

April 13, 2000

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

The Corps' Snake River Environmental impact Statement

I oppose alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative.

Approximately 20 percent of the containers which the Port of Portland handle are delivered to the Port container terminal by barge. Certain container carriers are particularly dependent on Snake River Business to justify their calls to Portland. Six container lines regularly call on Portland. If the Snake River dams were breached, two of those services may be lost and two others may be vulnerable.

The region needs a recovery plan with a clear vision, goals and priorities. We need a plan that rebuilds healthy fish runs while maintaining a healthy economy.

Recent studies show that survival is as high as it was in the 1960's and 1970's – before the dams were built. If survival through the reservoirs is as high now as it was before the Snake River dams were built, returning to pre-dam conditions is not the answer.

Dam removal is not the magic answer. It is extreme and it is risky. It may not help the fish, but it will certainly hurt the economy. Our jobs and our Northwest way of life are at stake.