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Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:24 AM
To: federalcaucus@bpa.gov; Salmonstudy; cenwpjddstudy@nwp01.usace.army.mil;
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Subject: (no subject)

BONNEVILLE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
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We represent over 2000 farm member families in the Bonneville County area in Idaho Falls, Idaho. We serve as their board of directors. We are submitting comments on behalf of each of our members concerning the "All-H" paper.

We wish to be on record as being opposed to option 4, the damn 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. Further research and study must be done before such a drastic alternative as this is implemented. 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. Asking power users, farmers, transportation companies, recreationists, and citizens of the northwest to bear the brunt of damn 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. The Army Corp has made significant strides by barging and retrofitting dams and they have been fairly successful in these efforts. Focus now needs to be placed in other areas to help restore the salmon. We know from scientific study that the ocean is contributing greatly to the changes in the salmon runs. By removing dams and replacing power with carbon dioxide producing power plants we will only contribute to the problem. If we can have salmon, even if not naturally, then we need to look at this possibility as well. Dinosaurs and woolly mammoths disappeared long before man ever was around. It is possible that a species may only have a specific time period before they go extinct naturally from evolutionary changes to our planet. Prior to dams being put on the river there was scientific data that suggested the salmon would be extinct because of habitat, ocean changes, and hunting practices.

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. Using a computer program (PATH) to determine the results of flow augmentation that don't even mimic real data makes for false science. The loss 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. If the water is taken for flow augmentation it would be like Russian Roulette to plant your crops and then not know if the water would be there by the middle or end of the summer to water them. What happens to other species if 600,000 acres of land becomes barren that everything from birds, insects, reptiles, mammals, etc., use for their habitat. Where in your study have you addressed these species?

Dams and water have long been the life blood of our area. We are able to have a beautiful place to live because of the great benefit that dams and water have afforded us. 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. By

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removing the dams, other elements in nature will become out of balance. Whether removing dams or taking water, the results are the same. Devastation of huge proportion will occur for many, many years. We encourage more investigation into the "Script Institute Study" and other good scientific studies that are not skewed by politics, environmentalists, and others to support their agenda.

We believe strongly that there are better ideas than the ones currently being offered. There are ways to have dams, people, fish, and a healthy environment. We are hopeful that in the future the biggest part of the "All-H" paper that is indeed missing will be included and addressed, that "H" is the HUMANS.

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