

MAR 27 2000

March 21, 2000

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

Subject: Comments Directed to Corps of Engineers "Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement".

Dear General Strock:

In the twentieth century, Congress gave the Federal Bureau of Reclamation responsibility to bring irrigation to the arid western U.S., to make possible the development of a robust agricultural industry for this nation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been essential to this policy. Dams and impoundments built by the Corps have tamed the land by controlling floods, have provided reservoirs for Bureau irrigation projects and made possible the generation of clean renewable hydro electric power. The resources of water and energy captured by these dams are essential to continued prosperity for our nation.

The tremendous benefit of the dams in the Pacific Northwest cannot be overlooked. Yet today these dams are under fierce attack by factions that claim the dams are primarily responsible for the demise of some 34 West Coast runs of salmon and steelhead species. History and science do not necessarily support their conclusion. Present day smolt survival on the Snake River is now greater than it was in the 1960's and 1970's periods prior to construction of the 4 lower Snake River dams.

There is a great danger that we of this nation do not yet adequately understand many factors that affect the fish populations. What's worse, we are being urged, sometimes forced, into ill conceived solutions that are not based on science and in fact are prohibitively costly, excessively disruptive and in the end may not result in enhancement of fish runs.

All solutions to fish run restoration must reflect compromise and consideration of the greater benefit provided by the Snake River dams. A wide ranging comprehensive approach to salmonid enhancement is in order. Solutions we choose must be determined cautiously with careful, deliberate consideration and need be based on the best science available. This approach would include: improvements to habitat and hydro electric operations; enhanced hatchery production; smolt transportation and necessary reduction of harvest pressure. Long term climatic and related environmental influences on the fish runs also need to be well understood. There is a special need for critical understanding of the Pacific Ocean environment and its influence on the salmon runs.

The overwhelming benefits provided by the dams makes consideration of their removal very premature at this time. We urge the Corps to not let a radical minority with narrow minded views, favoring dam removal, carry the day. Our national heritage generated by the Snake River dams is at stake:

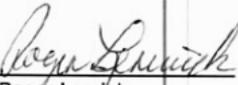
Irrigated agriculture
Hydro electric power generation
Barging

Sport Fishing
Recreation
Flood Control

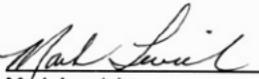
As representatives of Twin City Foods, Inc., we thank you for considering these comments on Snake River dam removal. Within this company, our many voices are united and we urge your careful consideration of the issues.

Twin City Foods operates six food processing facilities in Washington and one in Lewiston Idaho. Our frozen vegetable operations at these locations utilize potatoes, sweet corn, carrots and peas produced from more than 50,000 acres annually. In excess of 175 individual farmers produce these crops with a farm gate value approaching 100 million dollars. Twin City Foods is a major employer in the region providing 800 full time jobs and more than 1,100 seasonal jobs.

Abundant, dependable irrigation and hydro power resources from the Columbia and Snake River systems are essential to the preservation of Twin City Foods and to the welfare of Northwest residents.



Roger Lervick
President



Mark Lervick
Vice President of Operations



Mick Lovgreen
Production Manager



Gary McMullin
Field Department Manager



Gary Krebs
Division Manager

cc: Senator Slade Gorton
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Doc Hastings