



## Ferry County Natural Resource Board

350 East Delaware

P.O. Box 115

Republic, WA 99166

MAR 13 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record  
c/o BPA-PL  
707 W. Main St., Suite 500  
Spokane, WA 99201

3/7/00

Re: All-H Papers

In your request for comments to the appropriateness of goals and objectives, we offer the following.

To breach the dams in the Pacific Northwest it will cost an estimated \$ 809 Million dollars. This money is taxes that we pay to the federal government. Our tax debt makes us work 4 and ½ months for the government so it in return can take away our food, our land, our shelter by breaching our dams, closing our forests, eliminating our agriculture, and destroying our industries.

If you breach the dams, we will lose enough electricity to light and heat the city of Spokane and its industries for one year. You will eliminate 5,370 existing jobs.

River navigation will cease, rail and truck will transport 126 million bushels of grain. Fossil fuels will be used to run rails and trucks. This in turn will cause air pollution. Fossil fuels are not renewable resources.

Much of the economical base of the United States is tied to agriculture. Breaching of the dams (the preferred alternative) will eliminate 37,000 acres of irrigated farmland, taking it out of production. In America today each acre of farmland produces enough food for 120 people. 37,000 acres of irrigated farmland feeds 615,125 people of the world.

In your own words, it will take 10 to 12 years of experiment to assess the effectiveness of breaching the dams.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Report of Production and Habitat of Salmonids in Mid-Columbia River Tributary Streams - 1992 states:

- Native Coho Salmon Is Now Extinct
- No evidence that historical abundance of salmon and steelhead differed markedly from now.

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cont.

- Irrigation at current levels may be more beneficial than detrimental because of its positive influence on groundwater.
- Water quality of the Mid-Columbia rivers is essentially pristine. Moderate amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen from sewage treatment plants, fish hatcheries, urbanization, and agriculture have probably increased fish production.
- Fish populations are stable, and tributary streams rear Salmonids at carrying capacity.
- Primary control centers on ocean survival, and NOT the relatively stable freshwater spawning grounds.
- Winter – not summer is the true critical period for Salmonids
- Watercourses regularly scoured by severe flooding support few Salmonids.
- Slow moving water usually contained the greatest abundance of Salmonids.

National Policy Analysis #254 of July 1999 – The NMFS's ESA listing ignores a rapidly accumulating body of scientific evidence showing that changes in the natural climatic conditions of the Pacific Northwest are largely responsible for the low numbers of salmon.

Proposed 4(d) rules from the office of Penelope D. Dalton, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries – #6 Finding

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Implementation of the full action alternative has the potential to have a few significant positive impacts, while implementation of the no action alternative has little impact on the elements of the environment reviewed, it does have some potential to have impacts to steelhead and other similar resources, (salmon) greater than those expected to occur from the preferred alternative. In other words, keep doing what we have been doing for the last several years.

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The US Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service declared “surplus” and destroyed fish as follows; Entiat, 231 – Leavenworth, 709, Methow, 34.

This is not about saving the salmon. It is about control of the people. If the preferred alternative (breaching the dams), is implemented, it will effectively destroy the industrialized civilization of the Western United States.

Therefore, we oppose ANY alternative that implements these destructive measures. We ask WHAT ARE YOUR goals and objectives?

Sincerely,

*Sharon Skumate*  
Chairman