

Jenkins, Kris

From: Danielson, Judi
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2005 11:27 AM
To: Walker, Mark
Subject: FW: [spam] Transfer of Fish Passage Center Functions to Other Agencies

Mark----I don't know if this went out to all.

From: Leslie Crunk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu 12/8/2005 11:20 AM
To: Danielson, Judi
Subject: [spam] Transfer of Fish Passage Center Functions to Other Agencies



December 8, 2005

Judi Danielson
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Idaho Council Member

RE: Transfer of Fish Passage Center Functions to Other Agencies

Dear Judi:

The Northwest Food Processors Association supports the transfer of the funding and functions of the Fish Passage Center to other organizations or institutions in the Northwest. We believe that this effort is consistent with the intent of Congress to streamline and clarify the roles of various federal agencies involved in the salmon recovery efforts on the Columbia River.

The Northwest Food Processors Association is a regional trade association representing the value-added component of the Northwest's agricultural industry. Food processors added \$6.28 billion in value to the region's economy last year and employed over 61,000 people. The management of the Columbia River system is of critical interest to our members as we rely on the system for power, transportation and irrigation water for our raw products.

Data collection and analysis is a critically important part of the salmon recovery effort. However, we have had serious concerns about the ability of the Fish

Passage to perform in an unbiased and independent manner. The Fish Passage Center was originally established to serve the fisheries and tribal interests and assist them in advocating their positions in river operations. It was not designed to be an independent, scientifically-credible organization serving the regional interest. While over time, the staffing, functions, and funding of the Fish Passage Center expanded, it did not abandon its advocacy role. This has been an increasingly serious issue as the flood of litigation in recent years has politicized the Center's role.

We support BPA's decision to transfer the functions of the Fish Passage Center to other agencies through an open, competitive process. It is our strong belief that this action is absolutely necessary to assure that the region obtains credible, scientific data and analysis. This transfer will benefit salmon recovery, the Northwest economy and the public interest.

We ask you to join us in supporting this action. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Zepponi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "Z".

David Zepponi
President