



March 15, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record
c/o BPA-PL
708 W. Main Street
Suite 500
Spokane, Washington 99201

Dear Federal Caucus:

This letter is in response to the December 1999 draft conservation of Columbia Basin Fish, Building a Conceptual Recovery Plan, commonly referred to as the "All-H" paper. Umatilla Electric Cooperative believes that it is about time for the nine federal agencies to join forces on salmon recovery. A gravel-to-gravel approach for multi-species basin wide salmon recovery is welcome.

Several important questions deserve answers, such as: Who exactly is in charge of this salmon recovery effort? What exactly is recovery? Clear, consistent goals are desirable but futile until we know the end goal—salmon recovery. When will salmon recovery be defined? Will we somehow know salmon recovery when we see it? As someone once said, "If you don't know where you are going, any path will take you there." This saying describes well the past 20 years of fish and wildlife effort in the Columbia Basin.

Undoubtedly, you will receive many comments on how to improve elements on the "All-H" process. But before more process is laid on our shoulders, please tell us--what is recovery?

Sincerely,

M. Steven Eldridge
General Manager

mse/g