

Submitted 29 Feb 00
Seattle



FRANKLIN COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

Courthouse - 1016 North 4th
Pasco, Washington 99301
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MAR 24 2000

February 29, 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:

I am Sue Miller, Chair of the Board of Commissioners for Franklin County in eastern Washington State. My fellow Commissioners and I represent over 45,000 people in a small agricultural based county that borders the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Within our agricultural community, county residents are actively farming over 230,000 acres of irrigated agricultural land. I believe the residents of Franklin County will be drastically affected if the Corp of Engineers Alternative #4, Dam Breaching, is supported as the course of action to solve the salmon recovery issue.

The loss of hydropower generation, impacts to the farming community (i.e. irrigation and water supplies), the possible increase in electric rates, the impacts on transportation systems (i.e. costs), 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 the region. While there is no immediate or simple answer to this very

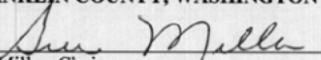
complex problem, Franklin County supports a common sense approach to this biological analysis that does not solely focus on dam breaching, but does holistically examine the harvesting, predation, and hatchery issues effecting the declining salmon runs.

In addition, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners encourage the continued evaluation of the Corps of Engineers stated Alternatives (#1-#3) and firmly believe that Alternative #4, dam breaching, would have serious social and economic effects on local county residents. This alternative 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.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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


Sue Miller, Chair