

-----Original Message-----

From: Babcock, Steven D NWS

Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2002 12:57

To: Kaye, Leslie C NWS Contractor

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REQUESTED: News Release with The Nature Conservancy

Leslie,

Just left you a voice mail to advise that I did mention this July 9 new release to Skagit County officials this morning. And I emailed the news release to them, noting that we, in fact, do not operate any of the three dams. Commissioner Dahlstedt was contacted by TNC folks and reportedly expressed support. The possible benefit to the Corps/Skagit County flood damage reduction and ecosystem project is potential broader support for a recommended plan we expect to formulate, as well as potential for financial support to the County in land acquisition to implement some lower basin restoration and/or mitigation measures. **Too bad TNC wasn't talking well in advance with Corps folks to have their facts straight.** The good news is that County Public Works folks have a good relation with TNC's State and Skagit County folks, and we all may be able to capitalize on this existing relationship. Colonel Graves dropped by this morning and we exchanged views and information on this situation.

Steve

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaye, Leslie C NWS Contractor

Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2002 12:34

To: Harris, David G NWS

Cc: Babcock, Steven D NWS

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REQUESTED: News Release with The Nature Conservancy

Dave: I also have Steve Babcock in on this information release/email thread because it has to do with his river. I concur wholeheartedly with the decision to drop Washington from the chart for the reasons stated below. Even though I caught this the first time around I didn't think there would be any way to change what had already been released (or I was under that impression).

So has it officially gone out or not?

-LK

-----Original Message-----

From: Graves, Ralph COL NWS

Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2002 3:37 PM

To: Hewitt, David W HQ02

Cc: Thomason, Mona J NWS; Ziminske, Mark T NWS; Wagner, Wayne E NWS; Harris, David G NWS; White, Michael B NWD; Krueger, Daniel W COL NWD; Bredthauer, Stephen R NWD

Subject: News Release with The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Hewitt,

We Seattle District folks met today with David Weekes, Maggie Coons and Bob Carey of the Washington State branch of TNC. It was a good meeting and I expect productive future cooperation with them. However, we feel that the upcoming joint press release between USACE and TNC may cause us both a problem here. You see, the dams listed for the Skagit River (Gorge / Diablo / Ross) are not Corps projects. If possible, I ask that you just drop off the chart the line mentioning Washington State, the Skagit River and those dams. If that is not possible we can do damage control with Seattle City Light (Ross, etc.) and Puget Sound Energy (who operates the Baker River projects) but it benefits neither USACE nor TNC to create the impression that we are going to conspire to dictate operational changes to dams neither of us owns. Actually, we think the most fruitful area of cooperation will be on our Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction Project on the lower river, but that is not a dam. I know it is late in the game to change the press release, but I ask you to try. The Washington State TNC folks with whom we met agreed to ask their chain the same thing.

COL Graves