



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Walla Walla District

## Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Draft Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites any person who has an interest in the Draft FR/EIS or represents a group of people that have an interest in the subject matter of this study, to make comments. The Corps will respond to the comments related to their Draft FR/EIS in their next NEPA document produced for the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/EIS. Comments will be accepted through March 31, 2000.

Name: John STERLING

Organization: PATAGONIA, INC., VENTURA, CA

Comments:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER MY COMMENTS. I WRITE ON BEHALF OF 1000 EMPLOYEES AT PATAGONIA, INC., AN OUTDOOR CLOTHING COMPANY BASED IN VENTURA, CALIFORNIA. WE AT PATAGONIA URGE YOU TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FOUR DAMS ON THE LOWER SNAKE BE REMOVED, USHERING IN AN ERA OF RESTORATION AND REVIVIFICATION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S WILD SALMON POPULATIONS.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SALMON, AS A SPECIES AND A SACRAMENT, AND WE AT PATAGONIA SHARE THE BELIEF THAT TO RESTORE THESE MAGNIFICENT SPECIES IS REASON ENOUGH TO BREACH THE LOWER SNAKE DAMS. BUT, AS A BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE, I'D LIKE TO FOCUS MY TESTIMONY ON THE SIMPLE FACT THAT THESE DAMS JUST DON'T MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE.

IN A BUSINESS, PROJECTS THAT LOSE MONEY DON'T LAST; THEY ARE A DRAW ON THE BUSINESS, AND THEIR LOSSES WEAKEN THE ENTIRE COMPANY. THE FOUR LOWER SNAKE DAMS ARE A BURDEN TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMY, AND LIKE ALL BAD IDEAS SHOULD BE DISMANTLED BEFORE THEY CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE.

THE DAMS FROG UP A BARGE INDUSTRY THAT HAS TURNED LEWISTON, IDAHO INTO AN INLAND PORT, AND 13 RANCHES DRAW SUBSIDIZED IRRIGATION FROM ONE OF THE DAM'S RESERVOIRS. WE TAXPAYERS FOOT THE BILL FOR THESE INDUSTRIES TO THE TUNE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR.

Send comments by

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

MOST APPALLING, THOUGH, IS THAT OUR SUBSIDIES ARE HELPING TO DRIVE WILD SALMON TO EXTINCTION. ON TOP OF THAT, WE'LL SPEND NEARLY ONE BILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR ON SALMON RECOVERY PROGRAMS THAT DON'T WORK. IF WE TRIED TO JUGGLE SUCH SHENANIGANS AT PATAGONIA, WE'D GO BANKRUPT OR OUR MANAGEMENT WOULD BE FIRED. EITHER WAY, THE WASTE OF RESOURCES WOULDN'T LAST.

Now, I'll stop talking about what's wrong, and start talking about what ~~else~~ could be right. RESTORED SALMON POPULATIONS WOULD BE A BOON TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMY. FISHING RETAILERS, GUIDES, BOAT SELLERS, AND THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES IN EVERY TOWN NEAR A FISHING HOLE WOULD BENEFIT. COMMERCIAL FISHERS WOULD BENEFIT. AND ABOVE ALL, THE CITIZENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WOULD BENEFIT FROM KNOWING THAT THEIR HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE DOES NOT HAVE TO COME AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REGION'S MOST SYMBOLIC CREATURE.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, BUT I LIVE IN CALIFORNIA NOW. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD TO BE FROM A PLACE THAT CHERISHED ITS NATURAL QUALITIES. THE GRIZZLY BEAR ONCE MEANT TO CALIFORNIANS WHAT THE SALMON MEANS TO NORTHWESTERNERS TODAY. THE LAST GRIZZLY IN CALIFORNIA SITS ON THE STATE FLAG, A SYMBOL OF WHAT WAS. DON'T LET WASTEFUL, HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED PROJECTS TURN ~~the~~ THE SALMON INTO A SYMBOL OF WHAT WAS. PLEASE DON'T LET THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S IDENTITY FALL PREY TO A FAILURE OF THE IMAGINATION. HAVE THE GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT TO SHARE THIS REGION WITH WILD SALMON, AND THE ECONOMIC SENSE TO REMOVE THE FOUR LOWER SNARE DAMS.

THANKS,

