

Mark Booker, Director ECBID  
February 17, 2000

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MAR 02 2000

RE: Comment on the Draft, Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility  
Report/Environmental Impact Statement – February 17, 2000

Dear Sirs:

I am one of 17 Columbia Basin Irrigation Project Directors. 10,000 people live within the irrigation district I represent. All are dependent upon Columbia River water.

I am here in support of EIS Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 with one caveat: all salmon recovery actions must have significant benefit to salmon recovery. I repeat – must have significant benefit to salmon recovery. Wild experiments are unacceptable. In addition, I oppose breaching of dams because that provides no benefit to salmon recovery. Stop all study of a McNary drawdown.

Spring flow augmentation is the largest salmon recovery effort on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. This effort accounts for 1/4 of the total Columbia and Snake River salmon recovery effort. Each year 100 to 180 million dollars are sunk into spring flow augmentation.

1 Please notice the chart attached to this letter titled NMFS/UW Survival Data, 1994-96. The chart clearly shows that there is no relationship between flow and survival rates. Notice the large flow variation, and that the survival rates stay the same during each year. There is a truckload of data in the basement of the NMFS Center in Seattle backing up this presented chart. The one sure thing proven by Columbia and Snake River salmon recovery efforts is that there is no benefit from spring flow augmentation! Why is this water resource wasted by flow augmentation? What are the cost/benefits of spring flow augmentation and any other flow augmentation? This so-called water crisis is an **administrative** water crisis. Why is there an **administrative** water crisis on the Columbia River?

1 | All flow augmentation for Columbia and Snake Rivers must be reduced to 4 million-acre  
cont. | feet or less, which is more than adequate. The current augmentation up to 16 million acre  
feet is a waste and without benefit. I believe it is illegal to waste resources in this manner.

2 | Irrigation withdrawals on the Columbia River are insignificant. Please note the attached  
chart titled "Columbia River Inflow at Grand Coulee Dam with Columbia Basin Irrigation  
Withdrawal at Banks Lake." This chart uses average data from the Bureau of  
Reclamation. This chart shows that more than 97% of the Columbia River water at Grand  
Coulee Dam remains in the River. Consider the proven facts that there is no flow/survival  
relationship for juvenile salmon, and the insignificant portion of Columbia River water  
used for irrigation (about 2.7 million-acre feet). Why then is there a moratorium on  
Columbia River water withdrawals in each of the following areas? The moratorium  
prevents proper mixing of land applied spray field water. The moratorium prevents  
necessary irrigation. The moratorium prevents city and county citizens from increasing  
water use that is needed for residences, schools and hospitals.  
The moratorium is unnecessary for salmon recovery and should be abandoned as a wild  
experiment.

Sincerely,

*Mark Booker, Director*

Mark Booker, Director ECBID

CC: Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D. C. 20500

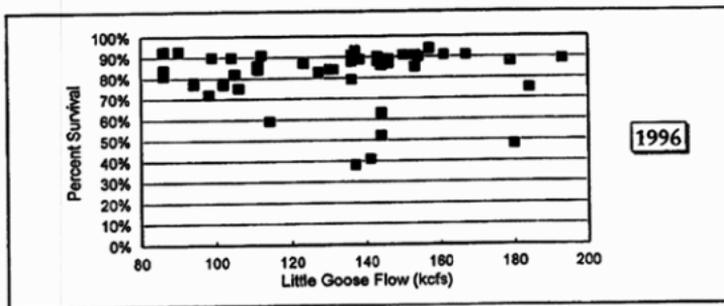
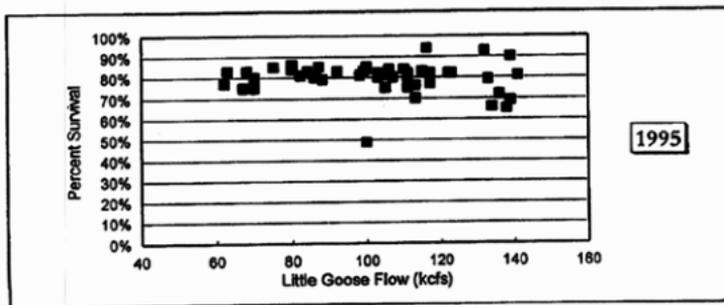
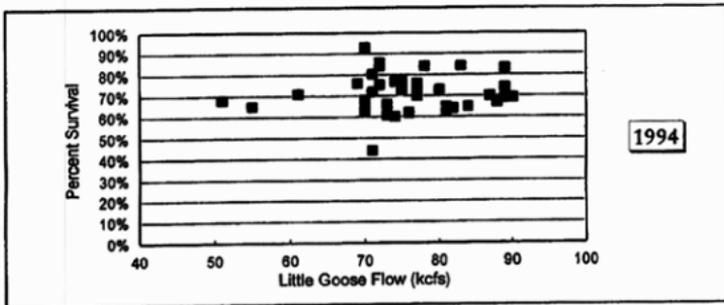
Senator Slade Gorton  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Patty Murray  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
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Representative George R. Nethercutt, Jr.  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Representative Doc Hastings  
1323 Longworth House Office Building  
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Figure 10. NMFS/UW Survival Data, 1994-1996  
 Survival Rates for Juvenile Spring Chinook Release Groups  
 (L. Granite Tailrace to L. Monumental Tailrace)



Columbia River Inflow at Grand Coulee Dam  
with  
Columbia Basin Irrigation Withdrawal at Banks Lake

