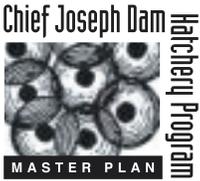


Appendix A
Letters of Support for
Chief Joseph Dam
Hatchery Program





IN REPLY
REFER TO:
PN-1080
ADM-1.10

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

JUN 08 2000

Mr. Joe E. Peone, Director
Fish and Wildlife Department
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
PO Box 150
Nespelem WA 99155

Dear Mr. Peone:

This letter is in response to a question you raised with me at a meeting in Spokane on March 24. You spoke of an anadromous fish hatchery "authorized" for the Okanogan River which was never built but was intended to partially mitigate for losses incurred by the construction of Grand Coulee Dam. As I understand it, you are concerned that the Colville Tribe did not receive its appropriate share of the "salmon allocation" due to a failure to construct this hatchery which was intended to bring anadromous fish to the Colville Reservation via the Okanogan River.

Responding to your question required some rather indepth research into old records on our part. As you may be aware, the history of decision making concerning Grand Coulee Dam was rather muddled. Originally authorized as a "low dam" and then reauthorized as a "high dam" (the one that was eventually built) the original project planning envisioned that anadromous fish passage would be accommodated similar to Bonneville Dam. However, when Grand Coulee Dam was reauthorized under the Act of August 30, 1935, the reauthorization did not specify fish and wildlife mitigation requirements but merely authorized "incidental works necessary to such projects."

According to our records, in April of 1937 an agreement was signed between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Fisheries to confirm an arrangement whereby the State would supply the necessary biological and "experimental information" to propose the best means for protecting and continuing the propagation of migratory fish. Reclamation's assigned task was to construct those facilities proposed by the biological agencies. In January 1938, the State provided a preliminary investigation report that was prepared in cooperation with the Department of Game and the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries (which later became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

The 1938 report included several evaluations. These included options to develop a system of hatcheries and also an appraisal of the possibility of fish passage above Grand Coulee Dam. The latter possibility was rejected due to the physical constraints of the high dam and an inability to engineer solutions to the probable biological effects on fish. A hatchery system including a fish trapping facility at Rock Island Dam with a hatchery at Leavenworth and sub-stations on the Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan Rivers were proposed. From the records available to us, this proposal appears to have emerged as the preferred mitigation plan.

What is clear from the 1938 report is that the hatcheries were to be used to mitigate for the loss of "upper Columbia River migratory fishruns" by providing greater production in the "lower tributaries"--the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan. In particular, the Okanogan was considered to be the best location for the replacement of blueback (sockeye) salmon lost from the upper Columbia runs because Lake Osoyoos was considered to be a biologically favorable resource for rearing sockeye when compared to the other site--Lake Wenatchec. In fact, Entiat Hatchery records show that blueback salmon were released into Lake Osoyoos in 1942 and 1944. It then appears that a decision was made to substitute chinook for sockeye as being of greater benefit to sport anglers.

In a letter from the Director of Fisheries, State of Washington, to the Chief Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, dated August 24, 1938, the Director reported that the Okanogan Substation of the Grande Coulee Salmon Hatchery System would need to be located at the northern end of Lake Osoyoos, in Canada. The Director found there was a "complete absence of a suitable water supply" in the lower portion of Lake Osoyoos within the United States. It appears that the hatchery was not pursued due to subsequent complications in negotiating with Canada coupled with limited funding from the onset of World War II. The result, of course, is that the Okanogan hatchery was never constructed. The three constructed fish hatcheries were turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation.

This brings us to where we are today. We see two potential approaches toward developing an Okanogan hatchery if you wish to pursue it. The first approach would be to prepare a formal request by the Colville Tribal Council to the Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, for an investigation to ascertain the engineering and biological feasibility of a hatchery. Reclamation could seek funding for an investigation, in partnership with the Colville Tribe, if you wish. Following successful completion of an investigation and environmental impact evaluation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, we could explore funding options for construction of the hatchery. As a requirement of any investigation, Reclamation would need to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning Endangered Species Act issues.

Another approach might be to include an Okanogan hatchery in proposals under the Blocked Area Management Plan. However, we are not well enough informed about the scope and content of the Blocked Area Management Plan to evaluate the prospects of this approach.

I hope this has answered your question from our March 24 meeting. I am looking forward to working with you and other members of the Colville Tribe on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Pedde
Deputy Regional Director

cc: Ms. Alex Smith
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland OR 97208

City of Bridgeport

P.O. Box 640
Bridgeport, Washington 98813
Phone (509) 686-4041

April 30, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S. W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery

Dear Ms. Danielson,

Beginning with the construction of Grand Coulee Dam nearly 70 years ago, federal mitigation has not been provided for the Okanogan subbasin and surrounding communities. There has been no hatchery mitigation for the effects on Okanogan River Chinook from operating the federal dams in the lower Columbia River. Historically, federal mitigation hatcheries have been located downriver, distant from the citizens and communities most affected by the loss of the salmon and steelhead.

Tribal and recreational fisheries offer an important addition and diversification to the local economy. Implementation of the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery program will help ensure healthy runs of Chinook salmon to North Central Washington. These runs will support stable tribal and recreational fisheries while improving the viability of salmon populations in their habitat. In addition, it will help a stagnant local economy that has been victim to a declining agricultural industry.

We urge the Council to expand hatchery planning to include the production of spring Chinook along with the summer/fall Chinook. Spring Chinook runs can support valuable tribal and recreational fisheries, and help alleviate the economic burden of federal regulations arising from the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Jenkins
Mayor



Cc: Frank L. Cassidy, Washington Member
Tom Karier, Washington Member



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255

Civil Projects Branch

FEB -9 2004

The Honorable Joseph H. Pakootas
Business Council Chairman
Colville Confederated Tribes
Post Office Box 150
Nespelem, Washington 99155

Your Honor:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2003, referencing work on issues of mutual interest by your Tribe, Bonneville Power Administration, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

I want you to know that, like Colonel Graves before me, I am also committed to the Seattle District's continued support to the Chief Joseph Dam Fish Hatchery Project. I recognize the importance of this project to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and look forward to working with you to a successful conclusion.

Following is an update on our progress so far:

- The Seattle District has been working with Mr. John McKern on the water supply study for the hatchery.
- Mr. McKern attended the kick-off meeting for the study at the Seattle District on December 17, 2003.
- Mr. Joe Wright, Corps Project Manager for the study, attended the first Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery CTCR Steering Committee meeting on January 14, 2004 at the offices of Tetra Tech KCM in Spokane. Mr. Wright can be reached at (206) 764-6946
- Coordination of the water supply study with the conceptual hatchery design is ongoing in accordance with the overall Master Planning schedule.

With regard to leasing for the hatchery site, Mr. Mark Jenson, Corps Operations Manager at Chief Joseph Dam, and his staff met with Mr. Joe Peone and Mr. John McKern on January 22, 2004.

On a further note, Ms. Tommye Owings has retired and Ms. Diane Lake has replaced her as the Seattle District Tribal Liaison. Please contact Ms. Diane Lake on any questions or concerns at diane.m.lake@usace.army.mil or at (206) 764-3625.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr. Joe Peone, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Colville Confederated Tribes, Post Office Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155 and Mr. Dan Warren, D.J. Warren & Associates, Incorporated, 3015 Southwood Drive, Post Office Box 1511, Philomath, Oregon 97370. Again, thank you for your letter and the work you do with Seattle District. Working together we can make a difference and arrive at mutually acceptable resolutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra M. Lewis".

Debra M. Lewis
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



**Northwest Sportfishing
Industry Association**
PO Box 4, Oregon City, OR 97045
V. 503-631-8859 F. 503-631-3887

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Dan Grogan,
Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor

VICE-PRESIDENT

Fabian Lomas,
The Duffel Bag

TREASURER

Jeff Morton,
Morton & Associates

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Flying Pencil Publications

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Three Rivers Marine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Liz Hamilton

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Corey Freeman-WA
Evergreen Government Relations

Phil Donovan-OR
NW Public Affairs

May 7, 2004

Ms. Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 Sixth Ave, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Dear Ms Danielson,

On behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, I am writing to express our support for the "Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program Master Plan". The sportfishing industry supports over 36,000 year round family wage jobs in the Northwest, and \$3.6 billion in economic benefit distributed throughout the region.

In Washington, sportfishing supports 16,000 jobs, generating nearly \$1 billion in retail sales, and \$67 million in sales tax. Our industry sends away \$70 million in Federal income tax. These jobs are particularly needed in small, rural communities, like Pateros on the Upper Columbia. According to Mayor Gail Hall, the effort to bring back a healthy steelhead fishery from October-April brought in tourists from out of state and other nations. Not only did this sell tackle, it helped their gas station, their hotel and allowed the community to finally sustain a full time grocery store—a real benefit to the local residents! In the tiny town of Riggins, Idaho the rebounding of the spring Chinook represented 23% of the town's retail sales in 2001. In the agriculturally oriented county of Hood River in Oregon, tackle manufacturer Luhr Jensen is the largest employer in the entire county. State wide and region wide sportfishing means businesses.

In addition to the obvious economic and cultural benefits the proposed hatchery program will provide to the tribal and recreational/tourism communities, we are impressed with the stringent scientific efforts to restore above nine dams the genetic diversity that has been nearly lost due to hydro and other development. Completion of the facility is a fulfillment of promises made long ago.

NSIA also encourages Council support for the spring Chinook option for project planning purposes. We trust that your approval of these projects is contingent upon a funding partnership that includes the P.U.D.s. Clearly BPA, the federal government and private utilities all have a fiduciary responsibility for this important project.

While it is apparent that this hatchery can have benefits throughout the region, none will be felt more than in small towns such as Brewster, Omak, and Oroville. We trust you will support this scientifically based, cost effective proposal.

Sincerely,

Liz Hamilton,
Executive Director

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them.



CITY OF OKANOGAN

OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON 98840

120 N. 3rd Ave. • P.O. Box 752

April 7, 2004

Mr. Joe Peone
CCT Fish and Wildlife Department
P. O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Dear Mr. Peone:

On behalf of the City of Okanogan, I want to thank you for coming to our Council Meeting on March 2 and giving your presentation on the Colville Confederated Tribe's proposed Fish Hatchery Project at Chief Joseph Dam. The Councilmembers and I all found your presentation interesting and informative.

As a result of your presentation, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2004-4 in support of the Tribe's proposed hatchery project during their Regular Meeting of April 6, 2004. I am enclosing a copy of that resolution and hope that it will be helpful to you and the Colville Confederated Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Department as you pursue the permits and funding for the proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Project.

Thank you again for making your presentation to the City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blake".

Michael Blake
Mayor

Cc:
Craig Nelson, Councilmember
CCT File

MB/RSM/rsm



CITY OF OKANOGAN
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON 98840

120 N. 3rd Ave. • P.O. Box 752

MEMORANDUM

To: Okanogan City Council and Mayor Blake
From: Craig Nelson, Councilmember *Craig Nelson*
Date: April 1, 2004
Subject: Resolution No. 2004-4 Supporting A Tribal Fish Hatchery at Chief Joseph Dam

Attached please find Resolution No. 2004-4, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Okanogan Supporting the Construction and Operation of an Anadromous Fish Hatchery by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for your consideration.

This Resolution will identify our support of a fish hatchery being proposed by the Colville Confederated Tribes. I believe efforts to improve the population of endangered salmon and steelhead will help the City and its residents by working to remove Endangered Species Act requirements and in the process develop multiple opportunities for tourism business.

I support this Resolution and urge its adoption.

Recommended Motion: Move to adopt Resolution No. 2004-4.

RESOLUTION No. 2004-4

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKANOGAN
SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN
ANADROMOUS FISH HATCHERY BY THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
THE COLVILLE RESERVATION.**

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation of healthy and vibrant runs of anadromous fish will benefit many people; and

WHEREAS, the augmentation of these important fish runs will work towards their removal from the US Governments Endangered Species List; and

WHEREAS, improvements in anadromous fish runs will improve the local economy through new jobs at the fish hatchery, increased tourism, and an improved sport fishing industry; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Okanogan, Washington as follows:

The Council fully supports the construction and operation of a fish hatchery that will augment anadromous fish runs in the Okanogan River Watershed and help restore a vital industry to the region.

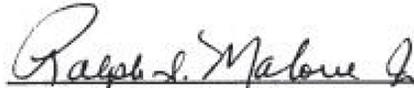
**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF OKANOGAN** this 6th day of April, 2004.

APPROVED:



Michael Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ralph S. Malone Jr., Clerk/Treasurer



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 South 2nd Ave., Room 101 - Okanogan, WA 98840 - Phone: (509) 422-0855 - FAX: (509) 422-0532

April 30, 2004

Joe Peone, Director
Colville Confederated Tribes – Fish & Wildlife Department
PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 98155

Re: Tribal Fish Hatchery Proposal.

Dear Mr. Peone,

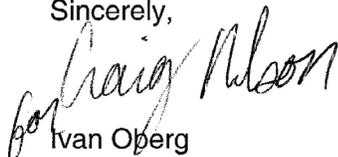
Thank you for coming to our Conservation District Board meeting this month to describe the Tribe's desire to build the fourth fish hatchery as part of the Grand Coulee Dam mitigation. The Board found the presentation to be informative and interesting.

As you are aware the Okanogan Conservation District is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of natural resources in Okanogan County. We are also firmly committed to ensuring that projects funded with public dollars be considered carefully to ensure that they are not only cost-effective, but also a priority need.

At this time we are supportive of developing the scoping documents and other necessary plans that may lead to the construction of this facility.

We look forward to hearing more on this project. If you have any questions please feel free to call Craig Nelson, District Manager, at (509) 422-0855.

Sincerely,


Ivan Oberg
District Chair

Attachment: Other District concerns;



OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Craig Vejraska
Commissioner District 1
Dave Schulz
Commissioner District 2
Mary Lou Peterson
Commissioner District 3
James K. Weed
Director of Administrative Services

May 03, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Ms. Danielson:

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners conceptually supports the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery proposed project. Implementation of the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program will help ensure healthy runs of Chinook salmon to north central Washington. The fish runs will support stable tribal and recreational fisheries for all citizens while improving the viability of salmon populations in their habitat. We believe these tribal and recreational fisheries offer an important addition and diversifications to the local economy.

With our conceptual support, we expect that Okanogan County will continually be informed of the process and we will be commenting and be involved as the process progresses.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON


Craig L. Vejraska, Chairman


Mary Lou Peterson, Member


Dave Schulz, Member

Cc: Frank L. Cassidy
Tom Karier

April 8, 2004

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The City of Omak supports the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation's Chinook salmon conservation and harvest program.

This proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery will propagate Chinook salmon to supplement natural origin populations in the Okanogan River and its tributaries, and in the Columbia River above Wells Dam. The program will include tribal and recreational fisheries and support an integrated recovery program which will benefit the entire Okanogan region's overall economy, our local communities, local Chinook salmon populations, and recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

CITY OF OMAK



Dale Sparber
Mayor

nld



OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

3255 C Shannon Lake Road, Westbank, BC V4T 1V4
Phone (250) 707-0095 Fax (250) 707-0166 www.sylx.org

April 22, 2004

Joe Peone,
Director, Fish and Wildlife Department
Colville Confederated Tribes
PO Box 150,
Nespelem, Washington
99155

Dear Joe:

Re: Proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Project

On behalf of the Okanagan Nation Alliance Chief's Executive Committee, we would like to offer you support for your proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Project. We also support Colville Confederated Tribes increased participation in management of the fisheries.

Historically, major Okanagan fisheries were at Kettle and Okanagan Falls in addition to other salmon fishing stations within our traditional territory (attached map). However, historical salmon management in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River has decimated salmon stocks. Today there is only a limited fishery for sockeye depending on return sizes. We have lost our fishery for spring/fall Chinook, steelhead, coho and sockeye salmon. It is our position that the Canadian federal government has breached their fiduciary and statutory obligation under the Federal Fisheries Act to protect the Okanagan Nation's right to food, societal and ceremonial harvest and infringed upon our right to fish as protected under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. No specific salmon mitigation to the Okanagan from dam construction and operations have been conducted to date.

With our proposed experimental reintroduction of sockeye back into Skaha Lake, reintroduction by adult spawning is limited by the availability of sockeye. Hatchery supplementation was the immediate option due to this limitation. We foresee this limitation also for long-term restoration of chinook, steelhead and coho in the Okanagan basin.

The proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Project will enable stock restoration of upper Columbia chinook above Chief Joseph dam in the long term once access is available. In addition, lower Okanagan restoration of chinook



restoration is beginning. For Canadian Okanagan chinook, traditional Okanagan knowledge and historical records show spring and summer/fall chinook types in the Canadian Okanagan basin. However, it is currently limited by habitat availability. Broad steps required for further stock restoration work in Canada are:

- Determination of what chinook populations are presently returning to the Canadian reaches of the Okanagan Basin. Preliminary genetic work suggests two separate populations different from the Similkameen population. In 2003 we documented Osoyoos Lake resident male and female chinook spawning. This means pre-Grand Coulee wild genetic chinook stocks may potentially be available.
- Habitat restoration for the long-term natural production of spring/summer/fall chinook. In addition to stock suppression, they are presently limited by habitat. Any hatchery supplementation in Canada would require the increased availability of habitat for natural production.

When appropriate, we will work with you to facilitate discussion with Canadian fisheries agencies. We wish you luck with your project and expect that we will be in close contact with you as it develops.

Sincerely,



Chief Stewart Phillip, Penticton Indian Band
On behalf of the
ONA Chief's Executive Committee

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

3255 C Shannon Lake Road, Westbank, BC V4T 1V4 Phone (250) 707-0095 Fax (250) 707-0166 www.ynlx.org

City of Oroville

Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 2200, Oroville, Washington, 98844, (509) 476-2926 FAX (509) 476-9067

OFFICERS

C.F. "Chuck" Spieth, Mayor
Kathy M. Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Rodney L. Noel, City Superintendent

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jason Blotsky
Jon R. Neal
Tony Koepke
Walt Hart III
Ryan Milligan

April 19, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Ms. Danielson:

The Oroville City Council and I would like to extend our thank you to Joe Peone for his presentation on the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program during our April 6th meeting. And, we all wish to extend our support of the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program.

Implementation of the program will help ensure healthy runs of Chinook salmon to north central Washington while improving the viability of salmon populations in their habitat. We urge you to expand the hatchery planning to include the production of spring Chinook along with the summer/fall Chinook. Spring Chinook runs can support valuable tribal and recreational fisheries and help alleviate the economic burden of federal regulations arising from the Endangered Species Act. Further, tribal and recreational fisheries will offer an important addition and diversification to our local economy.

We feel this program would have a direct and positive impact on the recreational fishing opportunities in our area. The Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers join together just south of Oroville and both rivers would benefit from expanded hatchery development. We are encouraging your Council to look favorably upon this program.

Sincerely,



Chuck Spieth
Mayor

cc: Frank L. Cassidy, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Tom Karier, Northwest Power and Conservation Council



OROVILLE-TONASKET IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1729 • OROVILLE, WASHINGTON 98844-1729 • (509) 476-3696

March 2, 2004

Mr. Joe Peone
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Colville Confederated Tribes
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Re: District's Settling Reservoirs Tribe's Off Season Utilization As Fish Acclimation Ponds

Dear Joe:

The Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District has asked me to extend the District's appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in a joint and extremely successful fish acclimation project.

As you are well aware, the District's settling ponds at three of its main pumping sites on the Okanogan River are not used in the off irrigation season – October 15 – April 15 of each year. These ponds are in place and utilization of two of them for the past two years has demonstrated their unique ability to serve as successful fish fry rearing ponds. The ponds location immediately adjacent to the river allow for reintroduction directly to the river, avoiding any transportation kill.

The idea of realizing double usage of facilities constructed with taxpayer money, at basically little cost, so as to enhance the Tribe's and public's interest, in augmenting the salmon fishery from the Okanogan River to the sea and back again is probably unequalled elsewhere.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the Tribe to expand its program and utilize all three of the District's settling ponds on a long-term basis. Certainly a program as successful as this one has been should be a wake up call for other projects to seek

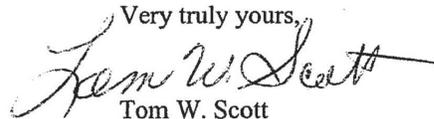
Mr. Joe Peone
March 2, 2004
Page 2

maximum usage of government constructed facilities where everybody benefits!

The Tribe is to be commended on its foresight and willingness to reach out into the community and establish unique working relationships that benefit the environment, the Tribe's fishing interests and the public, Indian and non-Indian, alike.

I would appreciate a call, as the Board is interested in negotiating a long-term arrangement that could take effect on or before October 15th, 2004.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom W. Scott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tom W. Scott
Secretary/Manager

TWS:bb

CITY OF PATEROS

113 Lakeshore Drive
PO Box 8
Pateros, WA 98846
509 923 2571
FAX 509 923 2971
e-mail: pateros@nwi.net

March 19, 2004

Attn: Joe Peone
Fish & Wildlife Department
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

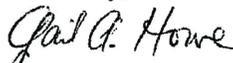
Re: Chinook Salmon Program

Dear Mr. Peone:

The City of Pateros supports your efforts to develop a salmon hatchery at the base of Chief Joseph Dam. We feel that the hatchery will also create a tourism activity with the added benefit of providing an opportunity to educate the public.

We would welcome you to attend our council meeting to explain and elaborate on your Master Plan. We usually meet the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; please contact Pateros City Hall at 509.923.2571 or email at pateros@nwi.net to be added to the agenda.

Sincerely,



Gail A. Howe
Mayor

pc: Pateros City Council

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

April 27, 2004

Ms. Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Dear Ms. Danielson:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is pleased to lend its support in the submission of the "Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program Master Plan." The Colville Tribes have worked closely with the WDFW in crafting a summer/fall chinook management plan for the Okanogan River that should not only improve the long-term viability of this important salmon population, but also provide a stable base for future tribal and recreational fisheries. Construction of the proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery is paramount to achieve these conservation and fisheries benefits.

The summer/fall chinook returns to the Okanogan River must survive passage through nine hydroelectric projects on their seaward and spawning migrations. Consequently, in many years, hatchery supplementation is needed to support the population and, in most years, supplementation is required to create any reasonable harvestable surplus for tribal ceremonial and subsistence fisheries as well as recreational fisheries in this terminal locale.

The Master Plan lays out a propagation and management scheme consistent with integrated/recovery programs operated by the WDFW in the middle/upper Columbia Basin. The integrated program increases the abundance, distribution, and diversity of the summer/fall chinook in the Okanogan River. This will be accomplished by expanding the timing of broodstock collection to include the entire run, localizing the collection of broodstock to those fish destined for the Okanogan River, acclimating fish throughout the full range of the Okanogan River's historical spawning habitat, and finally, propagating both yearling and sub-yearling migrants, the latter being consistent with wild life history strategy. The program will also achieve an integrated harvest purpose by using the same broodstock to support selective fisheries targeting marked hatchery fish. In conjunction with operating Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery, the Colville tribes propose deploying live-capture, selective fishing gears to operate complementarily with recreational fisheries to harvest hatchery fish while ensuring the release of sufficient natural-origin fish to perpetuate the population and hatchery broodstock. The WDFW is encouraged by the Colville Tribes progressive thinking and planning. Recreational and tribal selective harvest of hatchery fish will ensure wild chinook are the primary natural spawners.

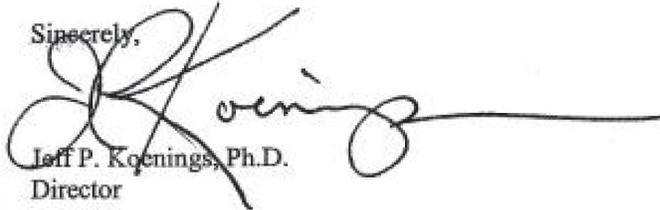
Ms. Judi Danielson, Chair
April 27, 2004
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This management scheme should also allow the efficient harvest of surplus hatchery chinook while minimizing impacts to depressed and ESA-listed species in the area.

The Master Plan also includes a management plan and option for propagating spring chinook at the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery. Although WDFW is currently reviewing this plan, we encourage the Council to approve this production option in project planning. The proposed spring chinook program could provide the basis for a valuable recreational and tribal fishery in an area of Washington State devoid of mitigation from the effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Further, as the Tribes have proposed in the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan for spring chinook, this program could assist in the recovery of endangered spring chinook in the Columbia Cascade Province, which would benefit all economic sectors.

If I, or any of my staff, can be of assistance to the Council in its review of this Master Plan, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Koenings", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff P. Koenings, Ph.D.
Director

Cc: Larry Cassidy
Tom Karier
Steve Parker
Lew Atkins
John Andrews
Dennis Beich
Heather Bartlett
John Whalen
John Kerwin
Bill Tweit

