



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office

Northern Idaho Field Office

11103 East Montgomery Drive
Spokane Valley, Washington 99206



February 22, 2012

Ted Gresh
Environmental Protection Specialist
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621

Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comments on Environmental Review of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Native Fish Aquaculture Program (FWS Reference: 01EIFW00-2012-B-0016 /File: 501.1000)

Dear Mr. Gresh:

This letter is a follow-up to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) November 10, 2011, comments on the Environmental Review of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) Native Fish Aquaculture Program. It has come to our attention that our comments in that letter could be interpreted that we do not support the proposed Twin Rivers aquaculture facility. We would like to take this opportunity to make it clear to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that the Service does indeed support the proposed facility at the Twin Rivers site.

As stated in our previous comments, we feel an additional upstream facility is warranted for multiple reasons. Although in our November 10, 2011 letter, we expressed some concern over the targets and goals, we fully trust that the KTOI will utilize the aquaculture program in a manner that best contributes to the recovery of Kootenai sturgeon. The Service looks forward to working with KTOI and other partners in sturgeon recovery to ensure the important contribution of the Twin Rivers site is maximized.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide clarification. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Flory of my staff at (509)-893-8003 or by e-mail at Jason_flory@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Ben Conard
Field Supervisor

cc: KTOI, Bonners Ferry (Ireland)