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March 14, 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Walla Walla District
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Fax (509) 527-7832

Re: Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and EIS

To: Whom It May Concern:

I support Alternative 3, the maximizing of transportation and improvement of collection systems. Common sense tells us that increasing the number of fish from the Lower Granite Dam Reservoir to the mouth of the Columbia by maximizing transportation, improving collection and eliminating predation during that trip would give the smolt a fighting chance at returning four years later.

Conversely, the removal of the four Snake River Dams (Alternative #4) has no scientific justification for improving the survival of our fish. Of the 26 west coast runs of salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA, plus the additional 8 candidates for listing, only 4 pass through the Snake River dams. This would indicate that the problem is elsewhere, NOT in the dams. For this reasons, I strongly oppose Alternative #4 as a possibility to save our fish.

I strongly encourage the Corp to increase the scope of their study to include harvest, both in the river and in the ocean, and to address predation. Of the 90% survival of the fish that are transported to the mouth of the Columbia few return. We know how many fish are released below the dams and we know how many fish return, what happens to all of the fish between those two time periods?

In conclusion, I am opposed to dam breaching. The economic impact from breaching would not only hurt me, but also my community with no possible improvement for increasing fish runs.

Thank you,

Cahill Farm
By Betty Fletcher