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WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

April 5, 2007

Ms. Elizabeth Phinney  
WSDOT Rail Office  
P.O. Box 47407  
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34936, Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

Dear Ms. Phinney:

I am writing on behalf of the Grant County Economic Council to express our support for the development of the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project.

During the past ten years we have worked closely with a number of developers and clients who have required rail service for various industrial projects in the greater Moses Lake area. During that time we have seen some of those projects either go to construction or at least become vested in preparation for construction. During the same period, many of the projects have gone to other locations because adequate rail service is not available to serve the majority of the heavy industrial zoned parcels in the greater Moses Lake area.

We firmly believe that the Northern Columbia Railroad Project is needed for the future of industrial development in the Greater Moses Lake area. Today there are few available industrial use parcels with serviceable rail access. We believe that the environmental impacts of new rail construction will be no greater than those of the new SR 17 four-lane road construction currently under construction in Moses Lake between Pioneer Way and Stratford Road.

We believe that the entire, proposed Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project will provide long term economic benefits for the community, the region and the State of Washington and therefore we fully support the project. Please contact me at the above number or via email at [tbrewer@grantedc.com](mailto:tbrewer@grantedc.com) if you have any questions regarding our organization, our mission, or our interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Terry L. Brewer'.

Terry L. Brewer, CEcD  
Executive Director

CC: Karen Bonaudi  
Albert Anderson

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office  
11103 East Montgomery Drive  
Spokane, WA 99206*

E1-2988

GD



April 6, 2007

Elizabeth Phinney  
WSDOT Rail Office  
P.O. Box 47407  
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

**Subject:** Species List for the STB Finance Docket No. 34936, Northern Columbia Basin  
Railroad Project in Grant County, WA

Dear Ms. Phinney:

This responds to your recent request for a list of threatened and endangered species. For your convenience, updated countywide species and habitat listings are now available on our website at <http://easternwashington.fws.gov>. To view the listings in your area of concern, select "county species lists" within the ESA programs page, and then select the county of interest. The lists available on our website are compliant with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), and are the most current available listings of endangered, threatened and proposed species and critical habitats in a given area. For optional consideration, the lists also contain updated candidate species.

When you submit a request for Section 7 consultation, we request that you include your downloaded species list and the date it was downloaded, as an attachment. If applicable, please also include the United States Fish and Wildlife Service reference number on your consultation request. This will document your compliance with 50 CFR 402.12 (c).

Should your project plans change significantly, or if the project is delayed more than 90 days, you should update your species lists through our website and through the above listed agencies. Thank you for your efforts to protect our nation's species and their habitats. If you have any questions concerning the above information, please contact Suzanne Audet at (509) 893-8002, or via email at [Suzanne\\_Audet@fws.gov](mailto:Suzanne_Audet@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

*Suzanne Audet*

*for* Supervisor