

February 18, 2000

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U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
Walla Walla District  
201 N. Third Ave.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Re: Removal of Dams on the Lower Snake River

We wish to voice our concerns with both the removal of any dams on the lower Snake River and the agencies (National Marine Fisheries Services and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) that are proposing the removal.

The removal will create economic disaster not just in eastern Washington, but in western Washington as well. We cannot afford to lose the irrigation necessary to our agriculture. This resource is necessary to maintain the standard of living for people in the region as well as to provide crops, which help feed the country. Also, we cannot afford to lose the power generated, which is necessary for industry.

Is saving wild salmon runs the real issue? We suspect that is not the case and it is more nearly special interest groups flexing their political muscles just as they did to the timber industry with spotted owls. Has any group really looked at other causes to the decreased runs or alternative options? What about the growing seal population that sit at the mouth of rivers during the salmon runs? Or the Native Americans that stretch their nets across the river and are excluded from limits or seasons. What about a better fish ladder system?

Whatever the argument is in favor of removing the dams, there is no way in God's great country that we are convinced that this is necessary. Rather, we consider it to be reckless. There are other options.

*Ravi Swahl*

*Carl W. Robbins*

*2/25/00*

*Harwin A. Kive*

*2/25/00*

*Mark W. Hall*

*2-25-00*

*William J. Madala*

*2-25-00*

*Lodd With*

*2-25-00*

*James R. Moore 2-25-00*

*Dealy Palmer*

*2/25/00*

*Kenneth Curtis*

*2/25/00*