

**Jenkins, Kris**

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**From:** Stephen Hitchcock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2005 6:47 PM  
**To:** Walker, Mark  
**Subject:** Don't dismantle the FPC!

Hello Staff of NPCC,

I could not attend your meeting today to solicit feedback from the general public about the future of the Fish Passage Center. I am very disappointed to learn of the plan to transfer the functions of the FPC to new entities. It would be really, really BAD to have the Power Council or the BPA house a new entity doing FPC duties. Come on! Talk about a glaring example of the proverbial 'fox guarding the chicken coop'! The covert plan here seems to be republicans and big business electricity interests trying to eliminate independent, sound scientific research into how salmon runs are doing on the Columbia and Snake river systems, so they can further control, cherry-pick and manipulate data to serve their selfish profit-driven interests (at the expense of ongoing declining salmon runs).

When will big business and their political skills in Congress learn to share natural resources instead of continually attempting to destroy salmon and salmon interests?? The BPA does not want to implement proven salmon protections like increasing spill to help salmon get to the ocean, so it has been working with anti-salmon members of Congress to cut funding for the FPC and transfer its functions to less salmon friendly entities such as the BPA or the Power Council. As you know the BPA has the gall to maintain publicly that trucking salmon fry around the multiple dams in 18 wheelers back to the ocean is an acceptable long term solution for preserving salmon populations! I for one have NO FAITH or trust of the BPA regarding salmon preservation, and to have them take over the duties of the FPC is a sure way to destroy what little salmon there is left!

Consider this: as we celebrate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's journey along the Snake and Columbia Rivers, back then 16 MILLION wild salmon returned to these rivers each year! TODAY, ONLY ONE PERCENT REMAIN. What will be left for future generations of our precious natural heritage if we continue to allow corporate greed for profits to control our state and federal government and dictate self-serving legislation? (Bush is anti-salmon, Enron is anti-Salmon, BPA is anti-salmon, etc., etc.)?

A better idea to solve this crisis surrounding the future of independent, accurate northwest salmon research and data collection is this: ***have NW states and tribal fishery agencies administer and house an entity which undertakes all of the research previously done by the FPC. This is the only solution that will work.***

Thank you very much for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hitchcock  
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