

## Jenkins, Kris

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**From:** Bert Bowler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2005 4:06 PM  
**To:** Walker, Mark  
**Cc:** Bill Sedivy  
**Subject:** Public Comment on the FPC

Members of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council -

My name is Bert Bowler, Native Fisheries Director for Idaho Rivers United, based in Boise, ID.

IRU is a grassroots rivers advocacy group of 3,000 members whose mission is to preserve, protect and restore the biological and ecological integrity of Idaho's rivers. The membership emphasizes the importance of native fish to the state.

Recovering wild salmon and steelhead to the Snake River basin is the number one priority for IRU. Germane to the recovery issue is sound science.

IRU is very concerned by the action lead by Senator Craig from Idaho to discontinue funding the Fish Passage Center.

In light of the action taken, IRU offers the following comments for your consideration.

The FPC was established in the Council's F&W program several decades ago to ensure that the fish and wildlife managers had adequate tools and data to make recommendations on operations of the FCRPS for the benefit of fish. This function needs to be maintained.

The current functions of the FPC need to be kept under the same roof but not at BPA or the Council. Independence is key to scientific integrity.

The state and tribal fishery managers need an oversight role in whatever is created to ensure they are afforded the data and analysis in a timely manner.

The data needs to be completely transparent - as it currently is under the FPC - so that all individuals may participate in the information. The data and analysis needs to be made available to the public at no cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important issue.

Bert Bowler

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