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September 7, 2012

Mr. Bill Booth  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1100  
Portland, Or 97204

RE: Wildlife Project 2003-072-00 – IBIS

Dear Mr. Booth:

As the Chair of the Wildlife Focus Workgroup (WFW) I would like to support the need for the Wildlife project 2003-072-00, Integrated Biodiversity Information System (IBIS) for the Columbia River. I understand that the Program Evaluation and Reporting Committee (PERC) is reviewing the IBIS project along with several others. I also understand that the PERC recommendations should provide more certainty to the organizations, regional databases, and processes over the next several years. To that end, I would like to offer the following supportive information for your perusal and consideration, along with supportive documentation from the 2009 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (hereafter called the Program).

The Program calls for monitoring and evaluation for the purpose of: 1) tracking the implementation of measures; 2) tracking the status and trends of priority focal species and their limiting factors in priority areas; and 3) determining the effectiveness of projects carried out under this Program (Page 20). Furthermore, the Program also addresses the need to identify and protect habitat areas and ecological functions and where feasible restore and enhance them (Page 44). Ecological functions are defined in the program as the role, or function, that species have within the community or ecosystem in which they occur (Page 72). IBIS is the only informational data set that incorporates ecological functions and can map and track this information. Additionally, as part of implementing the wildlife strategies and achieving the wildlife objectives in the basin, there is a call to improve survival and production of wildlife species by reducing limiting factors and improving riverine and riparian mainstem habitat conditions (Page 47). This begs for a common solution, which is that baseline conditions be determined for habitat projects so that habitat effectiveness can be tracked. In addition, the above components fit nicely into the Wildlife Implementation Monitoring Strategy that also scopes and provides the framework for achieving the Council's High-Level Indicators.

Since the fall of 2009 the wildlife co-managers have worked on drafting the Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS) in an effort to develop relevant high level indicators within the context of the Council's Program. It is the co-managers recommendation that the current basin wide program in place to acquire and report the high-level information for wildlife habitat is the Northwest Habitat Institute's IBIS project because its data tie to the basin, province and subbasin scales. Making information readily available is a specific strategy of the program plan – it states "Dissemination of data

via the Internet: The Council will initiate a process for establishing an Internet-based system for the efficient dissemination of data for the Columbia Basin. This system will be based on a network of data sets, such as Streamnet, Northwest Habitat Institute, Fish Passage Center.... the function of each data site, or module will be clearly articulated and defined.” and implementing subbasin plans is a principle portion of the program plan – subbasin planning brings together multiple agencies, objectives, plans and ideas with the hope of developing a collective vision that incorporates joint biological objectives and strategies. Currently, IBIS makes information available to subbasin planners in part because the data sets have been collaboratively developed; peer reviewed, and has defined terminology. IBIS also served as regional technical support for the subbasin planning process, with 59 subbasins incorporating its information into their plans. The foremost purpose for developing IBIS is to build a common understanding of fish and wildlife resources for better management. In so doing, it appears to us that many components in the IBIS proposal can help you meet this goal and could also satisfy a number of the BIOP needs that are currently being requested. Some integration between fish and wildlife is long overdue. I thank you for your time and consideration of our letter during the PERC review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle A. Heinrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kyle A. Heinrick  
Burns Paiute Tribe  
Wildlife Focus Workgroup Chair

cc: Nancy Leonard  
Kevin Kytola