

BEAR CREEK OUTFITTERS

FLY FISHING & LIGHT TACKLE GUIDE SERVICE



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February 28, 2000

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

RE: NMFS All-H paper and Corps DEIS (Dam removal)

I'm writing in support of removing dams along the Snake River to enhance salmon populations on that system.

As a sport fisherman, outfitter, and charter operator here in Southeast Alaska I have seen 15 years of strong salmon returns to our area. During that same time, I've followed the dwindling populations of salmon on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in Washington and seen limitations implemented on fishing here to protect Washington stocks.

Years ago, Trout Unlimited identified dams as the single largest factor in the decline of Washington runs. It became readily apparent that the people of Washington had a choice, cheap power or healthy salmon populations. I now understand the majority of these residents feel healthy salmon are worth the slight increases they will incur in power costs and that dam removal is feasible.

Given this, the fact that other means of protecting stocks (i.e., trucking, barging, and hatcheries) have failed, and my firm conviction that the people of Southeast Alaska should not be further regulated for the sake of a problem we didn't create, it's an absolute no-brainer. Remove the dams and restore Snake River salmon populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kaelke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Mark Kaelke