

MAR 21 2000

Monitor Community Council
P.O. Box 179
Monitor, WA 98836

Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Dear Person:

We are concerned that some factions of the population, woefully uninformed about the benefits of the four Lower Snake River dams, are advocating breaching these four dams, citing unsubstantiated science that concludes the breaching will somehow save endangered species of salmon.

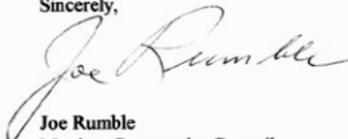
Tabulated below are reasons for saving the dams:

1. Replacing 3483 megawatts of the dams' hydropower will require building the most efficient combined-cycle natural gas steam plants with estimated cost of 2.03 billion dollars with annual cost of electric power of \$.028/kwh at the bus bar. Transportation and distribution costs will make the customer rate \$.084/kwh, which is much more expensive than the present power.
2. Thermal fuel power plants will put into the atmosphere about 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year per kwh, all of which is unfavorable to our pursuits of lowering carbon dioxide emissions. The lost irrigated farming acres will not be able to clean this carbon dioxide, so it's a doubly unfavorable action, contributing to the greenhouse effect.
3. The lost income from Washington, Oregon and Idaho combined 486,000 irrigated acres will include lost revenue from agricultural products, wages, taxes, recreation on the dam pools; not to mention the loss of quality of life for surrounding residents.
4. Wetlands and wildlife habitat created by the dams and agricultural irrigation will be lost.
5. Millions of dollars worth of taxes will be lost, as businesses close and jobs are lost.
6. Lost flood and erosion control will cause millions of dollars in damage.
7. Agricultural irrigation contributes favorably to groundwater tables.

I have been a longtime conservationist and I uphold the principles, but destroying these dams and all the positive benefits is insane and inexcusable.

Please make my comments available to all parties who favor retaining the dams.

Sincerely,



Joe Rumble
Monitor Community Council