

Jerome, Idaho
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March 8, 2000

RE: Salmon Hearings

MAR 23 2000

I'm against flow augmentation for the following reasons:

The flow of water from the 47,000 acre-feet test for Salmon has not proven successful. To take an additional one (1) million acre-feet of water for flow augmentation from the Upper Snake River Basin would dry up more than 600,000 acres of productive farmland at an annual cost of over \$430 million and cause the loss of thousands of agricultural jobs.

Any water taken from the Upper Snake River Basin storage water is water taken from North Side Canal's 5/8 inch per acre water right. During drought years North Side Canal's allotment from that 5/8" right had to be reduced to 70% thru the later part of July and August.

Some farmers chose to run their share of the water out at 100% and ran out of water in early August and were unable to finish their crops. Some farmers chose to save some of their 70% delivery to use on their later crops, thru August. This stressed their hay, pasture and grain causing a loss of production.

If sugar beets, potatoes and beans are not watered thru August and September, they dry up from the summer heat. Potatoes will start a second growth which destroys the quality, and sugar beets completely stop growing.

We try to operate with some carry-over water, as insurance for a possible dry year, the next year. We can't do that in dry years.

It is essential that we have carry-over rights, if we don't use all our storage water.

Any water taken from the Upper Snake River Basin from storage or natural flow rights would be a serious disaster for the economy of the population of Eastern and Southern Idaho.

Resident fisheries, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities would be devastated along with irrigated agriculture. No Salmon historically ever passed up river pass Shoshone Falls.

Sincerely, *Russell Woolley*

Russell Woolley
President
Board of Directors
AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR DISTRICT

President
Board of Directors
NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY