

# Methow Valley Citizens Council

The Methow Valley Citizens Council (MVCC) strongly supports the Department of Ecology's temperature water quality standards as they apply to dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. MVCC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to raise a strong community voice for the protection of the Methow Valley's natural environment and rural character since 1976. We understand that EPA has withdrawn the draft permits sent to Ecology for certification. But we continue to support Ecology's authority to review federal permits and its policy to certify only permits for federal facilities that will meet Washington State water quality standards.

As you are aware, the Methow Valley rivers and streams provide spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead populations which must pass both downstream and upstream through some of the federal dams and their reservoirs in question. Some of these salmonid populations are protected as threatened or endangered. Numerous fish habitat enhancement projects are completed or underway in the Methow drainage, at considerable cost. If fish are exposed to high temperatures during their migration, fewer fish will return to spawn, thus reducing fishing opportunities for tribes and sport anglers and undermining the restoration goals of fish habitat enhancements.

In short, we are very disappointed that EPA has withdrawn the permits from Department of Ecology's review, and we support the Department's efforts to uphold its water quality standards in federal permits.