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Dear Interested Parties,

We are pleased to provide the enclosed "2004 Progress Highlights" report covering actions to protect and recover Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration (The Federal Columbia River Power System Action Agencies) are committed to actions that contribute to biological performance and address limiting factors for these fish. This report highlights the progress we made in 2004, including:

- Construction of a removable spillway weir, or "fish slide," installed at Ice Harbor Dam in early 2005. Given the promising 2002 and 2003 test results from the Lower Granite Dam fish slide, we are stepping up our efforts to develop surface bypass systems at the other dams. The Corner Collector at Bonneville Dam Second Powerhouse completed in 2004 is also delivering good results.
- The program to redistribute Caspian terns from Rice Island, upriver in the Columbia River Estuary, to East Sand Island nearer to the ocean yielded continued good results in 2004. Salmon and steelhead consumption by the tern colony fell to three million fish in 2004, from a 1999 high of 15 million.
- Fish passage improvements in the tributaries in the form of additional water, passage barrier removal and installation of irrigation screens helped fish regain access to over 250 additional miles of habitat in 2004.
- Action Agencies funding ensured the protection or enhancement of over 280 miles of riparian habitat along the tributaries, bringing the total to almost 1000 miles of riparian habitat protected or enhanced since 2000.
- In the Columbia River estuary, 155 acres of habitat were acquired at Germany Creek and the restoration or enhancement of over 135 acres began at three different sites. Construction began at Crims Island on a three-year, \$3.8 million habitat restoration project to restore 76 acres of tidal marsh and 115 acres of forest.

Actions to protect and recover threatened and endangered fish in the Columbia Basin are complex

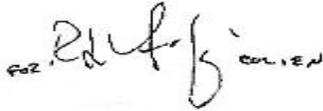
and comprehensive, and require a step by step effort. It will take many years to rebuild sustainable populations of some species. Each component, taken alone, may not produce dramatic results. But taken together, these efforts are producing solid and measurable successes and an important foundation for long-term recovery.

Every citizen in the Pacific Northwest has a stake in this work. If we are to be successful we must work together to support our dual goals of a healthy environment and a strong economy. We remain committed to continued collaboration and coordination with other regional parties working toward these goals.

Sincerely,



J. William McDonald  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation



Gregg F. Martin  
Colonel (Promotable), US Army  
Division Engineer



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