

GOODING COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
P O BOX 417  
GOODING, IDAHO 83330

MAR 23 2000

Win Henslee Dist III 536-2259  
Tom Faulkner Dist II 352-4346  
Mitch Arkoosh Dist I 934-4817  
Helen P. Edwards, Clerk 934-4221

March 13, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record  
C/o BPA-PL  
707 W Main St., Suite 500  
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Sirs:

The Gooding County Board of Commissioners wishes to go on record opposing the breaching of the four dams on the lower Snake River. The farmers and ranchers in our county depend heavily on the Port of Lewiston to provide reasonable and ample grain transportation to export markets as well as providing competitive markets for their commodities. It has been estimated that losing the port will add at least \$.25 Per bushel in increases transportation costs not counting what will be lost on price because of reduced competition in the marketplace. Our economy is almost entirely based on agriculture and any increase in costs will severely impact our county.

We also oppose any disruption in the flow of irrigation water as almost all our farmland is irrigated. The communities in our county simply cannot sustain their economies without irrigation water for farmers.

We are in favor of common sense solutions that can increase the salmon flows on the lower Snake River that won't destroy individual families and whole communities. We understand that there are numerous other measures that can be taken to help the fish besides breaching and stream flow augmentation.

We sincerely urge you to consider the consequences to our county and its citizens should we lose the Port of Lewiston or any sizable amount of irrigation water.

Sincerely,

Tom Faulkner, Chairman  
Win Henslee, Commissioner  
Mitch Arkoosh, Commissioner

