Sunheaven Farms

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EASTERN POWER BUSINESS AREA

March 21, 2000

MAR 24 2000

Rick Itami
National Marine Fisheries Service
c/o Bonneville Power Administration-PL
707 W. Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

Re: Lower Snake River Study

Dear Mr. Itami:

We are a family farming operation in the Horse Heaven Hills and have been in existence since 1977. The 14,000+ acres that are farmed by twelve families are irrigated with water from the John Day Pool in the Columbia River. As we have watched the salmon issue evolve over the years it seems almost incomprehensible that we have actually arrived at the possible conclusion that dam breaching is a viable alternative. Since we are in agriculture, we can only speak about the effects this will have on our industry but please be assured that it will be devastating.

Sometimes the people associated with agriculture are made out to be in opposition to the goal of saving salmon. Nothing could be further from the truth. We make our living striving to conserve and prudently manage God-given resources. This is our way of life. If we wanted to squander these precious resources, we would be gone from the land in a short time. Likewise, we recognize the need to nurture and conserve the wonderful resource of fish. We are dedicated to this effort and we will do our part to help. I suspect this is the sentiment of most all individuals who are involved in agriculture. However, the current debated over the breaching of dams or drawdowns defies current scientific studies and basic common sense.

Dams seem to have become the focal point of this great debate. There are so many other issues that need to be considered. We believe the All-H Paper is a more realistic approach to the problem because it addresses the elements of habitat, harvest, hydropower and hatchery. It seems so much more reasonable to consider a comprehensive plan that looks at all aspects of the

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problem rather than focusing on the single issue of dam removal. Salmon recovery is difficult and complex issue. Breaching dams will not return salmon to the river system. In fact, we believe if dams are removed, when the dust settles, we will find nothing has changed with fish but Idaho, Oregon and Washington agriculture will be tipped upside down as well as other industries who depend upon the river for power or transportation.

We ask that you not get caught up in rhetoric but that you take the best science available, add a little common sense and leave the dams where they are.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SUNHEAVEN FARMS

David R. Walker