

MAR 31 2000



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Draft Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites any person who has an interest in the Draft FR/EIS or represents a group of people that have an interest in the subject matter of this study, to make comments. The Corps will respond to the comments related to their Draft FR/EIS in their next NEPA document produced for the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/EIS. Comments will be accepted through March 31, 2000.

Name: Buell A. Hollister

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Comments: We could remind you, as has been done ennumerable times that \$35 billion has been flushed down the Snake River in wasted effort to save Columbia/Snake river salmon and steelhead.

We could remind you once again that grain could be shipped by rail, as once was, at approximately 10% of the cost of heavily subsidized barge transport. We could remind you that up to 10 X the jobs sustained by the barging industry could be created by restoring salmon/steelhead runs, with the sport and commercial fishery if the 4 dams were by passed.

We could remind you once again that 13 farms subsidized by taxpayers/ratepayers for irrigation could be replaced by removing the Ice Harbor dam pool. The orchards were there before being flooded out by the dam pool.

We could remind you once again that the energy created by the 4 Snake river dams could be easily replaced through conservation measures.

All of these are important and persuasive reasons for by passing the four Snake river dams.

But the one, compelling reason to by pass the 4 Snake river dams is that a treaty was signed in 1855 providing access to salmon/steelhead "in perpetuity" to 13 tribes in exchange for 40 million acres of tribal land. The validity if this treaty pledge was sustained by federal Judge Boldt in 1974. A solemn pledge was made. If there is honor and credibility associated with white man's word, the dams must be by passed to enhance the possibility if restoring fish migration. There is no viable alternative.

If the fish that have been an integral part of Indian culture for centuries, become extinct, the tribes will have claim, and will undoubtedly receive compensation far beyond what has been spent in the futile effort to restore the fish populations with the dams in place.

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Send comments by
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