

Jenkins, Kris

From: Michael Gundlach [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2005 7:43 AM
To: Walker, Mark
Subject: FPC

NPCC Central Offices
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR
503-222-5161

Dear Sir:

It's very discouraging to see politics playing with 20 years of sound science. The FPC has played a key role in providing independent scientific data to the state and tribal fishery managers.

Although I am not directly involved with this group I value their work and dedication to providing clear data on fish populations. This is critical information that helps to ensure that this resource remains for future generations. There are literally thousands of people that rely on fishing as a business and hundreds of thousands that consume fish. Without independent scientific data on the fish we could easily lose additional stocks of fish.

Just last weekend I was shooting video at Wahclella falls and Tanner Creek. I spent a good portion of my time photographing salmon in the lower portion of the river. It was an absolute thrill to see these great fish in the stream. I imagine that a 100 years ago this stream would have been teeming with thousands of fish every year similar to some of the runs that remain in Alaska today. Although I rarely eat fish and only fish very occasionally it is very important to simply know that the fish are there and that folks are working hard to help their survival.

It's all too obvious to even the least informed that humans cannot provide/create a better habitat for fish than has already been provided by hundreds of thousands of years of the earth's cycles. For fish to thrive and continue to provide jobs, be a food staple and contribute to the overall ecosystem we need to ensure that river conditions are brought back to a more natural condition. Only good scientific data can help evaluate which of our efforts are working and which are not.

Since the arrival of settlers in the West the fish stocks have plummeted, rivers and streams have been polluted and the overall ecosystem has been significantly damaged without the strong runs of salmon. Why do some continue to fight against the obvious issues that have reduced the fish runs? The people living in the Northwest deserve better than to allow politics to continue to dictate degradation of the salmon's environment.

Please ensure that there is an immediate replacement for the independent, scientific analysis provided by the FPC and do not split up the functions of the FPC, it needs to remain as one entity to ensure the most efficient solution. In no case should the entity be housed at BPA or the Power Council. NW states and tribal fishery agencies should administer the entity to make sure they get the data they need.

As in the past all data and analyses should be made readily available to the public at no cost.

The FPC's website has millions of visits each year, many of them from fishermen and fishing businesses that needed its information to prepare for fishing trips or put together business plans.

Please step above the "politics as usual" and take action that is truly focused on doing what is right to ensure sound independent science is available to make sound decisions on the future of our fish and environment.

Sincerely,
Mike Gundlach
Portland, Oregon