



Greater Yellowstone Coalition

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March 7, 2000

USACE

Walla Walla District
 ATTN: Lower Snake River Study
 201 N. Third Ave.
 Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Federal Caucus Comment Record
 c/o BPA-PL
 707 W. Main St.
 Suite 500
 Spokane, WA 99201

RE: SALMON RESTORATION HEARING IDAHO FALLS, ID - MARCH 7, 2000

Good evening. My name is Marv Hoyt and I live in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I work for, and represent tonight, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC). Our comments are directed towards both the Corps Draft EIS and the Federal Caucus All-H paper.

GYC is a regional, non-profit, conservation organization based in Bozeman, MT. We also have offices in Wyoming and Idaho. GYC has approximately 8,000 individual members, 100 business/corporate sponsors, and 90 member organizations. Our mission is to conserve and protect the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Upper Snake River in Idaho and Wyoming is an integral part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, therefore our keen interest in this issue.

GYC support's Alternative 4 in the Corps' DEIS and any comprehensive recovery plan put forth by the Federal caucus in the All-H paper, which includes the protection of southern Idaho water.

The only way to insure the restoration of our salmon and steelhead is to breach the four Lower Snake River dams.

We need salmon. Those dams make no sense.

- 1) If the four Lower Snake River dams are not breached we will put at risk the resident trout fisheries of the Upper Snake.
- 2) If the four Lower Snake River dams are not breached we risk the destruction of the aquatic ecosystems and their dependent wildlife in the Upper Snake River.
- 3) If the four Lower Snake River dams are not breached we risk breaking the promises we made in our nation's treaties with Idaho's first people.

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 Wyoming Office—125 Main Street, Suite B, Lander, WY 82520 • Phone (307) 335-7412 • Fax (307) 335-7407

4) If the four Lower Snake River dams are not breached we are putting at risk irrigated agriculture in the Upper Snake River basin.

This makes no sense. Those dams make no sense.

We have been told by our elected officials in Idaho that the political reality is that the dams are here to stay. I submit that if Senator Larry Craig, Senator Mike Crapo, Congressman Mike Simpson and Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth, with the blessing of Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, were to introduce federal legislation that required breaching the four Lower Snake River dams to restore salmon and steelhead, while justly compensating all injured parties, then the political reality in Idaho and the Northwest would change dramatically. By failing to do this our political leaders are knowingly condemning our salmon and our water.

This makes no sense. Those dams make no sense.

It is time for Idaho's political leaders to do the right thing. It is time for Idaho's political leaders to stand up for salmon. It is time for Idaho's leaders to change political reality. It is time for Idaho's political leaders to call for the breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams so that our salmon and steelhead are restored.

We need salmon. Those dams make no sense.

Sincerely,



Marv Hoyt
Idaho Representative