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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
210 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876
salmonstudy@usace.army.mil

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

I support the Army Corps alternative in partially removing the four dams on the Lower Snake River. Five years ago the federal government promised to make the tough decisions necessary to restore Snake River salmon by the end of 1999. While 1999 is behind us, those tough decisions have yet to be made despite over four years and \$20 (see above note) million dedicated to a Snake salmon recovery strategy by NMFS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With over 200 regional scientists, the federal government's own Fish and Wildlife Service and PATH research, and state fisheries managers of the region indicating that partial dam removal presents the best chance for Snake River salmon recovery, the choice is clear: The four dams on the Lower Snake River must be removed. Recent research has narrowed our window of opportunity with the reports that Snake River spring and summer chinook salmon face extinction by the year 2017 without immediate action. Clearly in the case of Snake River salmon, the price of political delay in breaching these dams is extinction.

After over four years and sound scientific evidence, more studies and stalling can only amount to manipulation of the facts engineered to avoid a tough, but urgent decision. Snake River salmon don't have time to play politics. In 20 years when our children can only look to a photo to see what a wild salmon run looked like we will only have ourselves to blame for ignoring the science and the salmon.

Sincerely,

(name and address)

Art M. Thompson ART FLICK CHAPTER #425
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