



August 9th, 2004

Barbara McIntosh
C/O Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: 5th Round SRFB Proposal – Phase II Okanogan Thermal and LiDAR Survey

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

We write today to express our support for the Colville Tribe's ongoing thermal and landscape assessment in the Okanogan sub-basin. The information produced by the Thermal Imagery and LiDAR represent the kind of vital information and data necessary to develop good salmon and habitat projects.

The primary objective of the Phase I thermal survey (funded by SRFB in the 3rd round) was to collect temperature data for the water surface for select areas in the Okanogan River. Temperature is a primary limiting factor in defining habitat refugia and information about them is indispensable when considering protection plans. The Conservancy is using the Thermal and LiDAR data already developed in Phase I to identify areas where habitat actions supported by the Conservancy in the Okanogan can help salmon and steelhead recovery.

The most significant benefits of integrating TIR with LiDAR data from Phase I include:

1. Development of a rapid assessment technique to identify and document nodes of high salmonid habitat quality and a means to help prioritize opportunities for habitat restoration (5th round projects);
2. The raw data necessary to simulate the various flow and floodplain management scenarios in producing high-quality salmonid habitat;
3. Improved understanding of the factors providing salmonid refugia (location of hyporheic zones) and the potential use of such information as input for computer simulation models to predict surface and ground water flow in the channels and floodplains of the Okanogan reaches (sub-basin and recovery plan actions).

We encourage the SRFB to fund this Phase II project proposal to initiate and complete the GIS analysis of the remaining 106 miles of river data (in hand) and extend the coverage another 55 miles to include previously un-surveyed salmonid habitats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Hurd".

Jack Hurd, Director of Conservation Programs

Cc: Nancy Warner
Keith Wolf