

October 6, 2006

2006010119

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power & Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Mr. Mark Walker,

The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District is one of the only agencies that work directly with landowners to implement projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat in Nez Perce County. As a resident of Nez Perce County, the potential economic impact for the loss of funding the Lapwai Creek and Big Canyon Creek Watershed projects is of concern in the community.

The Clearwater River Drainage is the home to the steelhead trout. Having a background in fisheries, I understand mitigation efforts for this species are important to the ecology and population dynamics of the drainage. The Lapwai Creek and Big Canyon Creek are just a few Clearwater River tributaries that have no influence of supplementation efforts supplied by the federal and state agencies in Idaho.

By providing funding, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District will work with local landowners, contractors, and businesses, through conservation practices, to insure the survival of the natural population of steelhead trout in the Lapwai Creek and Big Canyon Creek.

I hope you will consider all the letters written by landowners as well as employees of Nez Perce County. The economy relies on the conservation districts involvement in the community. Please fund the Lapwai Creek and Big Canyon Creek Watershed projects. The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District has the communities support.

Sincerely,



Stefanie Thomas

OCT 06 2006