

MAR 14 2009

Timber Ridge High School
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
ATTN: Lower Snake River Study
201 N. Third Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Army Corps of Engineers:

I am a high school student at Timber Ridge, I am researching this topic and would like to share my opinion on this issue with you. Please share this letter and my concern with the necessary organizations.

Salmon and Steelhead are falling short of what is needed to avert mass extinction in the near future. Runs have declined nearly 90 percent. They need to partially remove four dams on the lower Snake River to avoid these problems. Studies have shown that wild salmon and steelhead runs in the Snake River cannot be recovered under existing river conditions. Building those four dams was a mistake, letting them continue to operate is a bigger mistake.

Idaho steelhead fishing will cost \$90 million and 2,700 jobs per year. Mitigation for the dams already cost \$435 million per year. Seafood processing plants have lost millions of dollars and jobs due to the decrease in salmon. Breach of the four lower Snake River dams is the most direct route to salmon recovery.

To save six million dollars electricity rate payers and federal tax payers are spending \$43 million to fund the operation of the navigation system. To save money we are killing Idaho Steelhead and salmon. To save money the federal government is currently spending \$435 million in attempt to mitigate the negative effect these four lower Snake River dams are having on our fish. Over the ten years the governments plan will cost \$4 billion.

Are the dams really worth the loss of our fish and the health of our aquatic system?

Vanessa Smith

