



MAR 31 2000
Bingham Cooperative, Inc.

Blackfoot
 P.O. Box 887
 Blackfoot, ID 83221
 (208) 785-3440

American Falls
 P.O. Box 370
 American Falls, ID 83211
 (208) 236-5036

Aberdeen
 P.O. Box 340
 Aberdeen, ID 83210
 (208) 397-4171

Lieutenant Colonel William F. Bulen, Jr.
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Walla Walla District
 201 North Third Avenue
 Walla Walla, Wa. 99362
 March 28, 2000

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Bulen,

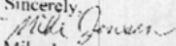
My name is Mike Jensen. I'm the CEO and General Manager of Bingham Cooperative, Inc. An agricultural production cooperative in Southeastern Idaho. I am representing 1394 farmers and ranchers in Power, Bannock, Bingham and Bonneville counties in Idaho. Our members operate agricultural businesses on over 160,000 acres along the Snake River Valley, where we raise over 10% of the nation's potato crop. We also raise beef and dairy cattle, alfalfa hay for the growing dairy industry in our state, sugar beets, corn, wheat and barley. Our productivity that feeds Americans and the people of the world is dependent on irrigation water. Without this vital natural resource, our economy would dwindle to nothing, our food source would dry up and our lifestyle would be severely diminished.

We were very interested in studying your December 1999 booklet entitled, "Improving Salmon Passage". After researching all of the issues listed in your publication and gaining other outside input, we would like to give you our views on the options you are considering.

Of the four options considered in your publication, we believe, without question, the best action is Alternative #3, Major System Improvements. It looks like the alternative that offers the best chance for fish recovery without major economic and environmental impact. We would like to recommend that you perform a wider scope of research to see if the environment in the Pacific Ocean is the major contributing cause for the reduction in fish numbers returning to the spawning ground. We have heard reports that the fish numbers returning to spawning grounds that have no dams impeding their run have also been reduced. We believe the worst case scenario, would be to disrupt the economy and environment and still have little or no impact on the fish numbers.

We urge your investigation team to also take into account the cultural circumstances that would effect the farming and logging communities should be dams be breached. The customs of farming and logging practices are older than this country. We believe these customs should be allowed to continue.

Again, thanks for your work on this very difficult issue. May god bless you with your decision.

Sincerely,

 Mike Jensen
 CEO and General Manager