

Position	Fax Note	7671
To	Lower Snake R. Study	
Company	WRP/DF	
Phone #	ENGINEERS	
Fax #	509-527-7832	
TOTAL: 2 PAGES		

MAR 31 2000

LAND AND WATER FUND OF THE ROCKIES

March 31, 2000

Department of the Army
 Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
 Attention: Lower Snake River Study
 201 North Third Avenue
 Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876
 Fax: 509-527-7832

BOULDER OFFICE

2260 Baseline Road, Suite 200

Boulder, CO 80302

(303) 444-1186

FAX: (303) 788-8064

email: landwater@lawfund.org

Web site: http://www.lawfund.org

IDAHO OFFICE

P.O. Box 1612

Boise, ID 83701

(208) 342-7004

FAX: (208) 342-8286

email: lawfund@imco.net

UTAH OFFICE

2056 E. 3300 S., Suite 1

Salt Lake City, UT 84109

(801) 487-0911

FAX: (801) 487-6668

email: jmo61@connect.com

BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO**SMART GROWTH PROJECT**

P.O. Box 3909

Haley, ID 83333-3909

(208) 788-8813

email: magrogore@sunvalley.net

Dear Sirs,

Please accept our comments on the Draft Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish Plan by the Federal Caucus, and make these comments part of the public record.

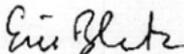
We support American Rivers' position that removing four dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington must be part of the Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery strategy. We urge you to recommend dam removal in the Final Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and the Columbia Basin Fish Plan for the following reasons:

- Dams Block Salmon Migration – Mortality for juvenile salmon migrating through the four Snake River dams is estimated to be 20%. Dams and associated transportation programs also reduce survival by exposing salmon to increased risk of predation and disease.
- Science Supports Dam Removal – Studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, State and Tribal fisheries agencies, and independent scientific committees have all reached the same conclusion: dam removal is the essential first step in a salmon recovery strategy. NMFS's PATH analysis found that the dam breaching alternative offered the highest chance of meeting ESA recovery criteria for three of the listed species.

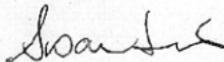
- Dam Removal is Less Costly Than Other Options – Removing dams is far less costly than other salmon recovery options, including new restrictions on farmers, loggers, and commercial fishers. Acquiring water from irrigators to rush young salmon to the sea could cost more than \$1 billion and eliminate more than 6,000 farming jobs.
- Dam Removal Will Create New Jobs – Restoring the Lower Snake River would create more than 3,100 recreation-related jobs and generate more than \$200 million in annual economic benefits, according to experts. And, dam removal will protect the livelihoods of farmers, loggers and commercial fishers.
- The Benefits Provided by Dams Can be Replaced – By investing in highways and rail, upgrading irrigation equipment and building new sources of clean power, we can replace the benefits now provided by the dams.
- We Can't Delay Any Longer – Delay significantly increases the risk of extinction for endangered Snake River salmon, according to the NMFS.

We urge you to recommend dam removal in the Final Lower Snake River Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement and the Columbia Basin Fish Plan. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Eric Blank
Energy Project Director



Susan Innis
Energy Project Assistant