



April 27, 2015

Matt Wynne, Chairman
Upper Columbia United Tribes
c/o Spokane Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 100
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Re: Upper Columbia River Basin Fish Reintroduction Project, Phase 1

Thank you for joining us on April 22, 2015 at our regularly-scheduled Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) Board meeting. The Upper Columbia United Tribes' (UCUT) presentation was very informative; providing an overview of the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife 2014 Program (2014 Program), and UCUT's draft plan to implement the salmon reintroduction section of this program. The TEDD Board wishes to express their support for UCUT's proposal to implement Phase 1, which was described as the feasibility stage, and to establish a common understanding and consensus amongst the regional stakeholders before continuing to the next phase. It is also understood that support for Phase 1 has no monetary implications for the TEDD Board.

As you are aware, the Tri County Economic Development District is a federally-recognized Economic Development District representing Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens County in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The Northeast Washington tri-county region derives economic benefits from the utilization of the Columbia River and its tributaries for hydropower with the development of multiple dams, including the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams. The primary benefit received from the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) is lower energy costs. Many others outside the Upper Columbia River Basin benefit immensely from associated flood control and irrigation. While we recognize these benefits, we also recognize that the benefits have come with significant costs to our Upper Columbia Region's economy, culture, ecosystem, and the region's Indian Tribes.

The TEDD Board of Directors recognizes that one of the most far reaching impacts caused by the FCRPS to our Upper Columbia River Basin ecosystem and economy is the complete loss of

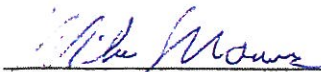
anadromous fish (Salmon, Steelhead, and Lamprey) in the waters of the upper Columbia River and its tributaries. As demonstrated in your presentation, there has been an increased focus in finding ways to return these fish back to their natural, historical breeding grounds and populations. The proposed new technology has demonstrated that it can safely separate specific types and sizes of fish, and transfer them over existing dams, which increases the overall health of the species and associated ecosystem during reintroduction. The repopulation of these species is also expected to immensely improve the fishing industry in the region for both commercial and recreational uses.

The intervening dams and associated functions make mitigation difficult. However, it appears that the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program incorporates a prioritized, phased approach to researching and exploring alternative methods of salmon reintroduction into our Upper Columbia Basin, while still retaining the regional benefits of hydropower, flood control, and irrigation. It is also understood that the process will not involve any species of fish that are listed as endangered, to alleviate the potential ramifications of such a listing.

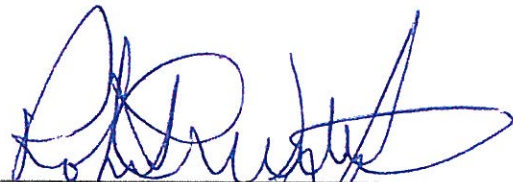
The 2014 Program and the phased approach to salmon reintroduction into our Counties' waters presents an opportunity for positive economic and cultural impacts that our region has not seen in many decades. We understand that this is a long-term program, upwards of 30 years before permanent facilities may be constructed; however, in order to move forward with Phase 1, as described above, our support is needed right away. The Board will approach the Eastern Washington Council of Governments, a 16-county Board, at their upcoming meeting on May 29th. We will request they provide a member to represent our region's concerns in this critical issue. The appointed representative (which will change over time) will bear the responsibility to disburse updates to the other member agencies, as appropriate.

Thank you for UCUT's involvement of the regional agencies and local governments in this discussion and evaluation process. We look forward to fostering a long-term relationship with the common goal of meeting various levels of the region's ecological and economic needs. Please contact us directly for further instruction on how to proceed.

Respectfully,



Mike Manus, Chairman
TEDD Board of Directors



Rob Willford, Executive Director
Tri County Economic Development District

cc: Phil Rockefeller, Chairman, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Elliot Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration
Wes McCart, Chairman, Eastern Washington Council of Governments