



May 30, 2014

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Comments on the 2013/2014 Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program

On behalf of our members, the National Hydropower Association (NHA)¹ thanks the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC or Council) for including provisions in the draft 2013/2014 program that incorporate the 1988 amendments for consideration of hydropower projects in NWPPCC's designated protected areas.²

Among other things, the 1988 amendments allowed a party to petition the Council to change the protected status designation of a stream or area to enable development and allowed an exception to a designated area for the development of a project with exceptional benefits to fish and wildlife.

This addition to the 2013/2014 plan recognizes new hydropower project opportunities may exist that maintain or enhance fish and wildlife resources. By re-instating the exception process, the Council preserves the option to allow appropriately sited and managed projects to move ahead.

NHA urges the NWPPCC retain these provisions in the final plan due out later this year.

NHA believes that increased hydropower deployment and natural resource protection in the Pacific Northwest are not mutually exclusive. With a strong commitment to river stewardship, new hydropower projects can be placed in service, which provide the energy and environmental and climate benefits sought by those in the region.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft 2013-2014 Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program. NHA will leave detailed comments on the draft to our individual member companies in the region and directs you to those filings for consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director

¹ NHA is a national non-profit association dedicated exclusively to advancing the interests of the U.S. hydropower industry, including conventional, pumped storage, and new marine and hydrokinetic technologies. NHA's membership consists of more than 180 organizations, many of which are located in the Northwest.

² See P.51 and 52 -- Protected areas and hydroelectric development and licensing