

Multi-Species Biological Assessment of the Federal Columbia River Power System

December 1999

The December 1999 Multi-Species Biological Assessment of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) is now available. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration (collectively termed the “action agencies”) prepared this Biological Assessment to reinitiate consultation on the FCRPS between the action agencies and the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Biological Assessment evaluates the potential effects of the operation of the FCRPS on the continued existence of all species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that are potentially affected by these operations.

In the Biological Assessment, the action agencies are proposing an ongoing “Construct for Achieving Survival Improvements” that would establish measurable performance standards for the hydro system, prioritize actions, measure results, and provide for experimental management actions to improve understanding of key uncertainties.

Information and analysis contained in the Biological Assessment will be considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service as they prepare the Biological Opinion that will be released next year.

Document Availability

The Biological Assessment is available on the Federal Caucus Web site at <http://www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus>. Or, you may request a copy by calling toll free 1-888-921-4886.