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July 10, 2016

Henry Lorenzen, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

John Day Habitat Enhancement Implementation Strategy – Project #2007-397-00

Dear Mr. Lorenzen:

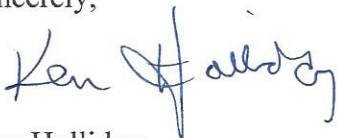
My name is Ken Holliday. I own and operate a 12,000 acre cattle ranch located in the John Day and Bear Valley areas in Grant County. My family has been in production agriculture in Grant County since 1957. We have participated in 26 different restoration projects in the last 59 years.

I am writing this letter, as a landowner and stakeholder, to express my concerns regarding the John Day Habitat Enhancement Implementation Strategy. I believe this new strategy has the potential to negatively affect the successful fish habitat restoration program on the John Day River in Grant County. It has taken many years to build the trust and cooperation between landowners and restoration agencies. This trust was built as “on the ground projects” were implemented. These projects provided fish habitat restoration benefits as well as benefiting the landowner and their agricultural operation. They became a “win-win” for all. I saw many of my peers who in the past had been dubious of participating in a project with agency partners, expressing a desire to be involved in a project.

I am concerned that the new Strategy will move in a direction that gives more emphasis to buying private property and water rights than to the implementation of “on the ground projects” that have been so beneficial. I don’t understand the need to change a very successful restoration program in the John Day Basin. As a landowner, this new Strategy makes me nervous and a bit apprehensive about future participation.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns regarding this important issue. If you would like to contact me, I can be reached at 541 620-0147 or at kpholliday@ortelco.net.

Sincerely,



Ken Holliday