

MAR 15 2000

North & South Palouse Grange
6301 S Palouse River Rd
Colfax, WA 99111
Mar 14, 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
Attn: Lower Snake River Study
201 N Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Dear Sirs:

As the Master of North and South Palouse Grange, I would like to express our opposition to the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams (Alternative 4) presented in the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Study.

North and South Palouse Grange is an organization of 143 members who live and work in Eastern Washington. We are made up of agricultural producers and community members from Colfax and its surrounding area. Our membership is a diverse group of all ages and backgrounds who care for the well being of their families and friends and work as Grangers to improve their community.

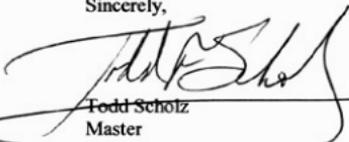
The immediate economic impacts created by breaching the four lower Snake River dams as presented in the study would directly affect our community. We are convinced that loss of barge transportation, reduction of electrical power supply, loss of river recreation, and degradation of existing port facilities would be immediate and disastrous to the economy of our area. These predictions are based on real experiences of many of our members who lived here prior to installation of the Snake River dams.

The predicted benefits are based on assumptions and unproven conclusions which estimate a probability of recovery of salmon in forty to fifty years. In weighing the costs versus the benefits, we believe that salmon recovery can be enhanced using other alternatives. As taxpayers paying the bill, we are positive that other alternatives can be found which would give us more salmon for less cost.

Recovery of Salmon is important to our area, but the solution should be chosen because the benefits are reliable, predictable, and outweigh the costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Todd Scholz
Master