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Washington

October 29, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

SUBJECT: Discussion with Upper Snake River Tribes regarding the Program amendment

The Council develops the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program on the basis of the recommendations from state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and tribes and others, comments on those recommendations, and “consultation with the agencies, tribes, and [Bonneville] customers.” As part of the November meeting, the Council will have such a consultation with the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation.

The Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT) including Commission members, led by USRT Commission Chairman Lee Juan Tyler, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and tribal technical staff, will present a few of their priority Fish & Wildlife Program recommendations to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council members. USRT is comprised of four federally recognized Tribes of the Upper Snake River Region in Idaho, Nevada and Oregon: The Burns Paiute Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation.

The following program amendment recommendations will be discussed with the Council members:

- Mitigation for Losses of Wildlife from the Operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System
- Geographic/Topical Allocation of Fish & Wildlife Project Investments: 70:15:15 – Anadromous Fish: Wildlife: Resident Fish
- Resident Fish Substitution for Anadromous Fish Losses
- NPCC Oversight of the Fish & Wildlife Program

Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT)

NPCC Presentation

Fish & Wildlife Amendments

6 November 2013

USRT Chairman Lee Juan Tyler

Council Member

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes



USRT Charter

- Restore the Snake River Basin to a natural condition and facilitate tribal unity to protect and nurture all Compacting tribes rights, languages, cultures, and traditions



USRT Membership

➤ Burns Paiute Tribe

Burns, Oregon

➤ Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

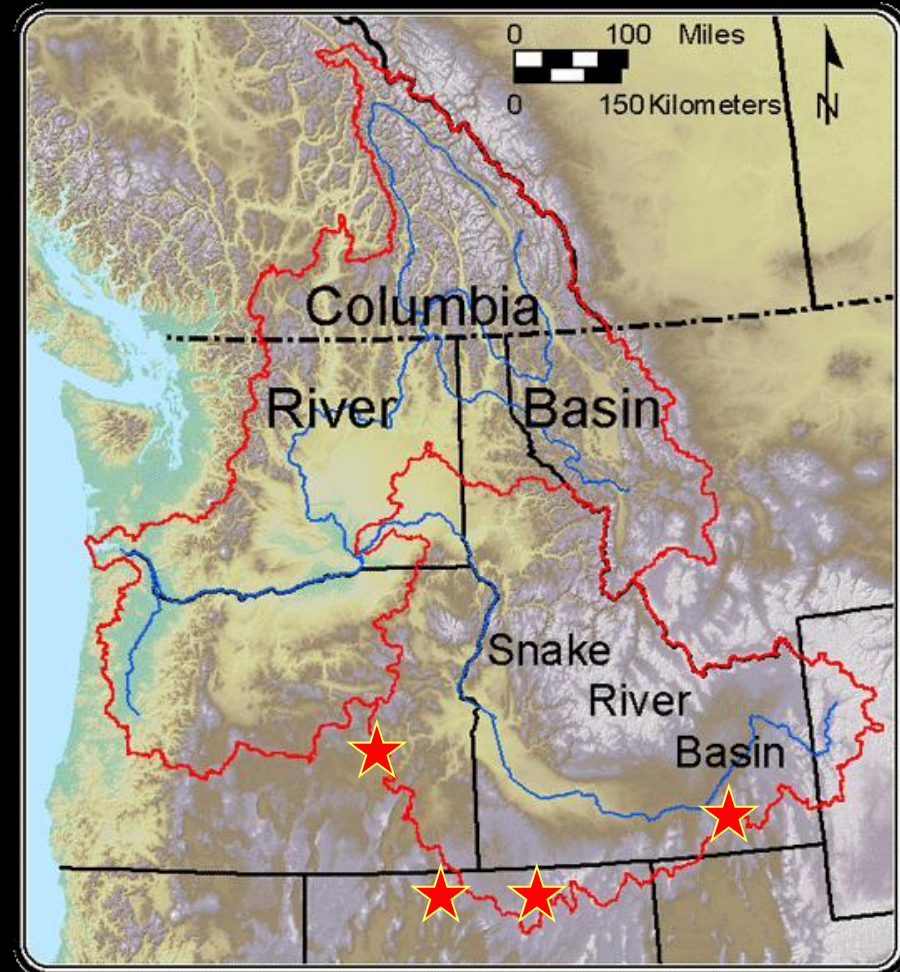
Ft McDermitt, Oregon/Nevada

➤ Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

Duck Valley, Idaho/Nevada

➤ Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT)

Fort Hall, Idaho



Fish & Wildlife Program

Columbia River Basin Subbasins



USRT

- The facilitation and coordination of USRT assists the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Bonneville Power Administration in achieving Fish and Wildlife Program objectives in a cost effective manner consistent with legal rights of tribes



Photo: Snake River Birds of Prey

USRT Priority Fish & Wildlife Amendment Recommendations

- Increased Council Oversight of Program
- Wildlife Operational Losses Defined
- 70:15:15 Allocation of Program
- Resident Fish Substitution for
Anadromous Fish Losses
- Wildlife Crediting for FCRPS Losses:
2-1 Vs. 1-1 Program Implementation

NPCC Oversight of Columbia River Fish & Wildlife Program

- Current program has a more narrow focus on ESA salmon and steelhead
- Minimal Council oversight currently on program level goals, objectives & fiscal levels for expenditures
- Regain Council voice in oversight of BPA's implementation of the Fish & Wildlife Program with deference to the fish and wildlife managers.

Mitigation of Wildlife Losses from FCRPS Operations

- Distinction between one time construction & inundation losses Vs. ongoing impacts to wildlife from FCRPS operations
- A systematic approach and methodology for assessing operational impacts to species and ecosystems is a necessary and critical first step for describing FCRPS responsibility

Mitigation of Wildlife Losses from FCRPS Operations

- NPCC should use its established Wildlife Advisory Committee to develop methodology and protocols
- Work in concert with regional wildlife managers, ISRP, BPA & pilot project results

Mitigation of Wildlife Losses from FCRPS Operations

- BPA should fund assessments
- Regionally accepted Framework in place and Impact Assessments initiated by end of Amended Program

Mitigation of Wildlife Losses from FCRPS Operations



70:15:15 Program Allocation

- Current Fish & Wildlife Program Allocation Guidance:
 - 70% Anadromous Fish
 - 15% Wildlife
 - 15% Resident Fish
- Allocation diversifies Program beyond solely an ESA salmon and steelhead focus

70:15:15 Program Allocation

- Upper reaches of Snake Basin currently blocked to salmon and steelhead
- Allocation is critical for fulfillment of tribal subsistence and cultural requirements
- Council should periodically assess Program Allocation and adjust to maintain this equity

70:15:15 Program Allocation



Resident Fish Substitution for Anadromous Fish Losses

- Establish clear goals, objectives, & methodologies for addressing anadromous fish losses
- Resident fish substitution program objectives to include:
 - Restoring native fish to near historic abundance
 - Take action to reintroduce anadromous fish into blocked areas, where feasible, e.g., Steelhead & Chinook in Boise R for harvest

Resident Fish Substitution for Anadromous Fish Losses

- Foster opportunities for consumptive & non-consumptive resident fisheries programs
- Resident fish substitution program requires a standard goal and common currency for making mitigation decisions
- Implementation in blocked areas particularly has suffered without clear mitigation goals and objectives

Resident Fish Substitution for Anadromous Fish Losses



Resident Fish Substitution for Anadromous Fish Losses



Wildlife Crediting for FCRPS Wildlife Implementation Losses

- BPA Implementation at 1:1
- Council Program currently at 2:1
- Continue Council endorsement of 2:1 mitigation goal for wildlife habitat lost to construction and inundation losses

Wildlife Crediting for FCRPS Wildlife Implementation Losses

- All projects need to be mitigated at 2:1, not only those implemented after 2001 as in current Program language
- 2:1 implementation is critical for tribes in blocked basins who do not have access to anadromous fish
- Amend Program to require implementation for **All** wildlife losses at 2:1

Wildlife Crediting for FCRPS Wildlife Implementation Losses



Fish & Wildlife Program Amendments: Next Steps

- USRT members are grateful for the opportunity to discuss these priority Program Amendments with the Council
- We look forward to continuing a dialogue with you in future meetings
- Please continue to work closely with the USRT member tribes and the Basin's fish and wildlife managers as the Fish & Wildlife Program is Amended

Thank You

- Lee Juan Tyler – USRT Commission Chairman
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- Heather Ray – Executive Director
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