



*Conservation of
Columbia Basin Fish*
Building a Conceptual Recovery Plan

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DRAFT

***Prepared by
The Federal Caucus***

*Army Corps of Engineers
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
National Marine Fisheries Service*

For more information

Contact

Ms. Jessie Phelps
Bonneville Power Administration
1-888-921-4886

Visit

The Federal Caucus Web site
www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus.

To request copies of documents:
Call 1-509-358-7415 or

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Federal Caucus Comment Record,
c/o BPA-PL
707 W. Main St. Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

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707 W. Main St. Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

By e-mail:

federalcaucus@bpa.gov

Note to Readers

Purpose of the Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Paper

The Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Paper outlines the difficult choices that face the Pacific Northwest if listed salmon, resident fish and aquatic species are to recover. The final paper, to be produced after a public comment period on this draft, will provide a conceptual anadromous fish recovery plan that provides context and linkages for other federal, regional efforts and actions within the four Hs (habitat, harvest, hatcheries and hydropower). It will also describe opportunities and relationships for restoration and recovery of listed resident fish and aquatic species.

The Federal Caucus developed this draft paper to stimulate a constructive dialogue among the governments and the people of the region about species recovery. We hope it demonstrates that major management decisions by the region are needed in each H.

The draft paper presents the following:

- Basic options under each of the Hs and a limited number of alternatives that mix the available options in a way that is useful for discussion purposes.
- This draft provides a preliminary quantitative analysis of the biological effects of some of the alternatives. These tools should be used with caution because the biological and feasibility analysis to determine if improvements will work has not been completed for all ESUs and has not been thoroughly peer reviewed. However, it does demonstrate that if we are going to prevent extinction and recover these species, major management decisions will be necessary in each H.

The draft paper does not present the following:

- A preferred option or alternative; this is not a decision document.
- An individual agency's position.
- A roadmap of actions to avoid jeopardy for any species.
- A full recovery plan including recovery goals and required management actions.
- Complete scientific analysis. Much work remains to be done on refinement of quantitative tools to assess extinction risk and recovery potential and the feasibility of achieving survival improvements through habitat, hatchery and hydropower actions.
- Address economic, legal or political feasibility of any option or alternative.

We present this draft document and hope that the issues we have identified will contribute to a constructive dialogue among the governments and the people of the region. The recovery of the Northwest icon, Pacific salmon, and listed resident fish and aquatic species depends on it.