

Chatman, Cheryl A NWW

From: Steven D. Freer, M.D. [sfreer@hsc.vcu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2000 6:32 AM
To: Someone Who Cares.
Subject: Save Salmon Now!

JUL 12 2000

Federal Salmon Managers,

I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, my wife is from western Wyoming near the Idaho border, and we frequently vacation in this area to this day. I remember well the time before these 4 dams in question came on line, and I have been appalled to see the devastation they have caused to this spectacular creature and biological mystery known as inland salmon, largely for the profit of a relative few.

Please accept my comments on the Draft Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Plan by the Federal Caucus, and make my comments part of the public record.

Removing four dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington must be part of the Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery strategy. I urge you to recommend dam removal in the Final Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and the Columbia Basin Fish Plan.

- Dams Block Salmon Migration - Snake River dams kill salmon by delaying the migration of young salmon to the sea - exposing them to predation and disease-and create obstacles to adult salmon returning to spawn.
- Science Supports Dam Removal - Studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State and Tribal fisheries agencies, and independent scientific committees have all reached the same conclusion - dam removal must be the cornerstone of the salmon recovery strategy.
- Dam Removal is Less Costly Than Other Options - Removing dams is far less costly than other salmon recovery options, including new restrictions on farmers, loggers, and commercial fishermen. Acquiring water from irrigators to rush young salmon to the sea could cost more than \$1 billion and eliminate more than 6,000 farming jobs.
- Dam Removal Will Create New Jobs - Restoring the Lower Snake River would create more than 3,100 recreation-related jobs and generate more than \$200 million in annual economic benefits, according to experts. And, dam removal will protect farmers, loggers, and commercial fisherman.
- The Benefits Provided by the Dams Can be Replaced - By investing in highways and rail, upgrading irrigation equipment, and building new sources of clean power, we can replace the benefits now provided by the dams.
- We Can't Delay Any Longer - Delay significantly increases the risk of extinction for endangered Snake River salmon, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

I urge you to recommend dam removal in the Final Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and the Columbia Basin Fish Plan. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Steven Freer, MD
Steven D. Freer, M.D.
4300 Hanover Ave
Richmond, VA
23221
sfreer@hsc.vcu.edu