melanie Moon

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