



March 25, 2014

Via Electronic Mail

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RE: Request for Meeting and Opportunity to Participate in Wanapum Dam Contingency
Planning to Protect Endangered Species Act-Listed Salmon and Steelhead

Dear Gentleman:

On behalf of American Rivers, Columbia Riverkeeper, Save Our Wild Salmon, Association of Northwest Steelheaders, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, and NW Guides and Anglers Association we write to request a meeting with the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) to discuss contingency planning at Wanapum and Rock Island Dams to protect Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead during the 2014 spring and summer migration seasons. On February 27th, Grant County PUD discovered a 65-foot long, horizontal fracture at Wanapum Dam. This discovery prompted an unprecedented drawdown of the Wanapum pool of the Columbia River.

Public safety is of paramount importance as the Grant PUD and federal regulators evaluate and implement a plan to restore the structural integrity of the Wanapum Dam. As you are aware, the fracture in the Wanapum Dam also presents a significant threat to ESA-listed and other species on the Columbia River. Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, steelhead, bull trout,

lamprey, shad and other fish species pass over the dam. Wild Upper Columbia River spring Chinook and Upper Columbia steelhead stocks, as well as bull trout, are protected under the ESA. According to reports, at the current reservoir level, the gravity-fed fish ladders at Wanapum Dam are not functional. In addition, drawdown of the Wanapum pool could cause problems for adult salmon and steelhead that need access to fish ladders at Rock Island dam. The drawdown also raises questions about increased juvenile fish mortality at both Wanapum and Rock Island dams. Each of these issues requires early, effective planning to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects to fish passage and survival.

We understand that the PUD, NMFS, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are collaborating with the tribes and other stakeholders in the early stages of developing contingency plans to facilitate juvenile and adult fish passage. As organizations with a longstanding commitment to the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin, we request the opportunity to participate in this process.

Please contact me at (206) 342-7340, ext. 1027, or smashuda@earthjustice.org to schedule a meeting. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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cc: Douglas Johnson, Regional Engineer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Paul Lumley, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Julie Carter, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Mike Lopez, Nez Perce Tribe
Audi Huber, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Robert "Bobby" Brunoe, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Elizabeth Sanchez, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Mitch Delabarre, General Counsel, Grant County PUD