

MAY 23 2000

**From:** gcdurday@oz.net  
**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2000 10:20 AM  
**To:** Salmonstudy  
**Subject:** Save Snake River Salmon

FROM:

NAME: Gary Durday  
ADDRESS: 13360 Lester Road NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

Attention Lower Snake River Study :

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

Attention: Lower Snake River Study

210 North Third Avenue

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

salmonstudy@usace.army.mil

As a graduate of Humboldt State University with a degree in Fisheries Biology, a lifetime fisherman, and independent businessman, I support breaching the four dams on the Lower Snake River. Five years ago, the federal government promised to make the difficult decisions necessary to restore Snake River salmon by the end of 1999. While 1999 is behind us, those decisions have yet to be made despite over four years and \$20 million dedicated to a Snake salmon recovery strategy by NMFS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With over 200 regional scientists, the federal government's own Fish and Wildlife Service and PATH research, state fisheries managers of the region, and the Governor of Oregon all indicating that dam breaching presents the best chance for Snake River salmon recovery, the choice is clear: The four dams on the Lower Snake must be breached. Recent research has narrowed our window of opportunity with the reports that Snake River spring and summer chinook salmon face extinction by the year 2017 without immediate action. Clearly in the case of Snake River salmon, the price of political delay in breaching these dams is extinction.

After over four years and sound scientific evidence, more studies and stalling can only amount to manipulation of the facts, engineered to avoid a tough, but urgent decision. Snake River salmon don't have time to play politics. In 20 years when our children can only look to a photo to see what a wild salmon run looked like, we will only have ourselves to blame for ignoring the science and the salmon.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Durday  
President  
Olympic Radiology LLC