



November 17, 2006

Dr. Tom Karier, Chair
Northwest Power & Conservation Council
705 West First Ave. MS-1
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Dr. Karier,

Thank you for providing the members of PNUCC the opportunity to have their voices heard in regards to the proposal to design and incorporate province-level biological objectives into the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. PNUCC believes that regional goals are necessary to achieving success for regional issues, especially since success can only be defined by setting a goal of what we hope to achieve. To proceed without goals is wasteful; it does not fully utilize the wide extent of our resources, be they human or financial.

The region needs a region-wide goal for the recovery and protection of Northwest salmon. As a region we should all be working toward that goal. Every dollar invested and every action taken should directly support that regional goal. The goal should be global in that it is embraced by federal agencies, states, tribes, utilities and every other interest that works for the vitality of salmon in the region. Reaching the goal will require the coordination of many groups, all providing their own area of expertise. The Council alone will not be responsible for meeting the regional goal, but can provide the leadership to coordinate the regional effort. The formulation of biological objectives should serve to clarify the path to the regional goal. Biological objectives within an area of salmon recovery should make it possible to solicit specific local actions that will bring the region closer to the goal.

As the Council leads the way to clarifying regional goals for salmon the most current data on the status and needs of Northwest salmon stocks should be incorporated into the goals for regional salmon recovery. We expect that in the future salmon recovery objectives will continue to be responsive to the latest scientific findings. We believe that the process of setting goals for salmon recovery needs to bring together the resources required to make informed decisions. We also believe that now is a good time for the region to decide the shape of future salmon recovery.

Our members recognize the importance of recovering and protecting the threatened fish and wildlife of the Northwest. They also know that this goal will be achieved through widespread support and investment. To that end, we look forward to working with you and your staff on the formulation of biological objectives that will result in the best use of the resources committed to achieving these common goals.

Thank you again for receiving our comments, we look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop on the 'D'.

Dick Adams
Executive Director

cc: PNUCC Board of Directors