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Seattle

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JENNIFER BELCHER, Commissioner of Public Lands
JIM JESERNIG, Director of Agriculture
DAVID ROSELEIP, President Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation

MAR 24 2000

CHAIRMAN
Kevin Lyle
902 S. Johnson Rd
Othello, WA 99344
(509) 234-6482

VICE CHAIRMAN
Bernard Erickson
1719 Rd. 5.2 NW
Ritzville, WA 99169
(509) 766-2184

TREASURER
Jake Wollman, Jr.
1054 W. Harder Rd
Warden, WA 98857
(509) 349-8045
FAX (509) 349-8866

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Alice Parker
8582 Rd K SW
Royal City, WA 99357
(509) 346-9442
FAX (509) 346-9442
mrsp@televar.com

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TESTIMONY
COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

prepared and given by
Alice Parker, Executive Secretary

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement with Federal Caucus Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish "All-H Paper

I am Alice Parker, the Executive Secretary for the Columbia Basin Development League. My husband (Ivan) and I are retired farmers at Royal City and still reside on the farm on the Royal Slope, a part of the Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Our membership is comprised of individuals, businesses and entities who have interest in the Columbia Basin Project. We have an invested interest in any policy impacting the Columbia /Snake River System.

We are very concerned with proposed policy that addresses flow targets and flow augmentation. The Bureau of Reclamation's administrative moratorium is enforcing on the Columbia Basin Project and elsewhere in the region, that prohibits the use of already certificated and permitted water. This water would serve additional agricultural, municipal/industrial and other project water uses. This water is already authorized by existing contractual authorities therefore the moratorium should be ended. The need for that moratorium is based on excessive flow augmentation allocations that are hydrologically unachievable and biologically unnecessary.

The annual quantity of water allocated to Columbia River flow augmentation should be reduced to 4 million acre feet or less. Serious consideration should be given to utilizing this water only, for late summer and/or early fall flow augmentation. There is no significant evidence that spring and early summer flow augmentation is providing any biological benefit. I am attaching a document ("The Columbia-Snake River Flow

Targets/Augmentation Program") prepared by Darryl Olsen, Ph.D. a Regional Planner/Regional Economist; and Research Biologists James Anderson, Ph.D.; Richard Zabel, Ph.D.; John Pizzimenti, Ph.D. and Kevin Malone, M.S. This White Paper shows evidence that flow augmentation is hydrologically unachievemable and biologically unnecessary. The report reaffirms the concern the Columbia Basin Development League has regarding flow targets/augmentation. Please consider the findings in this report.

Just last week a lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court under the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit contends that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have failed to meet minimum flows set by the National Marine Fisheries. While there is no significant evidence that spring and summer flow augmentation is necessary, some insist on filing lawsuits. These people are wasting valuable time and money which could be better spent on improving conditions for salmon survival. I question the motive in such lawsuits. Is it for the protection or enhancement of salmon or is it just control? When science doesn't show it will be beneficial then I have to think that it is control of water and land. As the old saying goes "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting."

We hear so much about Tribal Treaties and how they must be honored. What about contracts and agreements the Federal Government and Agencies have with individuals and entities? The Columbia Basin Project has a contract with the Federal Government with an amount of water which is already certificated and permitted to serve additional agricultural, municipal/industrial and other project water uses? Currently that water is being prohibited from being used. What good is a contract if it is not honored whether it is with the tribes or other parties? I think it is time that we all have a level playing field. If sacrifices are to be made then they must be made by all.

The Columbia - Snake River Irrigators Association and the Eastern Oregon Irrigators Association have prepared a paper summarizing their comments on the issues being addressing today. I have attached their comments and request that you consider them. Their comments and proposals are based on science and are workable solutions. Just what we need to have an honest effort for salmon recovery in the Northwest.

Thank You for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Federal Caucus reports.

Alice Parker, Executive Secretary
Columbia Basin Development League
8582 Rd. K SW
Royal City, WA 99357
Phone and Fax: 509-346-9442