



Testimony of Alan Moore of Trout Unlimited February 23, 2000

My testimony is directed toward the Army Corps DEIS, specifically Appendix I.

The Corps of Engineers own DREW (Drawdown Regional Economic Workgroup) study predicts that bypassing the four Lower Snake dams would create some 24,000 short-term and 4,700 long-term jobs while eliminating about 6,200 long-term jobs. This does not give an accurate portrayal of the economic impacts of removing the dams. After careful analysis, here's what the DREW missed:

- DREW *underestimated* the positive impacts and *overestimated* the negatives of dam removal because it failed to recognize that the economy of the Pacific Northwest is continually evolving and many of the resource-intensive industries that benefit from the dams' operations have been in steady decline for years – losing jobs and income at a steady pace. The creation of jobs in more stable industries would allow local economies to benefit from economic upturns resulting from regional, national and global economic forces.
- DREW failed to accurately calculate quality-of-life benefits and the economic positive impacts a free-flowing Lower Snake would bring to local economies.
- DREW failed to accurately quantify the value of Snake River salmon to Native American tribes in the affected region. Placing a static dollar value on tribal harvest does not account for ceremonial, subsistence and religious value.
- DREW failed to accurately calculate benefits and avoided negatives of dam removal to commercial fishers from Oregon to Alaska.
- DREW failed to accurately calculate recreational benefits to the local economies. As an example, DREW accounts for only tourist dollars spent on gasoline to get to the local economies, not the food and lodging dollars spent when they arrive.

The bottom line is this: The DREW economic analysis of the impacts of Lower Snake dam bypass is incomplete at best, woefully inaccurate at worst. The region – which has been asked to make critical decisions on the Snake River salmon and dams – deserves the best information available to help formulate those choices. The DREW analysis falls well short.