



Washington State Senate

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April 2, 2004

Mr. Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Wright, *Steve*

I am writing to express concerns related to the Columbia River spill program.

In North Central Washington we have been impacted dramatically by the listing of endangered and threatened fish stocks. Our economy and our way of life has been substantially changed by the collateral impacts of listings and the fear of additional listings. As such, my legislative district is very sensitive to this subject.

Certainly I support the goal of low-cost electric power. I must add however, that I am very concerned that whatever measures selected to offset the reduction in spill will have a direct benefit on affected salmon stocks. The Upper Columbia Summer Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act, and the communities I represent have worked hard to keep the runs strong. Fisheries on the summer chinook provide significant economic benefits to many Upper Columbia communities. I am extremely concerned that all efforts be taken to keep healthy stocks healthy, to avoid future ESA listings.

One of the most effective measures to offset the reductions in Upper Columbia Chinook would be improvements to existing hatchery production. For example, a new acclimation pond at the Dole-Beebe property near Chelan would significantly increase the adult returns for the number of smolts released. Production at the nearby Turtle Rock Hatchery is hampered by the location of the release site for the summer chinook. Transfer of a portion of the production to a better location should improve returns. This would also benefit upriver communities by creating a terminal fishery near the mouth of the Chelan River. While this is one example, there are likely other hatchery improvements and acclimation ponds that could have a direct positive impact on the upper river returns.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this flow augmentation proposal. I want to close with a strong recommendation that your agency work closely with Governor Locke and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that, if this proposal goes forward, we have specific fixes in place to eliminate or minimize harm to the fisheries in the Upper Columbia region.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,
Linda Evans Parlette
LINDA EVANS PARLETTE
Washington State Senator
12th District

ASSIGN: DR-7C
cc: FO3, DC/Wash, DR-7, L-7, P-6, PG-5, KE-4, KEW-4, Cooper-PG-5, Bodi-A/Seattle, McNary-A-7, DR/WSGL

cc: Governor Gary Locke, Jeff Koenings, Bob Lohn, Representative Mike Armstrong, Representative Cary Condotta
Chelan County Commissioners, Douglas County Commissioners, Okanogan County Commissioners