



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

JUN 22 2004  
553-449

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

June 16, 2004

Mr. Steven Wright  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3261, R-A  
Portland, Oregon 97208

*cc Delwiche  
Cooper  
Gleason*

Reference: Opposition to Further Dworshak Draw downs

Dear Mr. Wright,

The Yakama Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe opposes using the Dworshak Reservoir to "offset" any reduction in summer spill as set forth in the Nez Perce April 28 letter. The Nez Perce Tribe was not considered or consulted in the proposed drawing down of the Dworshak Reservoir an additional twenty feet as a summer offset. Having no Tribal discussion or assembly with all of the affected parties would demonstrate a total lack of respect for Tribal sovereignty, and erode any trust established with the communities, state and federal agencies. The Yakama Nation in good faith believes that this was not intentional or calculated but merely an oversight by the Bonneville Power Authority and the United States Corps of Engineers.

The Stevens-Palmer Treaty of 1855 established the basis for the tribes to co-manage natural resources with both Federal and State resource management agencies. It was during the treaty negotiations that the Yakama Indian Reservation, the Umatilla Reservation and the Nez Perce Reservation were created. Prior to that era the Tribes of the Pacific Northwest cared for all life, both natural, and spiritual. Those values remain an important part of the Indian way of living on this earth. In 2003, as Administrator for Bonneville Power Authority, you acknowledged that Tribal expertise in cultural and natural resources of their reservations and ceded lands, would greatly improve the content of program and policy measurements proposed by governmental agencies in the Northwest. We agree and remain committed to providing that support.

The Yakama Nation welcomes formal or informal consultation in any and all matters that affect natural and cultural resources of the Pacific Northwest. Our elders and tribal members are able to provide the leadership, professional, legal, and technical expertise to the Bonneville Power Authority in these areas. By ensuring that all Tribal Sovereignities, Governments and their agencies and staff are included in future policy development, the resources of the Pacific Northwest will continue to flourish and provide benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Jerry Meninick, Chairman  
Yakama Nation