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MAR 23 2000

March 16, 2000

Brigadier General Carl A. Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla Dist. Corps of Engineers
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

RE: Protecting the Snake and Columbia River salmon.

Dear General Strock:

I am writing today to comment on the draft plan for protecting the Snake and Columbia River salmon. Draft scientific and economic reports indicate that partial removal of the four dams on the lower Snake River are the best and only real option for the fish's recovery and for the economy of the Pacific Northwest. Removal of these dams must be the centerpiece for any action chosen to recover the Snake River salmon populations. If these dams are not breeched, all species of salmon and steel head trout in the Snake River are likely to be extinct by the year 2017. Maintaining these dams, to have Lewiston, Idaho represent a seaport, at the benefit of a few, seems to make no sense in the greater good of the entire region. Restoring the salmon in the Snake River ecosystem will have a far greater benefit to the region economically.

I have fished on occasion for salmon in the Pacific Northwest and in lower Alaska. It is magnificent to see these creatures returning upstream to spawn. There migration supports an entire ecosystem. It would be a tragic loss to allow the short sited persistence of these four federal dams on the lower Snake to cause the demise of these species.

Again, I would strongly encourage the removal of these dams as part of the Snake River salmon recovery program.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Ludi MD

Gary A. Ludi, M.D.

GAL:md
c: National Marine Fisheries Service
Senator Paul Coverdell
Senator Max Cleland
Representative Johnny Isakson