

Neva J. Corkrum  
District 1

Kathleen "Sue" Miller  
District 2

Frank H. Brock  
District 3



Fred H. Bowen  
County Administrator

Patricia L. Shults  
Executive Secretary

Mary Withers  
Clerk To The Board

Board of County Commissioners  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

MAR 22 2000

February 17, 2000

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

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

And

Federal Caucus Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish ALL-H Paper

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Franklin County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recently developed All-H paper as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Recovery Migration Draft Feasibility Report/EIS.

Franklin County, which borders the lower Snake River, has many concerns regarding the salmon recovery issue currently being debated for the lower Snake River and the possible impacts and effects on the River's four dams (Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite). While Franklin County supports the idea of salmon recovery and the continued evaluation of the Corps of Engineers stated Alternatives (#1-#3), the County does not support Alternative #4 Dam Breaching. The loss of hydropower generation, the possible increase in electric rates, the impacts on transportation systems (i.e. costs), impacts to the farming community (i.e. irrigation and water supplies), in addition to the short and long range loss of local employment opportunities, makes Alternative #4 impossible for Franklin County to support.

Franklin County does support a holistic based evaluation of the salmon recovery issue. The All-H paper examines the areas of hatchery operations, harvesting policies, hydro operations, and habitat conditions, in addition, the Federal Government has stated that

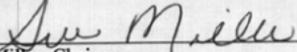
strong measures are needed in the near future to reverse the decline of fish populations throughout this region. While there is no immediate or simple answer to this very complex problem, Franklin County supports a common sense approach to this biological analysis that does not solely focus on dam breaching, but does holistically examine the harvesting, predation, and hatchery issues effecting the declining salmon runs.

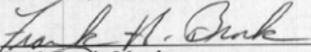
Dam breaching and actively pursuing a recovery alternative that focuses on dam breaching is not an approach to the salmon recovery process that would be supported by Franklin County. The social and economic effects that result from this process would have a negative impact on the local County residents and would be a tremendous step backward in the progress and stability of the County's agricultural community. Franklin County's preferred course of action is to utilize a common sense resolution to this very complex problem, a resolution that does not focus solely on the issue of dam breaching.

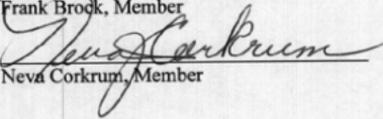
Once again, Franklin County appreciates this opportunity to comment on these documents.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Sue Miller, Chairman

  
Frank Brook, Member

  
Neva Corkrum, Member