

Jenkins, Kris

From: Paula Del Giudice [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2005 3:06 PM
To: Walker, Mark
Subject: National Wildlife Federation comments



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On behalf of the 100,000 National Wildlife Federation members and supporters in the Northwest, I write to ask you to make sure that any successor that is chosen for the Fish Passage Center must continue to provide sound independent fisheries science, along with technical assistance, to state and tribal fisheries managers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Managers are depending on that source of data and support and need it to do their jobs.

Importantly, the new entity must not be housed at BPA or the Power Council. It needs to be independent of and separate from these existing entities to allow for the greatest degree of scientific integrity and rigor.

The states and tribes must to be able to participate in the remand process underway with the best available science and right now, that science is in jeopardy. It's up to the Council and BPA to ensure that the FPC transition proceeds in a way that keeps the states and tribes fully engaged in the collaboration surrounding the Biological Opinion remand process.

We must help salmon and salmon-dependent businesses survive the next year of salmon recovery negotiations. That means bringing back more natural river conditions, keeping young fish in the river next spring and summer as they migrate to the ocean, and quickly finding a credible replacement for the independent, scientific analysis provided by the FPC.

Don't split up FPC's functions. Keep it all under one roof. That is the most efficient solution, and the solution that best meets the needs of our region's fishery managers.

Data and analyses from this new entity should be made readily available to the public at no cost. The FPC's website receives 7 million visits annually, many of them from fishermen and fishing businesses that needed its information to prepare for fishing trips or put together business plans. Let's make sure the public still has access to this vitally important data.

Sincerely,
Paula J. Del Giudice

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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