

October 5, 2006

To: Mark Walker  
Director of Public Affairs  
Northwest Power & Conservation Council

Dear Council Members,

As an employee of the Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District, I am writing this letter to address the possible funding cutbacks that the Conservation District faces with the Lapwai/Big Canyon Creek BPA projects that the District administers.

I have been an employee of the NPSWCD for four years, and in that time I have seen countless conservation practices installed that were a direct result of the funding provided by the Bonneville Power Administration. The District fills a unique niche in the field of conservation because of our ability to provide conservation services in a timely manner with a minimum of bureaucratic red tape. Without the continued funding that BPA provides the District will be unable to continue to do this. In fact the District faces a total shutdown if the BPA projects do not receive further funding. The infrastructure that is already in place as well as the experience of the employees and the connection to the local community and landowners will be lost, and will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace. In addition the ongoing projects that the District administers will be discontinued, resulting in a loss of investment for the BPA.

For these reasons, not to mention the employment predicament that I will face, I believe the Lapwai Creek and Big Canyon Creek BPA projects deserve to be recommended for funding by the Council. These projects are a valuable asset to our community and to habitat restoration in general, and it would be a shame to see them disappear. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joshua D. Dieringer  
Field Technician  
Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District  
Culdesac, Idaho 83501  
(208)-843-2931