



Public Power Council

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Ms. Nancy Sutley
Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Chair Sutley:

I am writing to urge the Administration to support the 2008 Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The Public Power Council represents the utilities that purchase federal power from the FCRPS. Their customers are the millions of electricity consumers in the Pacific Northwest who fund this unprecedented effort, and thus are committed to recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead species. We support the 2008 Biological Opinion as the best path toward recovery of these species and believe that it is time to move forward with decisiveness and action.

The 2008 Biological Opinion is based upon sound science and was developed collaboratively, bringing together federal, state, tribal and other stakeholder scientists and fishery managers to review and recommend actions. Appropriately, all factors that might limit survival of these complex species were analyzed, including factors throughout their life cycle from freshwater to the ocean and back.

The 2008 Biological Opinion enjoys unprecedented regional support. It represents a new collaboration between the Federal government, the states of Washington, Montana and Idaho, and seven Pacific Northwest Native American tribes. We expect this collaborative effort to continue for the next decade as Federal agency managers have committed to ongoing collaboration and adaptive management that includes review of the latest scientific information and monitoring of implementation to ensure performance standards are met.

It is time to end the years of litigation and to continue to engage fully in the work of recovery. We respectfully urge the Administration to allow this collaborative effort to continue by supporting the 2008 Biological Opinion and rejecting calls to needlessly review or reopen the plan.

Sincerely,

Scott Corwin
Executive Director