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May 26, 2004

Judi Danielson, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Chair Danielson:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working for over a year with others involved in this subbasin to develop the Lower Snake Subbasin Plan. The Department has contributed to the process by providing technical guidance and products, as well as, participating in strategy and management plan development together with stakeholders in the region.

The Department would like to express our support for the process that developed *The Lower Snake Subbasin Plan, May 2004 Version*. This plan represents a joint effort on behalf of local stakeholders and co-managers to use the best available science in combination with local interests and knowledge to set priorities and develop strategies and the final management plan. In particular, we applaud the efforts on the part of the subbasin planners to have an open and inclusive process that provided opportunities for participation by a wide range of state, federal, tribal and local managers, natural resource experts, landowners, local governments, and citizens.

Development of *The Lower Snake Subbasin Plan, May 2004 Version* followed the recommended guidelines in the Council's, Technical Guide for Subbasin Planners (NPCC 2001) to the extent appropriate to the ecological, cultural, social and economic realities of the subbasin – and consistent with the limitations of the available assessment tools, timeframe and budget.

The Department will participate in the open review process that runs through August 12th. During this time period we will conduct a thorough review of the plan and provide comments to NPCC staff for inclusion in the re-write period to follow. The Council and subbasin planners have our continued support in this process and we look forward to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Andrews
Region 1 Director

cc: John Marsh
Duane Bartels