

Federal Caucus Hearing
Kalispell, MT
March 1, 2000

MAR 13 2000

Testimony of Mike Workman, LEC Trustee

Good evening. My name is Mike Workman, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln Electric Cooperative. Our cooperative serves over 2,800 members in Northwest Montana from our headquarters in Eureka. We currently purchase the large majority of our power from Bonneville and our members have already contributed significantly to the over \$3 billion the region has spent on salmon recovery in the last 15 years. In addition, our members have contributed through lost business and recreational opportunities because of increased drawdowns of Lake Koocanusa each summer to increase water flows in the lower river.

We believe that if the region is going to recover salmon they must have an effective plan that will:

1. Establish and follow clear and achievable goals.
2. Recognize the complexities of the salmon and the river system; and
3. Sets priorities to maximize the chances of recovery.

In addition, any plan has to take into account the impacts it will have on the humans living in the region. Any plan that does not take into account these influences and seeks to minimize them has little chance of success.

We do not believe that breaching the four lower Snake river dams has been shown to have a reasonable chance of getting us any closer to recovering the salmon runs and we are opposed to including it as an option in any recovery plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.