

MAR 16 2000

March, 2000

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose Alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative, for the following reasons:

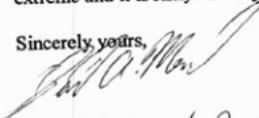
Twenty-six west coast runs of salmon and steelhead are listed under the ESA. Another 8 are either candidates or proposed for listing. Of these 34 runs, only 4 pass the Snake River dams. Dam removal is not the answer to saving salmon in the Northwest.

Ten years ago, the best scientific information said that only 10 to 30 percent of salmon smolts survived the trip past the dams. Today, NMFS says that survival is as high now as it was in the 1960's and 1970's -- before the Snake River dams were built. If survival through the reservoirs is as high now as it was before the dams were built, returning to pre-dam conditions is not the answer.

Dam breaching will create significant negative environmental impacts, with loss of habitat for resident fish and wildlife and increased air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel burning power plants.

I oppose dam breaching. This is not a fish vs. economy issue. Fish are important. The economy is important. If both are important, breaching the dams is not the answer. It is extreme and it is risky. It may not help the fish, but it will certainly hurt the economy.

Sincerely yours,



David A. Morel, President
Morel Farms, Inc.

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WALLA WALLA, WA 99362
PHONE 509 1799

Additional comments on reverse
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Sirs,

I am not the kind of person who normally gets involved in government policy, but the Federal Government, the Corporation, or N.M.C. ~~and~~ raise what in Walk Wolf Co., and the truth is none of it is shipped by way of the Snake River. I must, however, be most adamant in my opposition to Alternative 4 because of my own personal experience.

Some of our operation is adjacent to WA State highway 125. A company from Idaho came in and began crushing rock just north of us. The trucks hauling the rock would come by our farm about every 45 minutes. After about 2 weeks, the road began to break up. Within a month it had deteriorated to the point of being extremely hazardous, even when the truck traffic itself was left out of the equation. If the wheat and other goods that are currently moved by way of the Snake River system end up moving over the highway system, the same situation will repeat itself across S. E. Washington. Our highway and county roads will become a shambles and people WILL die. The Snake River dams provide pollution free energy and a transportation system that cannot be matched for safety and energy efficiency. To destroy such a system would be beyond irresponsible. Considering that no one is willing to guarantee that it will even save the salmon, breaking the dams must come under the heading of "sheer stupidity!"

As a farmer, I am also a grass-roots environmentalist. I see the breaching of the Snake River dams as nothing short of an environmental nightmare. By using breaching as a panacea for saving the salmon, it will ultimately doom them.

Sincerely,
Bud A. Murray

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