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July 23, 2003

Mr. William Dobbins
General Manager
Douglas County PUD
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Dear Mr. Dobbins:

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council recently concluded its Mainstem rulemaking process. We appreciate your interest and assistance in the crafting of our plan for mainstem hydropower operations. The language in our approved program that pertains to the Mid-Columbia Habitat Conservation Plans is as follows:


"The Council will review and include as appropriate in the program settlement agreements for the Mid-Columbia hydroelectric projects."

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are important agreements intended to serve the needs of fish and wildlife in a coordinated fashion. Your work in developing a comprehensive and long-term adaptive management plan, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, for listed and non-listed anadromous fish species and their habitat as affected by the Mid-Columbia projects is commendable. The Council's mainstem plan amendments are consistent with the Mid-Columbia PUDs' HCPs.

The Council recognizes and endorses the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) for the Rocky Reach, Rock Island and Wells Hydroelectric Projects.

The Council looks forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,


Judi Danielson
Chair

cc: Robert Clubb