



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

July 16, 2007

NOTED
JUL 17 2007
S.A.B.

RECEIVED
JUL 17 2007
DOUGLAS PUD

Mr. Shane Bickford
Supervisor of Relicensing
Douglas PUD
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, Washington 98802-4497

SUBJECT: White sturgeon supplementation efforts in the mid-Columbia River

Dear ^{SHANE} ~~Mr. Bickford~~:

As an active participant in the Wells Project relicensing process, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) looks forward to Douglas PUD's (District) implementation of a white sturgeon supplementation program to be captured in the District's White Sturgeon Management Plan (Plan). As such, WDFW is committed to working closely with the District in the development of the Plan. Of particular interest to WDFW is the development of the Broodstock Collection and Breeding Plan component of this Management Plan.

Prior to hydropower development on the Columbia River, sturgeon moved unimpeded from the estuary to the upper reaches of the mainstem, as well as into the Snake River. WDFW looks to accomplish sturgeon management in the Columbia River Basin in a manner that essentially makes the physical partitioning imperceptible to overall population management. Therefore, the supplementation program must be coordinated at a minimum through the mid-Columbia River region for the supplementation effort to be biologically successful.

WDFW is excited about the future opportunities that exist to coordinate and collaborate for white sturgeon conservation and recovery across the region, as well as across the Basin. We wanted to ensure clear communication in the initiating phase to optimize efforts by the three mid-Columbia PUDs. WDFW believes such coordination and collaboration will serve both the interests of Douglas PUD and the broader interests of the people of Washington State by reducing or avoiding duplication of facilities, time, and effort.

Specifically, WDFW is proposing the formation of a "Mid-Columbia Sturgeon Working Group." The function of this group would be to coordinate program development and information exchange with membership from the three PUDs, WDFW, the Yakama Nation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Colville Confederated Tribes. WDFW is offering to plan the first meeting.

Mr. Shane Bickford
July 16, 2007
Page 2

During WDFW's work with Douglas PUD and other entities on development of a White Sturgeon Management Plan and a White Sturgeon Broodstock Collection and Breeding Plan for the Wells Project, we intend to provide consistent guidance on all aspects of sturgeon management and supplementation grounded in the best available information. Please contact Joe Miller, Regional Fish Program Manager, at 509.754.6066, ext. 24, (millejlm@dfw.wa.gov) or Carmen Andonaegui, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, at 509.754.6066, ext. 25, (andonca@dfw.wa.gov) if we can be of additional assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,



Bill Tweit, Columbia River Policy Lead
Intergovernmental Resource Management

cc: Jeff Koenings
Phil Anderson
Lew Atkins
Dennis Beich
Heather Bartlett
Craig Burley
Carmen Andonaegui
Tony Eldred
Brad James
Joe Miller
Bill Frymire