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To : **Brigadier General C. A. Strock** From :

Sent : 3/15/100 at 7:17:58 PM Pages : 2 (including Cover)

Subject : Salmon

To Brigadier General Carl A. Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers

Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

From Ecology Center of Southern California
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MAR 21 2000

We, the Ecology Center of Southern California urge you to restore the Salmon runs in the Northwest.

Four dams constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers on the lower portion of the Snake River between 1962 and 1975 have nearly wiped out the salmon runs there -- nearly every salmon species in the Snake River is either listed on the Endangered Species Act or already extinct. The Army Corps and other federal agencies have finally acknowledged the problem by drafting a management plan for protecting and restoring these fish. One of the options under consideration is the partial removal of these four lower Snake River dams. Draft scientific and economic reports indicate that partial dam removal is the best option for the fish and for the Pacific Northwest economy.

The dams produce less than 5% of the region's power and provide fewer benefits to navigation than were predicted when the dams were built. Studies show that restoring Snake River salmon will create more jobs and a stronger economy than keeping the dams in place and losing the salmon.

With this in mind!

1. Dam removal must be the centerpiece of any option chosen to recover Snake River salmon -- scientists tell us that the best option to recover all species of salmon and steelhead on the Snake River is to remove these four dams.

2. All species of salmon and steelhead in the Snake River are likely to be extinct by 2017 if we don't make the decision to remove these dams now.

3. Restoring the salmon and the Snake River ecosystem will benefit the region economically.

Thank you
Ecology Center of Southern California

References

Buchanan, D., M. Hanson, and R. M. Hooten. 1997. Status of Oregon's Bull Trout, distribution, life history, limiting factors, management considerations and status. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland, Oregon.

Rieman, B.E., and J.D. McIntyre. 1993. Demographic and Habitat Requirements for Conservation of Bull Trout. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-302.