

February 24, 2000

FEB 25 2000



Lower Snake River Study Brigadier General Carl Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

Re: Snake River Dam Breaching

Dear General Strock:

It is difficult for me to comprehend that I am actually writing a letter to oppose something which, when originally proposed seemed so absurd and preposterous. I speak of removing the lower Snake River Dam System. Let me make it clear that I OPPOSE REMOVAL OF THESE DAMS. I oppose their removal for the following reasons:

1. Current scientific studies show that survival rates of salmon smolts past these dams is as high today as it was before the dams were even built!
2. Only four (4) of the thirty-four currently listed or proposed listed salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) pass these Snake River Dams.
3. Environmental impacts of dam removal will be catastrophic in so far as the dried up reservoirs, exposed stumpage, and general silting from wash that will occur as the old channel restoration is attempted. Habitat will not be improved for salmon for decades thereafter. Boating and fishing on the existing reservoirs will be lost except to the wealthy and hardy who can afford a guide or jet boat
4. Pumping stations and irrigation projects will be eliminated, or at best, necessitate large capital expenditures for relocation. Agriculture is already suffering economically. Dam removal will add significantly to farming doldrums.
5. Hydropower is some of the cheapest and most renewable resource we have. It is clean and environmentally friendly. Air quality is not adversely impacted by these dams. Removal of them will negatively impact air quality as more pollution results from truck and rail transportation which will be necessitated to replace present barge shipping.
6. The West Coast depends heavily on electric power generated from the Snake and Columbia River System Dams. Removal of these dams will negatively impact power generation
7. I believe improving habitat, reducing takes by Indian and coastal fisherman, increasing hatchery rearing, reducing of natural predators such as terns and further scientific studies for the development of other long term plans is the answer to salmon restoration

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8. I believe proponents of dam breaching are selfish, politically motivated, and for the most part, urbanites who have been sold an environmental lie. If they lived near these dams and drew their economic sustenance from agriculture, I believe they would oppose dam removal. We in the rural areas are in a minority, but our voice should be weighted more heavily because of our economic dependence on these dams.
9. Removal of these dams could lead to increased flooding

Please consider carefully my opposition to dam breaching and stand against Snake River Dam removal. Thank you for a listening ear and heart.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn A. Child". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Child, President
LC Farms, Inc. and family farmer
For some 25+ years.