

Jenkins, Kris

From: Paige Wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2005 11:16 AM
To: Walker, Mark
Subject: Official Comments on Fish Passage Center

To Whom It May Concern:

As a fly fisher and concerned citizen, I believe the recovery of Northwest salmon is vital to our region's future. To achieve this goal, the Northwest needs sound, independent fishery science. For the past 20 years, the Fish Passage Center has provided that sound science, along with excellent technical assistance, to state and tribal fishery managers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Now, as you move forward with transferring the functions of the FPC to a new entity as directed by the recently-passed Energy and Water appropriations bill for 2006, I urge you to ensure that this new entity continues to meet the scientific needs of our region's fishery managers. To do so, the new entity must be developed in close consultation with and overseen by state and tribal fishery managers; it must be housed as a single, independent entity, not divided up among several existing entities; and its data and analyses must be made readily available to the public at no cost.

If these factors are incorporated into your implementation of the Energy and Water bill's report language, our region will be much better positioned to meet its salmon recovery responsibilities. Good science is always important in salmon recovery, but over the next year, while the Columbia River biological opinion is being rewritten, it will be more crucial than ever. I hope you'll do everything you can to guarantee the Northwest's state and tribal fishery managers have the tools they need to fully participate in Columbia Basin salmon recovery – in 2006 and beyond.

Sincerely,

S. Paige Wallace

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