



February 5, 2013

Stephen R. Oliver
U.S. Entity Coordinator, Columbia River Treaty
Bonneville Power Administration

Fred Warner Jr.
Commissioner Chair
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RE: Columbia River Treaty Review

Columbia River Treaty Review Team;

Tim L. Kerns
Commissioner
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Baker County borders approximately 50 river miles of Brownlee Reservoir. The influence of the impoundment to the communities within Baker County is substantial. The project utilizes authorized flood control measures to reduce the stage and flows at the Portland-Vancouver Harbor, however the flood control evacuations have become more extreme in the past decade. The waterway is the life-blood of the small communities in this region. The impact of the severe spring draw downs has reduced traffic to the area by seventy-seven percent.

Carl E. Stiff, M.D.
Commissioner
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The negative impact to the warm water fishery, particularly crappie, is real and measurable. Biologists have concluded that the reservoir evacuations beginning in December/January entrain all age classes of crappie out of the reservoir. This directly impacts the abundance and productivity of the crappie population, greatly reducing harvest opportunity in the fishery. The reproductive success of bass and crappie is equally affected when water levels are unstable during nesting periods either by dewatering of eggs or changes in spawning behavior that leads to complete loss of the brood.

Brownlee Reservoir was once touted as a world class warm water fishery. The harm caused by the flood control measures has removed the waterway from that classification. The 2008 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife survey indicates that Brownlee fishing activities contributed \$1.9 million in Baker County. The loss of stability in the impoundment has negatively impacted the communities and the bass and crappie populations.

It is in the absolute interest of Baker County to ensure reasonable flood control measures without harm to the people, fish and wildlife in Eastern Oregon. The County implores the SRT and the U.S. Entity to recommend reasonable and prudent measures to protect life and property in all areas of the Columbia River Basin.

Sincerely,

Fred Warner Jr., Chairman
Baker County Board of Commissioners