



C O N F E D E R A T E D T R I B E S  
of the

*Umatilla Indian Reservation*

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May 27, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair  
Northwest Planning and Conservation Council  
851 S. W. Sixth Ave., Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mrs. Danielson:

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation support the submittal of the subbasin plans for the Umatilla, Walla Walla, Tucannon, Grande Ronde and John Day River Basins because they represent a considerable advancement of integrated fish and wildlife planning. However, given the funding levels and time constraints, the wide scope and the concurrent nature of the planning effort within these and other subbasins in the CTUIR territory, we have been unable to participate at the level we would have liked. Assessment, planning and public review processes have lagged behind schedule throughout the Columbia Basin, providing inadequate time for a thorough technical and policy review of the plans. Therefore, as co-managers, we cannot responsibly provide our final approval at this time.

We will use the next several months, while the plans move through the Council's public and independent science review process, to more completely consider the work done to date and the implications to our treaty reserved resources. Our written comments along with recommended revisions will be submitted for Council consideration during this period. At the same time, we expect the Council will articulate how they intend to assure a clear link between all the subbasin plans and other obligations in the Pacific Northwest such as the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the US and Canada, the fish production and rebuilding obligations defined in the US vs Oregon Columbia River Fish Management Plan and Pacific Northwest Salmon Recovery Planning under the Endangered Species Act.

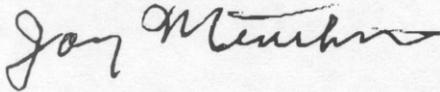
We support subbasin planning under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and are committed to working with you and your staff to make the necessary revisions in preparation for amendment of these documents as envisioned by the Council. Given the magnitude of the task at hand, we ask that you consider the significant challenges being placed on the policy and staff capacities of the co-managers and request that you provide the greatest possible flexibility in the review process and schedule. We share the Council's high expectations for these plans and want to assure that we take the time to make them the best products possible for the rate payer's investment. Likewise, we want to see the products of this investment, including the planning teams and the valuable relationships they have forged, protected and advanced as we work to

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integrate and implement these subbasin plans into a regional Basin Wide management, implementation and planning tool.

Please feel free to contact Fish and Wildlife Programs management staff, Gary James or Carl Scheeler for any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,



Jay Minthorn  
Chair, Fish and Wildlife Commission

pc: Subbasin Planners  
CTUIR Board of Trustees  
CBFWA Members  
J. P. Patt, CRITFC