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

These written comments are in opposition to the breaching of lower Snake River dams.

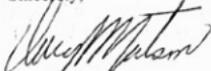
The Army Corps of Engineers was assigned the task of examining four alternatives concerning the existing hydrosystem. Only four alternatives. Only the hydrosystem. Habitat, harvest and hatcheries were not among the options the Corps was assigned to consider.

The Corps' draft e.i.s indicates that each hydrosystem alternative, including dam breaching, is expected to bring only "slight," and in one instance, "moderate" reductions in extinction risks. These results emphatically underscore the plain fact that we cannot limit ourselves to considering only the hydrosystem. **All four H's must be considered.** Since all four H's are essential, any Corps recommendation that limits itself to the four hydrosystem alternatives is absolutely unwarranted.

When we aren't limited to looking at only the hydrosystem, new possibilities open. For harvest, the research is showing that lowering harvest rates for fall chinook and steelhead furnish growth rates needed for survival and recovery. If so, the only remaining gain from dam breaching, according to the draft report, is a "slight reduction" in extinction risks for spring/summer chinook. The advantages of dam breaching therefore become little different than those of the other three hydrosystem alternatives, including the "existing conditions" alternative!

The only recommendation the Corps can responsibly make is that habitat, harvest and hatcheries must also be considered. Recommending any of the four hydrosystem alternatives, including that of dam breaching, is clearly out of bounds.

Sincerely,



Daryl Matson