



P.O. Box 90, Dayton, Washington 99328 • (509) 382-2571

Owned and Operated by Columbia County Farmers

MAR 22 2000

Stations at  
ALTO  
DAYTON (4)  
DELANEY  
HUNTSVILLE  
LONGS  
LYONS FERRY  
POWERS  
RELIEF  
STARBUCK  
TURNER  
WHETSTONE

March 14, 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Walla Walla District  
Attention: Lower Snake River Study  
201 North Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Fax (509) 527-7832

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

To: Whom It May Concern:

I am an employee of the Columbia County Grain Growers, Inc. We are a cooperative located in Dayton, Washington. Our membership consists of 350 individuals, partnerships, corporation, estates and trusts. Of the 350 members, we have 110 active farmers and the remaining are mostly landlords who reside locally, as well as, throughout the United States.

I personally support Alternative 3, the maximizing of transportation and improvement of collection systems. Common sense tells us that increasing the number of fish from the Lower Granite Dam Reservoir to the mouth of the Columbia by maximizing transportation, improving collection and eliminating predation during that trip would give the smolt a chance at returning four years later.

Conversely, the removal of the four Snake River Dams (Alternative #4) has no scientific justification for improving the survival of our fish. Of the 26 west coast runs of salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA, plus the additional 8 candidates for listing, only 4 pass through the Snake River dams. This would indicate that the problem is elsewhere, NOT in the dams. For this reasons, I strongly oppose Alternative #4 as a possibility to save our fish.

I strongly encourage the Corp to increase the scope of their study to include harvest, both in the river and in the ocean, and to address predation. Of the 90% survival of the fish that are transported to the mouth of the Columbia few return. We know how many fish are released below the dams and we know how many fish return, what happens to all of the fish between those two time periods?

In conclusion, I am opposed to dam breaching. The economic impact from breaching would not only hurt me, but also my community with no possible improvement for increasing fish runs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anthony Hoilman'.

Anthony Hoilman