

# NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

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## COMMENTS ON FEDERAL ACTION AGENCIES PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH FOUR TRIBES ON A TEN YEAR FISH RESTORATION AGREEMENT (A-7) FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER

This proposed agreement between the Bonneville Power Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and four Columbia River tribes would provide the tribes with \$900 million over ten years. In exchange for this money the tribes agree to not seek removal of federal dams or to take legal action to enforce federal Clean Water Act regulations covering gas bubble disease or water temperatures that affect the survival of salmonids. Bonneville Power Administration would require its customers to increase the amount they pay for electricity to help secure protection for dams and their operation from ESA listed wild salmon. It is an absolutely brilliant proposal.

The agreement would also include \$94 million for hatcheries that have already been scientifically discredited as a recovery tool for ESA listed salmon and steelhead. And it would provide \$32 million for habitat that will not compensate for the salmon killed at the dams.

Furthermore, this nearly \$1 billion would be added to the \$9 billion already spent on salmon recovery with no measurable benefit to salmon, nonetheless, this money is very important to the agencies and tribes involved with salmon recovery programs.

This proposed agreement is remarkable in its attention to detail and gives a ten year grace period for funding programs and techno-fixes that could not get approval from federal judges and independent scientific panels.

Since there is nothing in this agreement that supports the recovery of ESA listed wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River, but does prolong failed institutional commitments, I recommend that an independent scientific review of this proposal be done. In addition, an Environmental Impact Statement should be completed. Oh, and yes...the Native Fish Society does not support this agreement.

Sincerely,

Bill Bakke, Executive Director