

MAY 26 2000

Chatman, Cheryl A NWW

From: Bill Bakke [bmbakke@Teleport.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2000 2:17 PM
To: Salmonstudy
Subject: Snake River Dam Breaching Comments

NATIVE FISH SOCIETY
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March 23, 2000

Memorandum

TO: Army Corps of Engineers, Salmon Study
FR: Bill M. Bakke, Director
RE: Snake River Hydro Dam Removal

The Native Fish Society and its members would like to inform the Army Corps of Engineers that we support dam breaching on the lower Snake River to provide recovery of ESA-listed salmonids.

In the 1960s prior to the completion of all the dams on the lower Snake River the spring and summer chinook salmon runs were of wild origin and each year about 40,000 adults returned to spawn in the tributaries of the Snake River. Since that time, the federal dams have been constructed and these fish have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

It is possible that during wet, cool weather cycles and strong ocean productivity, that the salmon may be able to accommodate the mortality caused by these and other mainstem hydro dams, but under conditions of poor ocean productivity and a dry, warm weather cycle these fish are unable to replace themselves and decline.

The construction of the hydro dams on the Snake River create a survival barrier to salmon during cycles of low productivity. The only solution to this problem is to breach these dams so that these listed species are able to successfully rebuild.