



The Habitat Organization

Oct. 6, 06, 2006

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power & Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348
fax 503-820-2370
emailed to comments@nwcouncil.org

Pheasants Forever, Region 16
20252 Springbuck Lane
Genesee, ID 83832

To Whom It May Concern:

Pheasants Forever, Region 16, would strongly urge the Northwest Power & Conservation Council to include the Lapwai Creek project number 2002-070-00 and Big Canyon Creek project number 1999-015-00 on their recommendation list to the Bonneville Power Administration. Since 2003 the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) has spent \$1.4 million to improve anadromous fish habitat within the watershed. The funds have been spent directly in their community.

The District sponsors two ongoing projects both in the Clearwater subbasin. One project is located in Big Canyon Creek (project #1999-015-00) and the other in the Lapwai Creek watershed (#2002-070-00). These projects are on-going, have established a strong landowner commitment to improving habitat, and have completed a tremendous amount of habitat implementation within the past three years. The stated project objectives are to improve anadromous fish habitat in the lapwai and big canyon creek watersheds through the installation of conservation practices on private and government owned properties. According to the Potential Economic Impact of Restored Salmon and Steelhead Fishing in Idaho study completed in 2005, a restored fishery could produce \$5.4 million a year in economic activity in Idaho.

What is of particular concern here is the restoration of habitat. The restoration of fish habitat that the District does is vital to the natural ecosystem of northern Idaho. As a result, Region 16 of Pheasants Forever is very much connected with all habitat restoration efforts in northern Idaho. As our letterhead states, we are an organization driven to further and promote habit restoration. Upper wetland game birds are greatly benefited by riparian restoration/conservation efforts. As alluded to earlier, the District has worked arduously to improve anadromous fish habitat within the watershed.

In sum, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District is a valuable partner to all habitat conservation groups and their work is vital to that effort.

We thank you in advance for you consideration in this matter.