

MAR 15 2000

SIERRA CLUB • LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

GUADALUPE REGIONAL GROUP

National Marine Fishery Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Agencies Caucus Comment Records
c/o Bonneville Power Administration --PL
707 West main., Suite 500
Spokane, Washington 99201

2/28/00

We of the Guadalupe Regional Group of the Sierra Club concur in the opinion of the NMFS's draft science paper, that only the removal of the Snake River Dams will restore Salmon to a healthy, viable and secure population.

Since these dams have been in place, Salmon migration runs have diminished steadily through the years. Scientists have declared unequivocally that the Snake's Salmon are in immediate danger of extinction. This in spite of large monies spent to ease the burden of migrating Salmon, e.g., ladders, barge transport over / around barriers / slackwater. We can agree that these measures are a failure. We can also offer testimony that Federal Indian Treaties are not being honored, that these people's cultural resource are sacrificed on the alter of the hydroelectric dollar. Yet these 4 dam / generator plants comprise <5 percent of the region's total energy consumption.

1 We also point out that the Army Corps of Engineer's claims that the costs of dam removal are too high, do not include the very real, intangible costs of Salmon extinction. Count the dollars lost by the coastal fisheries, directly (the actual dollar value of landed Salmon) and indirectly (the costs incurred by tying up capital for a fishing season made short by the scarcity of these endangered fish). Make a realistic count of the opportunities lost by the sport fishing industry. Count the dollar value lost by the Columbia / Snake Rivers indigenous peoples, who will not be able to maintain their cultural way of life. We are confident that if these costs were calculated responsibly, the cost benefit ratio would slip to be in favor of Salmon.

We ask that you recommend removal of the four lower Snake River dams, and that recovery efforts begin immediately. The Salmon are already so close to extinction, that it would be irresponsible not to commence forthwith.

Please include these comments with the administraton record.

Sincerely,

Joe Cernac



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