



APR 10 2000

Gem Soil And Water Conservation District

1805 Hwy 16 Rm #1, Emmett, ID 83617, Phone (208) 365-4212, FAX (208) 365-7183

March 29, 2000

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

RE: Snake River EIS

Dear Sirs or Madams:

The Gem Soil & Water Conservation District opposes the breaching of the dams to save the salmon in the Snake River. Our opposition stems from the following reasons:

1. Economic harm that will come from the dam breaching.
2. Uncertainty that breaching will create healthy fish runs—there is no sound science to back up that premise.
3. Survival of smolts under today's program has improved immeasurably.
4. Dam removal is high risk, may not help fish, but will cause certain economic disruption and eliminate clean renewable electrical energy when the region is facing a projected electrical shortage.
5. Ocean conditions appear to be improving, thus improving survivability of the fish.
6. Other problems need to be addressed first, such as predators, off-shore fishing, and nets in the river.

Dam breaching will cost Idahoans their economy, their jobs, and their way of life. Are the taxpayers willing to pay for the displacement of industry, family jobs, agriculture, and some cities? Please keep the dams in place and work on other solutions, including the Brannon By-Pass to solve the salmon problem.

Sincerely,

Steve Ethington, Chairman
Kirk Vickery
Maynard Potter
Tracy Walton