



Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

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July 1, 2013

Dear Wells HCP Hatchery Committee Representatives:

Over the past weeks and months, Douglas PUD, Grant PUD, and WDFW have been developing an implementation plan for the 2014 Monitoring and Evaluation program for the Wells and Methow hatchery programs, intending to provide it to the Hatchery Committee for review by July 1.

Unfortunately, due to uncertainty in the regulatory framework and management plans for both Methow Basin spring Chinook and steelhead, we are unable to submit an implementation plan for review at this time.

Sources of uncertainty include 1) the as-yet undefined terms and conditions within the forthcoming Biological Opinions and associated ESA permits to be developed by NMFS for the Wells and Methow hatchery programs and the USFWS WNFH spring Chinook and steelhead programs, and 2) the nebulous aspects of Chelan PUD's spring Chinook program and how that program will impact the terms and conditions of the other Methow Basin hatchery programs.

New permits will be issued for the Wells Complex steelhead program by October 2, 2013 and for the Methow Hatchery spring Chinook program by January 20, 2014. Upon receipt of these permits and ensuing clarity of the monitoring and evaluation responsibilities for Douglas PUD and Grant PUD, we are committed to providing the HCP HC with a draft 2014 M&E implementation plan that meets the new requirements of our programs within 30 days of receiving the new permits for these programs.

Sincerely,

Greg Mackey