



Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association

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Pride of the Prairie - We Make Your World Green

June 26, 2002

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Kendra Phillips
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Dear Ms. Phillips:

I am contacting you as President of the Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association on a matter that I feel is important to the Northwest economy and quality of life.

The Independent Scientific Review Panel was established to help correct the random, wasteful allocation of funding to unhelpful projects in the fight to preserve the Northwest's dwindling and steelhead runs.

The Pisces unit, developed by Balaton Power, Inc., was the topic of an innovative projects submission (Project ID: 34018) by the Watershed Professionals Network. At the time the project was submitted, in-stream testing had not been begun and the ISRP declined to rank it. Since that time, however, Balaton has used its own funds to construct a prototype and entered into an agreement with the Yakima tribe to test the unit. The results were surprisingly positive.

I urge the members of the council to consider this project for funding for final testing and certification. The concept is innovative yet simple, and can be implemented at low cost in a wide variety of situations where screening of diversions or intakes is necessary. Maintenance is much lower than that of conventional screening solutions, and the unit can be removed from the stream during freezing season.

This new technology could be a substantial advance in the effort to keep the fish runs alive, and I hope the council will see its possibilities.

Yours,

Jim Wemhoff, President
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association

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