

FEB 10 2000  
DIVERSIFIED FARMING & TRUCKING

HOWELL FARMS, INC.  
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Attention: Army Corps of Engineers

I strongly oppose the breaching of the four Snake River Dams. I am a third generation Palouse farmer and we desperately need and rely on the river (with the dams in place) for the transportation of our grain crops, the delivery of our fertilizer and the delivery of the fuels required to successfully continue our farming operation.

As you may already know, farming at this time is not profitable. Removal of the Snake River Dams would drastically increase our operating expenses. Furthermore, there are not adequate rails and railcars, or trucks and highways capable of transporting our grain, fertilizer and fuels in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and northern Oregon.

While I am not an irrigation farmer, I realize that the dams and river are required by those farmers to produce their crops without additional expenses. Any increased farming expenses ultimately result in higher prices to all consumers and a decrease in the money flow to producers, manufacturers, retailers and the financial industry. Ultimately, each one of us will be affected economically if we lose our dams.

Your own studies reveal that the breaching of the dams will in no way guarantee the recovery of the salmon survival. Your studies also disclose that the salmon return at this time (with the current dams in place) is growing each year.

Respectfully,