



New Jersey
Environmental
Lobby

Brigadier General Carl A. Stock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

MAR 20 2000

204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 (609) 396-3774

March 13, 2000

Dear Sir:

We write to you on behalf of the 100 die salmon on the Lower Snake River. The four dams constructed by your organization have taken their toll and continue to do so. We must reverse this drive to extinction which would be disastrous for the eco-system, as well as the fishing and tourism economies involved.

The dams in question provide only 5% of the region's power, yet they cost millions to build and have already cost taxpayers more money -- \$3 billion -- on attempts to save the salmon and help them recover. This doesn't make sense to us. Removal, or partial removal, of these dams is the real answer to salmon recovery. Removing the obstacles physically will allow the salmon to return for spawning. Nature will eventually return the stream flow and the inhabitants therein to their former balance. This can only happen if the dams impeding the flow are removed.

While New Jersey may be a distance from Washington state, we know all too well what happens when clean water flow is interrupted. Clam beds in our bays and along our shores were dying off and those that remained were so poisoned by pollution that the clams were inedible. This had a very damaging effect on our coastal economy. Purification plants were costly to build. The ultimate answer was to stop the flow of pollution at its source and allow nature to return to the normal ebb and flow of the tides. The beds have been improving ever since with clams once more being harvested along the bays and shores of our state.

To see salmon and clams in danger of disappearing from our environment and our dinner tables is truly a frightening sight. It is not too late. Scientists agree that dam removal is the best means of insuring recovery in this great river. Please listen to their plea and remove the dams on the Lower Snake River.

Sincerely,

Marie A. Curtis
Executive Director

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