

December 1, 2005

12/15/05
Encl mbrs
F+W Div
F+W State staff
12/15/05
MW
JAH

RE: FUTURE OF NORTHWEST SALMON RECOVERY

Dear Ms. Eden:

As a full-time fishing guide concerned with the future of northwest salmon recovery, I fully appreciate our region's need for sound, independent fishery science. I have owned/operated Triple "S" Guide Service for the past 6-years. Since my family is supported 100% by fisheries, it is extremely important to me when changes are made in the governing of these fisheries. 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 and Washington.

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. A car that is parted out will no longer drive!

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,
Lee Freeman
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