

FEB 19 2000

Brigadier General Carl Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Attention: Lower Snake River Study

Dear General Strock:

I am opposed to destruction of any Federal dams. It does not make sense to me. I am not in any way opposed to fish and in fact favor the use of good science and accurate models to improve the fish runs. It is obvious to me that the answer to this problem does not come from a single drastic silver bullet.

The impact, on the fish runs, of distroying dams is not known only modeled. The environmental impact of changing a developing ecosystem are not known. The immediate economic impact on natural resource based industries and specifically Agriculture is well known. The cost of freight goes up!

We observed the impact on our infrastructure of a single draw down in 1992. How will this damaged and under built infrastructure hold up to the huge increase in shipments. If I only look at my industry presently there is the equivalent of 1400 to 1500 truck loads of fertilizer being shipped up the river on barges. This doesn't sound like much but at present there is insufficient numbers of trucks, trailers and railcars to handle this traffic in a very short window of time.

In the business that i manage we rely on accurate science. I expect that in the end the decision made on this issue of salmon recovery will be backed with science. Please be sure that the models that are used are accurate. You may not be here to say we made a mistake, My family and I will still be here living with the results of your decision.

Are we willing to trade?

Hydro power	for	carbon based electical power increased levels of atmospheric CO ₂
A navigatable river	for	Diesel powered trucks and trains The increased cost of maintaining and rebuilding our already over used and under built land transportation system.

I think not. I was not yet born when the decision to dam this river was made. The people that made those decisions should be commended. Every person that lives in the Pacific North West has benefited in some way or another. I don't think that we want to throw all of these benefits away.

Sincerely,
Jeffery J. Becker
Branch Manager
The McGregor Co.
320 Waha Rd.
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