Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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PAC 0022

November 14, 1989

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1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana   59620

Dr. Peter Paquet
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 S.W. 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon   97204

Dear Dr. Paquet,

This letter is to inform you that the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will not be submitting any changes to the Northwest Power Planning Councils' protected areas program during the 1989 review process. A review of the list of designated streams in Montana was conducted by the Montana Rivers Information System project manager and wildlife biologist. At this time, we have no new streams to recommend or delete. We also did not receive any petitions from individuals outside the department requesting changes in our stream list.

We realize that the protected areas process is ongoing and new data will become available that may change the protected status of some of our streams in the future. Specifically, studies being conducted on the grizzly bear in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and a fisheries study on the Blackfoot River could change stream designations in these two systems. With most of our research effort for the Council on quantifying fisheries losses concluding and our wildlife mitigation program beginning, stream changes may also occur in the coming years as new data are collected.

We continue to support the Council's effort in protecting our most critical fish and wildlife stream habitat from future hydroelectric development. Furthermore, we feel the original intent of the program to "red flag" critical resource streams in order to prevent considerable investment by developers is being served. This was demonstrated in Montana during the 1989 review process when no hydroelectric developers petitioned any of our streams for deletion.

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the
Council's program.

                                Sincerely,

                                K.L. Cool
                                Director

cc: John Brenden
       Stan Grace
       Terri Wilner
       Tom Pansky