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MAR 27 2000

March 24, 2000

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose Alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative, for the following reasons:

Twenty-six West Coast runs of salmon and steelhead are listed under ESA. Another 8 are either candidates or proposed for listing. Of these 34 runs, only 4 pass the Snake River dams. Dam removal is not the answer to saving salmon in the Northwest.

Ten years ago, the best scientific information said that only 10 to 30 percent of salmon smolts survived the trip past the dams. Today, NMFS says that survival is as high now as it was in the 1960's and 1970's - before the Snake River dams were built. If survival through the reservoirs is as high now as it was before the dams were built, returning to pre-dam conditions is not the answer.

Dam breaching will create significant environmental impacts, with the loss of habitat for resident fish and wildlife and increased air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel burning power plants.

I oppose dam breaching. This is not a fish vs. economy issue. Fish are important. The economy is important. If both are important, breaching the dams is not the answer. It is extreme and it is risky. It may not help the fish, but it will certainly hurt the economy.

Sincerely yours,

Chris J. Meyer
General Manager