

BONNEVILLE-JEFFERSON GROUND WATER DISTRICT

P. O. Box 51780
Idaho Falls, ID 83405
March 15, 2000

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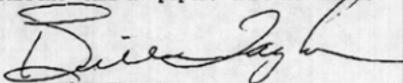
The Bonneville-Jefferson Ground Water District represents over 200 water users and 50,000 acres of irrigated land in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties in Idaho. These comments in behalf of our members are concerning the "All-H" paper.

We wish to be on record as being opposed to option 4, the dam breaching of the lower 4 dams on the Snake River. We believe that there is significant scientific evidence that this action will not produce all the desired results of returning natural salmon to the Snake River. We feel that there needs to be more research and study conducted. We feel that there are several areas that must be addressed to bring balance into this discussion. Significant changes must be made in ocean conditions, reduction and further control of sport fishing, predator control of terns and other animals, and harvest practices. We are unaware of other endangered species that are allowed to be hunted, harvested, canned, and put on the shelf of our local supermarkets. Other alternatives can be tried more easily and more quickly than removing dams. Asking power users, farmers, transportation companies, recreationists, and citizens of the northwest to bear the brunt of dam removal, without a sound basis and other basic common sense alternatives being tried first seems ridiculous. In this effort to restore the salmon, we need to be looking at a balanced approach.

We are strongly opposed to the use of Idaho water for the purposes of flow augmentation. Past attempts have not been successful. The scientific evidence hasn't proven the merits of flow augmentation. The lose of water would be devastating to our members and their families. Our families have invested many years in their family farms on the assumption that when the federal government put in the dams that the water would be their's to use in the future. If flow augmentation is implemented potentially 600,000 acres of land would need to be idled. What are the ramifications to other species if 600,000 acres becomes barren and waterless?

Dams and water have long been the life blood of our area. We all want to see our children go fishing and catch that big one; but we also want to see our children be able to farm and recreate like we have for generations. Dams provide many advantages including flood control, habitat for many species, recreation, employment, power, and transportation.

We believe there are better answers than the ones presented at this time. We are hopeful that all involved recognize the need to not repeat the past and to make decisions that will last into the future for the benefit of all involved. We believe that people and the responsibility we all have to our children's future must have emphasis on the one "H" that is mission from the current "All-H" paper, that is HUMANS.



Bill Taylor
Chairman

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