

**Lewiston Chamber of Commerce
Position on Fish Recovery**

The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce recognizes the vital contribution the Snake and Columbia Rivers bring to this region's economic well being and quality of life. Along with most other Northwesters, we want to preserve the things we value most about living here – a vital rural culture and strong regional economy capable of supporting families and communities for years to come.

We also recognize the critical need for maintaining the traditional agricultural and industrial uses of Northwest water. We support the many uses of the Snake and Columbia Rivers for fish and wildlife, hydropower generation, flood control, transportation, irrigation and recreation.

The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce believes that reservoir drawdowns below current operating levels, or removal of the dams on the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers would inflict on the citizenry a loss of recreation, an increase in electrical rates, the loss of navigation, risk of floods, economic hardship and impaired quality of life. We believe that the salmon and steelhead decline is due to many factors including habitat, an increase in predators, drought, unfavorable ocean conditions, poor hatchery practices, increased harvest and hydro projects. There are many reasons for the decline in fish populations (worldwide) and we need a comprehensive approach in solving these problems. ^{Recognize} ~~Quit~~ ^{We recognize} ~~Quit~~ looking for a single, "silver-bullet" solution that does nothing more than divide the region, ^{figure out} ~~figure out~~ what we really need to restore the fish runs, get good, credible science and then have a meaningful discussion with the region about the alternatives and consequences. We resolve that salmon and steelhead can and should be reserved and enhanced in conjunction with reserving the many uses of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. We want common-sense solutions that really work. We deserve a win-win solution for everyone connected to the river – one that allows the fish to thrive, but preserves the benefits of our remarkable river system for future generations.

The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce rejects and opposes the taking of additional Northwest water for flow augmentation purposes, reservoir drawdowns, or the removal of any dams. We know that river navigation is the least-cost, most fuel-efficient and least polluting mode of transportation for Northwest goods. Our dams are a vital link in our economy that we have, over the years, grown to depend on to put food on our table, deliver our goods to market, protect ourselves from drought and floods, provide recreation opportunities, and bring electricity to our homes.

JOHN STELLMAN 2/10/00