

Powder Basin Watershed Council

2960 Broadway

Baker City, Oregon 97814



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

5 February 2013

Dear Columbia River Treaty Review Team,

In 2012, the Powder Basin Watershed Council completed its *Brownlee Reservoir Subbasin Assessment*. The purpose of the document was to combine existing data with stakeholder concerns, helping us to plan strategic actions to restore and enhance our watersheds. As part of the assessment, we held a meeting with stakeholders in Huntington, Oregon. The primary watershed concern facing our stakeholders in this part of the watershed is the water level of the Brownlee Reservoir. The reservoir provides a mainstay for the economy in the region, including Baker City, Halfway, Huntington, and Richland, attracting tourists interested in boating, fishing, camping, and derbies. Past draw-downs mandated by the Army Corp of Engineers have caused fish die offs and have decreased boating opportunities, resulting in economic hardship for the tourism-dependent region.

As your review team prepares its preliminary regional recommendation for the Columbia River Treaty, I urge you to prioritize the ecologic and economic needs of the residents of the Brownlee watershed. The reservoir should be managed in a way that minimizes fluctuation in water levels, protecting fishing and recreation opportunities. The economic health of the area depends in part on ensuring stable water levels necessary for fish populations and recreation activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Johanna Sedell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Johanna Sedell
Executive Director, Powder Basin Watershed Council
2960 Broadway
Baker City, Oregon 97814