



NW Council of Governments & Associates

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JAN 26 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Attention: Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Study
201 N. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

21 January 2000

Re: Comment on Study Results.

Sirs:

1 | This much anticipated study conclusion has left me wondering what has been accomplished by the expenditure of \$22 Million in taxpayers money. The 40 page summary of the 4000 page report leaves us somewhat confused. After four years and the millions of dollars, the non-conclusion is hard to contemplate.

2 | On the positive side, we commend the Corps for not going along with the environmental steamroller that wants desperately for the dams to be removed. This alternative (dam breaching) should be removed completely from consideration, because of several reasons:

1. Science has not proven that dam removal will save the salmon.
2. The economic destruction caused by dam removal would be catastrophic to the people of the Pacific Northwest.
3. Predators, ocean conditions, gill netting, etc. have not been given enough consideration in any of the studies that promote dam removal.
4. The cost of replacement of the 3,030 megawatts lost by removal of the four dams would be devastating to the region.
5. The cost of dam breaching is too great a drain on the people of region.

The most economically positive measures would be Alternatives 2 and 3, transportation of the juvenile salmon and system improvements. Transportation of the fish has already shown tremendous survival rates, greater than in the wild.

Respectfully,

Les Wigen

Les Wigen, Chairman

R. Lonn

Robert D. Lonn, Consultant/Partner