October 5, 2006

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

Dear Council Members,

As a resident and landowner in the Lapwai and Big Canyon Creek watersheds, I am writing this letter to address the possible funding cutbacks that the Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation District faces with the Lapwai/Big Canyon Creek BPA projects that the District administers. It has been brought to my attention that these projects are not included on the Councils draft recommendation list.

The Conservation District has helped Wittman Farms implement many conservation practices over the past years, including tree plantings in riparian areas, installation of fish friendly low flow stream crossings, off-site livestock watering facilities, fencing to exclude livestock from the stream, livestock waste management facilities to control runoff and waste removal, and erosion control practices to reduce soil erosion to name a few. There is much more to be done but continued funding is needed to ensure that it will be done.

This project offers innovative, low-cost alternatives to landowners in both watersheds for habitat restoration that simply aren't available through any other means. I wholeheartedly support these projects and would ask that the Council do the same.

Sincerely,

Todd Wittman, Wittman Farms

Todd Wittman