



Kettle Range Conservation Group

March 28, 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept these comments on behalf of the memberships and board of the Kettle Range Conservation Group. We are writing to express our support in the partial removal of the four dams on the lower Snake River to recover endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead. If these dams are not bypassed, the risk of extinction is unacceptably high. In addition, dam removal will benefit the region's economy by ending spending on ineffective recovery measures, avoiding reparations to native tribes and Canada for broken treaties, providing prized whitewater recreation opportunities, and recovering sport and commercial fishing economies.

We realize some local communities and specific industries have come to depend on these dams. However, we are convinced that mitigation packages and transition plans can be designed and implemented that will allow those people to shift to a salmon-friendly economy without significant upheaval. With species on the brink of extinction, it is not appropriate or legal to place industry's concerns first. To speak to that, many Northwest residents have declared their willingness to pay \$1 to \$5 per month on their electric bill for actions that will actually save salmon.

Removal of the four Lower Snake River dams is the best choice for Snake River salmon and steelhead. In fact, it is currently accepted as the only effective way to save these species and meet regulations set forth by the ESA. We urge you to defend salmon by making dam removal the preferred alternative for Snake River Salmon Recovery.

"It's a scientific no-brainer... if we choose not to follow the recommendations of science, we have to be prepared to look in the mirror every morning and accept the consequences of the decision: that we chose not to save the Snake River salmon"

-Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, speaking about dam bypass.

Please include this as part of the official comment for the National Marine Fisheries Service's All-H Paper and the Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please keep us informed of your decision.

Sincerely,

Marlene Renwyk
Forest Watch Coordinator

Cc: Governor Locke, Senator Murray, President Clinton

