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**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report EIS  
Hearing  
Quality Inn  
Clarkston, Washington  
February 10, 2000

**Comments by the Port of Lewiston**

*Dale R. Alldredge*  
Port Commissioner

On behalf of the Commissioners of the Port of Lewiston, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. Salmon recovery is clearly one of the most significant issues to confront the Port, our community and the region in the last 10 years. Over this period the Port has been an active participant in regional discussions aimed at finding and implementing a solution for our endangered salmon. In addition to my comments today, the Port of Lewiston will provide detailed technical comments.

Today my comments will focus on the Lower Snake River Mitigation Report. First and foremost, the Port of Lewiston reiterates its support for regional efforts to aid salmon recovery. Although our salmon runs are clearly at distressed levels, we believe that as federal agencies charged with both operations of our river and fish and wildlife resources, you have aggressively pursued actions to enhance salmon. Since the construction of the Lower Snake River Dams, hundreds of millions have been invested to aid salmon at those projects and, based on your latest scientific data, these actions have had a measurable positive effect on survival. While the four Lower Snake River Dams are successfully passing salmon, possibly the highest of any dams in the Pacific Northwest, fishery agencies are predicting a very large return of adult salmon to Idaho this spring. That's a great sign and should provide the proper encouragement for future salmon saving initiatives.

1 In addition to continued passage improvements at the dams, the Port believes hatchery and harvest reforms are necessary too. We are not advocating harvest moratorium but believe selective fishing methods should be adopted to allow more endangered Idaho salmon to spawn.

2 We are opposed to breaching the Lower Snake River Dams. According to your feasibility study, the dam breaching alternative results in "higher direct downstream passage mortality" for salmon than the other three alternatives when the loss of transport is considered. Based on your report, there has not been a scientific case made that breaching will help recover salmon runs as compared to the current program.

2 As one of the principle economic development entities for our community, we are also very concerned with the likely detrimental economic consequences for Lewiston and area industries. It is amazing to us that after five years of study, spending millions of public dollars, your draft feasibility study concludes that dam breaching would result in "a projected net gain in

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employment<sup>8</sup> for Lewiston. By comparison, we provided you with a port commissioned University of Idaho study which indicated that 1580 jobs are directly tied to water commerce by the three ports. By removing the dams, those jobs and many more are at risk. (If dam breaching was not a significant issue to our community then why are there 400 - 800 people here)?

Since the March 1992 drawdown test, our community has been living under the prospect of losing our waterway. While the advocates have been unable to make a credible scientific case to support dam breaching, its time for you to demonstrate the leadership and abandon this proposal and pursue meaningful salmon recovery actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.