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I am writing with deep concern over proposed ideas to remove the dams from the Snake River and the idea to increase flows on the river as well. The "All-H" paper has given me cause for concern and thus brings me to take action to speak on my own behalf.

I would like to be on record as being opposed to option 4, the breaching of the dams on the Snake River. The idea of removing dams that will only in best case scenarios bring about a 2% increase in survival rates over the next 100 years should not be given much weight. Your own scientific evidence doesn't really conclude that by breaching dams the population of the salmon is going to be improved. Other areas need to be closely looked at that bring about a better response than a 2% increase. Strong emphasis needs to be placed on the areas that are hurting the salmon the most; terns and other predators need to be at the top of the list along with ocean warming conditions. Taking a stronger roll in moving or slowing the tern population, probably in one year, would bring about a better result than removing or bypassing dams. Hunters and fishers also should play a role in restoring the salmon population and yet they still are fishing and catching salmon, not only on the rivers and streams, but mass harvesting is occurring in the ocean as well. Hydro dams are the best source of clean renewable power that exists. By removing dams and replacing them with carbon dioxide producing power plants will only add to the ocean warming problem. I would strongly suggest that further investigation into the "Script Institute Study" be made.

1 | I am opposed to the use of Idaho water for flow augmentation. History and the use of Idaho water for past attempts to help the salmon have produced little if any results. The use of the PATH computer program that doesn't even follow true trends shouldn't be used to determine future plans. I would like to know what studies have been done to show the effects of what will happen if 600,000 acres becomes barren do to lack of water? I am a farmer and the loss of water will ruin my business. Have I been counted in the "All-H" paper? The one element that is missing in all your plans and studies is the affects to people, other species, and industries.

Dams, fish, industry, people, and a healthy environment can exist all together and at the same time. I believe that there are a lot of things that can be done quickly to help the salmon and restore their population without removing a dam or increasing water flow. There are better alternatives and I hope that you will seek those without making this decision a political one. May your decisions be long term in their scope and may they see the forest and not just the tree.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Mickelsen
Owner