

March 10, 2000

To: Army Corps of Engineers  
Walla Walla District  
201 North Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA. 99362-1876

From: G-2 Farming, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 130  
Hermiston, OR. 97838

Re: Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and EIS.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to oppose alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative. I operate 3,750 acres of irrigated farmland, in Umatilla County. The farms are irrigated out of the Columbia River's, McNary pool. The dam breaching alternative goes against all of the science I have had the opportunity to read over the last 3 to 4 years in which NMFS, ODFW, BPA, and Corps of Engineers have done their studies.

For many reasons I oppose the Dam breaching alternative, some of these reasons are:

Twenty-six West Coast runs of salmon and steelhead are listed under ESA. Another eight are either candidates or proposed for listing. Of these 34 runs, only four pass the Snake River dams. Dam removal is not the answer to saving the salmon and steelhead on ESA list, in the Pacific Northwest. Focus should be on the 4-H's and the management tools available to help the survival of the Northwest salmon and steelhead runs.

1 | There are many success stories of salmon and steelhead runs that have dams in their migration. We have had good returns of winter steelhead in the John Day and Umatilla rivers. There is an estimated return of Chinook salmon this year that is equal to that of 1977. Survival rates of salmon and steelhead through the Snake River dams are as high today, as they were before the dams were built in the 60's and 70's, according to NMFS studies. This shows that our management of salmon and steelhead is a prudent option and dam removal is not.

2 | Silt loads, which are being studied now, would directly affect our operation. The estimated 100 to 150 million cubic yards of sediments would effect our ability to pump water from the McNary pool to irrigate our farming operation. Not to mention the fact that this would have a significant effect on the turbidity of the river and the salmon and steelheads ability to survive in this plume. So dam removal is not an option in my opinion.

I do agree that more has to be done to further salmon and steelhead restoration. I feel though that the "save" the salmon issue is just the underlying argument over the control of water in the Pacific Northwest. ODFW has filed for water rights in the state of Oregon. It is my understanding of the constitution that Federal agencies are not allowed water rights, and the individual states should have control of the water. These are just some of the reasons I am opposed to dam breaching. It definitely makes no economic sense to breach dams as studies have shown. There is no science that shows salmon and steelhead would benefit from dam removal. I am very disappointed in Governor John Kitzhaber's position on dam removal, and feel unjustly represented.

I feel we can find a balance between salmon and steelhead recovery and human existence in the Pacific Northwest without removing the four lower Snake River dams.

Sincerely yours,

