

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lower Snake River Study
210 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362 - 1876

FEB 23 2000

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Representative:

A significant national treasure, wild salmon represent clean water, wild rivers, and a healthy future. Salmon are also an important economic asset and a cultural icon. Clearly, a future where salmon migrate up and down rivers is a preferred future. It is not too late, you can still save wild salmon. The economy of the Northwest region depends upon clean water, a healthy environment and abundant salmon.

I urge the Army Corp of Engineers to support partial dam removal of four dams on the Snake River. These four dams are preventing economic growth that an abundance of salmon would provide. Studies show that removing four dams on the lower Snake River would create more jobs and a stronger economy. Those four dams are the main reason salmon are nearing extinction in the Snake and Colombia Rivers.

I urge the Corps to adopt the partial dam removal option within the DEIS for the following reasons:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that the partial dam removal option in the Army Corps of Engineers DEIS would provide significantly greater benefits for salmon than the other options.
- According to ECONorthwest, partial dam removal of the four dams would create significant long and short term economic benefits for the Northwest.
- The DEIS does not calculate the costs of bringing the four dams up to compliance with the Clean Water Act (estimated at \$125 million annually)
- The DEIS does not account for economic costs of salmon extinction, or the costs of non-dam removal alternatives.

For these important reasons, I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to implement partial dam removal for the four dams on the Snake and Colombia rivers.

Sincerely,

Madeline Sone
Charles Sone
Jim Sone
Phil Mathew
Maude Mathew
Erin Sone

Kelle Mc Ayle
GERARD A. ROBINSON