COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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April 30, 2015

Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs
1200 6th Avenue ETPA-124
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: FOIA Request relating to Double-Crested Cormorant Management in the Columbia River Basin

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) requests files or documents containing the following information relating to your agency's review of double-crested cormorant management in the Columbia River Basin, particularly environmental analyses and review, specifically the Office of Ecosystems, Tribal, and Public Affairs (OETPA), which reviewed the draft and final environmental impact statements on the double-crested cormorant management plan to reduce predation of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary.

Definitions and Scope of Request:

1. "Agencies" shall refer to all representatives of the federal agencies of the Environment Protection Agency, U.S. FWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service, or NMFS), Bureau of Reclamation, U.S.G.S., and Bonneville Power Administration. "States" shall refer to the states of Oregon and Washington. "NGOs" shall include, but not limited to, the Audubon Society, the Seattle Chapter Audubon Society, the Portland Chapter Audubon Society, and the American Bird Conservancy. All entities are collectively referred to as the "Parties".
2. "Any and all materials and information" shall include (but not limited to) all memos, emails, phone call notes, text messages, photographs, PowerPoint presentations, hand written notes, comments/ edits/retractions of documents, and shall be in either written or electronic form.
3. The subject matter shall include issues of avian population management in the Columbia River Basin. Birds included in these management programs include, but are not limited to, Caspian terns, double-crested cormorants, American white Pelicans, brown pelicans, and all gull species in the Columbia River basin, including the Columbia River estuary.
4. The time frame shall begin in 2012 to present.

Items requested:

1. Any and all materials and information, related to any meetings amongst or between any and all representatives of the Agencies, States and NGOs on avian predation and management in which the OETPA Participated.
2. Any and all materials and information that (includes comments/edits/retractions that) pertain to, include, or make reference to the management of predators (avian and mammalian) deemed to impact the numbers of Caspian terns and/or double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Basin since 2012.
3. Any and all materials, information, communications by Ms. Elaine Somers or Ms. Christine Reichgott, of EPA Region 10's OETPA and any of the aforementioned NGOs.
4. Any and all materials, information, communications by and between Dr. Daniel D. Roby Unit Leader-Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey-Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and OETPA.
5. Any and all materials, information, communications between Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, Portland Audubon Society and OETPA.
6. Any and all supporting materials, decision documents, and other information relating to the agency's environmental analysis of following documents: the "Double-crested Cormorant Management Plan to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary – Draft Environmental Impact Statement" and the similarly titled Final Environmental Impact Statement.

All of the above information, data, assumptions, programs, and reports are preferred in electronic form to save copy and mailing cost.

CRITFC requests a fee waiver under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 43 CFR 2.19(b). CRITFC is a non-profit Tribal Organization that provides technical assistance to four sovereign treaty tribes in the Columbia River Basin. CRITFC has no commercial interest in the information, but all information is pertinent to CRITFC's co-management responsibilities in the Basin, which, in this case, pertains to management of avian populations along the river that predate on tribally valuable salmonids. As such, the information will "contribute significantly to public understanding of the operation of activities of the government." 43 CFR 2.19(b)(1).

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to your speedy response. All correspondence regarding this matter should be directed to Blaine Parker, parb@critfc.org, or Julie Carter, carj@critfc.org.

Sincerely,

Babtist Paul Lumley
Executive Director