

FLATHEAD WILDLIFE, Inc.

December 18, 2002

Northwest Power Planning Council
851 S.W. 6th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Council Members,

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. supports The Main Stream Amendments to the Northwest Power Planning Councils fish and wildlife programs for the Flathead and Kootenai Rivers.

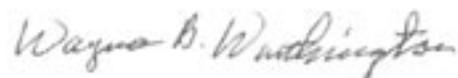
It is about time that a program that has supposedly benefited the downstream fisheries program for salmon and steel head trout and knowingly causing harmful damage to habitat, fish and people who use the rivers and reservoirs in northwest Montana be scrapped for a better management program. This Amendments will accomplish that program.

Water from Montana can only do so much to offset habitat damage, variable ocean conditions, unsuccessful commercial fishing regulations and the effect of predation, poor fish passage and questionable hatchery practices in the lower Columbia. Squeezing water from Montana to supply an unsuccessful management program is not an entitlement and should be stopped.

Flathead Wildlife has a membership of 60 men and women interested and involved, with their children, in hunting, fishing, boating and other sports on these water systems in Flathead and Lincoln Counties. There are additional thousands of local citizens using these rivers and reservoir systems throughout the year. Both the river systems and their reservoirs receive many out state visitors throughout the year. While this may not sound like many people compared to the population along the Columbia, it is most important to retain the natural and environmental quality of the river systems water above the Columbia River. Doing this will insure that water from these two systems will remain of high quality to assist the down stream program.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your proposal.

Sincerely,



Wayne B. Worthington, Secretary
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.



The Wealth Of Our Nation Is In Its Natural Resources
Preserve It By Conservation, Not Conversation

