

November 6, 2002

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Action Agencies) are pleased to provide our 2003-2007 Implementation Plan for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) 2000 Biological Opinions.

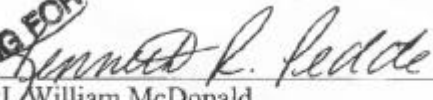
This plan has been drafted in coordination with the NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with input from the Northwest Power Planning Council, the states of Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Snake River Tribes, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, river user groups and environmental organizations. It represents the FCRPS Action Agencies' intentions for carrying out actions in the NOAA Fisheries and USFWS Biological Opinions over the next five years, with more detail for 2003 actions. We have combined the one- and five-year plans for improved clarity and to better show the integration of the planned actions.

This plan continues our approach of building on strategies to address hydropower, habitat, hatcheries, harvest, resident fish, and research, monitoring and evaluation needs to achieve fish restoration in the Columbia River Basin. We have included actions to address deficiencies that were identified in the NOAA Fisheries Findings Letter for our first year plan and 2001 Progress Report. We are also proposing potential alternatives intended to sustain or accelerate progress in achieving hydrosystem performance standards at reduced cost. These alternatives, which are described in Section 5.1, will be discussed through existing regional forums.

The Action Agencies look forward to another promising year of implementation of the Biological Opinions and Basinwide Fish Restoration Strategy. We intend to continue and improve upon our efforts for regional coordination to make the best use of resources for fish restoration in the Columbia River Basin. Thank you for your interest and for being part of this regional effort.

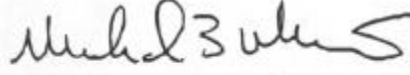
Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

  
J. William McDonald  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation


November 6, 2002

Date

  
Michael B. White, P.E.  
Director, Civil Works and Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

November 6, 2002

Date

  
Stephen J. Wright  
Administrator and Chief Executive Officer  
Bonneville Power Administration

November 6, 2002

Date