

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER COURT

March 14, 2000

U. S. Corps of Engineers
 Lower Snake River Study
 201 North Third Avenue
 Walla Walla, WA 99362

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report
 and EIS

We oppose alternative four, the dam breaching alternative, for the reasons listed below.

- Thirty four species of West coast salmon and steelhead are either listed or proposed for listing. Only four of these species pass the Snake River dams. Dam removal is not the answer.
- There are five dams below the four dams proposed for breaching, and ten above. Why has only this section been proposed for destruction?
- NMFS reports that fish/salmon survival rates are as high now as they were before the dams under consideration for breaching were built. Dam removal is not the answer.
- Breaching of the dams will create significant negative environmental impacts such as:
 - 1) loss of habitat for wildlife and fish;
 - 2) increased air pollution created by the need for alternative modes of transportation (trucks, trains, etc.);
 - 3) wind erosion due to lack of vegetation coverage as a result of no irrigation;
 - 4) the mud flats in the channel bottom that would be left after drainage;
 - 5) siltation downstream that would cover up existing spawning gravels or beds;
 - 6) power plants built to replace the generating capacity lost would only burn fossil fuel or nuclear fuel.

Is this what everyone wants in his/her backyard?

P.O. BOX 1506 • WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-0316 • PHONE: (509) 527-3200 • FAX: (509) 527-3235

District No. 1
 PAM RAY

District No. 2
 DAVID G. CAREY

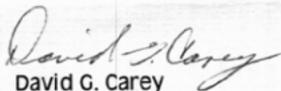
District No. 3
 CHARLES A. MAIDEN

We do not have the road infrastructure in our county to handle the additional traffic that would be generated. Who is going to pay for the additional infrastructure needed?

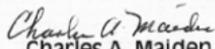
Fish are important. People are important. The economy is important. If all of the above are important, then breaching the dams is not the answer. It is draconian, as well as extreme and risky. In the end, it has not been proven that it will work. It may not help fish but it will hurt people, the environment, and the economy. In all good sense we must explore all of the other alternatives before destroying our dams.

Sincerely,

WALLA WALLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


David G. Carey
Chair


Pam Ray
Member


Charles A. Maiden
Member