

October 3, 2006

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

Dear Council Members:

My name is Sam Schumaker, as a resident of the Lapwai Creek watershed; I am taking the opportunity to comment on the 2007 BPA project draft Council recommendation list. It has been brought to my attention that the Lapwai Creek project (2002-070-00) administered by the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District is not included on the Council's draft recommendation list.

The Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District has really given me the opportunity to see how our local soil and water conservation district works. I really didn't know what the conservation district was about, but when they hired me on I learned what plant life was endangered and what plant life was invading our land and destroying our native plants. They taught me how keep our native plants and not let the invasive species destroy what we have worked hard for in keeping our native plants thriving.

The Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District gave me the opportunity to see how and learn what the Nez Perce Tribe Bio-Control Center is all about. There I learned what bugs, also called agents that they have on the invasive plants. These agents are sent to the U.S. in order to help control the invasive species of plants brought from the other countries. Each species of bug goes through dozens of test in order to make it to the U.S. They have the test so that when the agents get here and go to work they do not start eating our native plants.

Also this summer I learned about soil quality and how it helps out the farmers. I really got interested in soil quality because I live on a farm and I got to look at our soil and see all the cool stuff you really don't notice in soil.

The thing that I really liked about the district was that you were mostly outside in the nice weather and didn't have to be in the office all the time. The district has also opened a field of opportunities and careers that I am interested in. I am currently working here after school and plan on working here next summer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sam Schumaker