

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute

October 5, 2006

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District projects on Lapwai Creek (project number 2002-070-00) and Big Canyon Creek (project number 1999-015-00).

Dear Mr. Walker,

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute would like to express our support for continued funding to the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (NPSWCD) for their projects on Lapwai and Big Canyon Creek. The on the ground work that has occurred in these watersheds is critical to improving anadromous fish habitat in our community. The sustainability of these projects is enhanced by working with private landowners and the local community to implement this critical restoration. Lasting and meaningful protection of our unique ecological resources requires local ownership.. Many of the benefits and the community support that takes years to cultivate could be lost if funding was not renewed.

Since 1995, PCEI has been actively involved in stream restoration and habitat enhancement projects on private property. Our experience has taught us that community support takes a long-term commitment. We are pleased with the effort of the NPSWCD to restore the Lapwai and Big Canyon watersheds and would like to request that you include these projects in your final recommendation list to BPA in order for them to continue their successful track record of steelhead habitat improvements, community support, and local economic benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Tracy Brown
Watersheds Program Director

Celebrating our 20th year of "connecting people, place and community" in 2006.