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PUBLIC MEETING SESSION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
DRAFT LOWER SNAKE RIVER JUVENILE SALMON MIGRATION  
FEASIBILITY REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
WITH  
FEDERAL CAUCUS CONSERVATION OF COLUMBIA BASIN FISH  
"ALL-H PAPER"

CENTER ON THE GROVE  
850 WEST FRONT STREET  
BOISE, IDAHO

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

FEBRUARY 23, 2000

2:00 P.M.

COURT REPORTER: WILLIAM J. BRIDGES, CM, RMR, CSR

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1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: All right.  
2 Thank you for those presentations and for enlightening  
3 all of us as to what you all have been looking at and  
4 thinking about for the last number of years.

5 Again, thank you all for your patience and  
6 for being here today. Let me tell you a little bit  
7 about how we're going to work the oral testimony  
8 today. And what I'll be doing, we're going to start  
9 with the elected officials, as you heard. So we will  
10 get to the actual public testimony at three o'clock,  
11 just as it says on your agenda.

12 And for the elected officials that are  
13 here, if you're already here, and you should be  
14 shortly if you're not, I'm going to go through this  
15 list. We've got about 24 or 25 of you. And to get  
16 done in an hour, I need 20 of you. So if some of you  
17 could come this evening, I'd sure appreciate that, or  
18 if you could just stand and be recognized for being  
19 here, I think the public who will want to speak later  
20 would really appreciate that as well.

21 For the oral testimony, and this will go  
22 for the elected officials as well as for the public, I  
23 will call your name to come to the microphone, based  
24 on the sheets that I have got here.

25 The sheets that the public signed up on, as

1       you saw when you signed up, I'm going to be going from  
2       each of the three lists, so that we kind of get the  
3       broad span there. I will call the name of the person  
4       who is speaking, who is next, and then who is on deck.  
5       So you will have notice of three before you who is  
6       going to speak. And please be ready to speak and up  
7       to the microphone, and let us know, raise your hand  
8       and let us know, we will get a microphone to you if  
9       you cannot come to the microphone.

10                Once you do come to the microphone, I'd  
11       like you to watch the lights in front of you. The  
12       green light means speak. The yellow light indicates  
13       that you've got 60 seconds left. And the red light,  
14       guess what, means stop.

15                At the end of your time please leave your  
16       microphone so the next speaker can come up.

17                       COL. STROCK: Donna?

18                       MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Yes.

19                       COL. STROCK: When the red light goes  
20       on, we also stop listening.

21                       MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: We are going  
22       to augment the red light today with a bell as well.  
23       So if you are busy reading, you don't need to look up  
24       for a red light. You will hear a little bell up here.

25                       Would you like to practice the bell? There

1 it is. All right.

2 So, at the end of the time, if you could  
3 leave your microphone so the next speaker could come  
4 up, that will help us to accommodate as many of you as  
5 we possibly can.

6 And, again, we are going to need your help  
7 to do all of this, and especially going to need your  
8 help, when you hear someone say something that you  
9 really, you know, you are right there with or you  
10 disagree with, we're going to need you to hold your  
11 applause, because what we found in some of the other  
12 locations is that the applause ends up cutting into  
13 the time that people need to be speaking. So you will  
14 help us get through everybody.

15 Because it is being transcribed, if could  
16 you let us know whether you are commenting on the  
17 Corps' Environmental Impact Statement or the Federal  
18 Caucus All-H paper, or both, we'd appreciate that. If  
19 you are not sure, don't worry, we will take care of  
20 doing this, doing the best we can to get it to the  
21 appropriate agency for comments.

22 Also please state your name and the name of  
23 any organization or agency that you are with so we can  
24 get that on the record as well.

25 So, with that, let's begin with our elected

1 officials, and thank you in advance for taking your  
2 time to be here today and for making this as fair a  
3 hearing for everybody as possible. And I look forward  
4 to working with you on this.

5 Are you ready to roll on to the testimony?

6 Okay. Let's begin.

7 I'll begin with Guy Dodson, followed by  
8 John Sandy, followed by Louise Dixie.

9 And let me also right now apologize if I  
10 have mispronounced anybody's names throughout the day.

11 So, again, Guy Dodson, are you here?

12 Followed by John Sandy, followed by Louise Dixie.

13 John Sandy?

14 COL. STROCK: Could I ask the elected  
15 officials, when you begin your testimony, could you  
16 tell us who you represent so we all understand what  
17 your constituency is.

18 MR. JOHN SANDY: John Sandy, Idaho  
19 State Senate.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on  
21 the Corps of Engineers Lower Snake River Juvenile  
22 Salmon Feasibility Study, the Draft Feasibility Report  
23 Environmental Impact Statement on Breaching.

24 I support the comments of Governor  
25 Kepthorne previously in opposition to lowering -- to

1 breaching -- in opposition, I'm sorry, to breaching  
2 the Lower Snake River dams.

3 I would like to focus my comments on the  
4 All-H paper, Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish,  
5 Building a Conceptual Recovery Plan, and the four  
6 appendices prepared by the federal caucus.

7 Every year Idaho spends millions and  
8 millions -- sends millions and millions of smolts down  
9 the Snake River through dams and on barges to the  
10 Pacific Ocean, and every year millions and millions of  
11 these young salmon are eaten by predators. Sea birds  
12 and the pikeminnow.

13 The caspian terns that prey on these salmon  
14 do so from a home that was not created by nature but  
15 from a dredge dump manufactured by man; Rice Island.  
16 This problem can be corrected and it should be  
17 corrected. We should correct it now, not phase it out  
18 over several years.

19 Those fish that survive the terns,  
20 pikeminnow and years in the ocean return only to face  
21 additional predation from marine mammals. It is not  
22 the same marine mammals threat that existed in the  
23 recent past, it is a marine mammal threat from a  
24 population that has increased by more than 600 percent  
25 since the mid 1980s.

1                   At Lower Granite Dam one out of every four  
2 adult salmon and steelhead shows signs of being  
3 attacked by marine mammals.

4                   If the region is serious about improving  
5 survival, it is time to get serious about stopping  
6 this predation. There is not a specific title heading  
7 for the predation in the entire conservation of  
8 Columbia Basin All-H report. The only reference to  
9 terns is a sample project section and habitat appendix  
10 in page 62.

11                   No account as to how many millions of smolt  
12 are killed each year and no figures relating to the  
13 increased tern population.

14                   When federal agencies establish priorities  
15 that give credence to lower risk incidental take over  
16 the loss of millions of smolt by predation, they are  
17 not only irresponsible, they are unbelievable.

18                   I grew up in a family livestock business in  
19 the Central Idaho Sawtooth Mountains. The uppermost  
20 headwaters of the middle fork of the Salmon River  
21 flows through our private property. As a youngster I  
22 watched salmon spawn literally on our property.

23                   In the late 1960s suddenly large numbers of  
24 Native Americans showed up in campers, motor homes and  
25 cars and pickups. They speared, chopped, shot and

1 grabbed what appeared to be every fish.

2 One day a U.S. Forest Ranger and I stopped  
3 along Bear Valley Creek and counted 57 dead salmon in  
4 a pile. I can remember it like it was yesterday.

5 When the ranger suggested to the Native  
6 Americans that the day was hot and flies were working  
7 on the fish, they were told that they were catching  
8 more fish and if some turned bad they would feed them  
9 to their dogs.

10 Man is a predator and should be the most  
11 easily managed. Irresponsible behavior must not be  
12 tolerated both on the headwaters and in the ocean.

13 There are many conditions that can be  
14 improved within the life cycle of the salmon that  
15 would reduce extinction risks and improve survival.

16 Limiting predation is only one condition,  
17 but one that could be done now. These life cycle  
18 improvements should be implemented and the results  
19 evaluated prior to any decision on breaching.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
21 very much, John.

22 Could we have Louise Dixie, followed by Ken  
23 Robison, followed by Anthony Johnson. Louise? Ken  
24 Robison. Followed by Anthony Johnson, followed by  
25 Vinni Penro.

1                   MR. KEN ROBISON:    I am Ken Robison.  
2                   I am a State Representative from Boise.  I support  
3                   Alternative 4 in the Corps Draft EIS breaching the  
4                   dams and alternative A in the All-H paper, breaching  
5                   the dams.

6                   Today the number of spring and summer  
7                   Chinook returning to the Snake River tributaries this  
8                   past year was about 8 percent of the average number  
9                   returning in the five years following the construction  
10                  of the first of the four Snake River dams below  
11                  Lewiston.  Which is one of the pieces of evidence that  
12                  the present strategies do not work.

13                  Chinook stocks in the Lower Columbia River  
14                  tributaries that cross fewer dams and that are not  
15                  barged are returning at a much greater rate than Idaho  
16                  salmon, up to ten times the rate, which is further  
17                  evidence that it is the dams that are the problem.

18                  And of course the Idaho fish scientists,  
19                  the Oregon fish scientists, regional fish scientists  
20                  all agree that breaching the dams is the best way to  
21                  save the salmon.

22                  The Alternative C in the All-H paper  
23                  includes taking additional water from Southern Idaho  
24                  if the dams are not breached.  If additional water is  
25                  taken from Southern Idaho, up to a million acre-feet,

1 as was in the Bureau of Reclamation study, the  
2 Southern Idaho economy would be devastated with the  
3 potential loss in a dry year of up to 200,000 to  
4 600,000 irrigated acres, with an economic impact of  
5 400 million dollars, with thousands of jobs lost.

6 And yet that seems to be the best  
7 alternative that the federal agencies have to offer,  
8 is taking more Idaho water.

9 The greatest economic benefits for Idaho  
10 and the region will accrue if the dams are breached,  
11 the salmon are restored, the steelhead are revived,  
12 and I would say that the Corps Draft EIS leaves out  
13 significant economic benefits that would occur if the  
14 salmon are restored and the dams are breached.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
17 much, Ken.

18 Please, if I could remind you, hold the  
19 clapping.

20 Anthony Johnson, followed by Vinni Penro,  
21 followed by Denton Derrington.

22 Anthony Johnson?

23 MR. ANTHONY JOHNSON: First of all, I  
24 would make a statement to the John Day drawdown.

25 If we look at fixing the system, we need to

1 look at a holistic cleanup of the entire Columbia  
2 Basin. With that, from the tribal perspective, the  
3 salmon are a part of our culture, our spiritual,  
4 religious belief, our way of life.

5 Disappearance of the salmon in the upper  
6 Columbia Basin is unacceptable. The United States  
7 made binding legal promises that we would be secure in  
8 our fisheries and be able to exercise the rights so  
9 essential to our way of life.

10 The United States has a trust  
11 responsibility to honor the intent of our treaty and  
12 act in a manner that sustains this treaty.

13 The United States must rebuild salmon to  
14 harvestable levels. The scientific studies are in.  
15 The detailed peer review collaborative scientific  
16 study known as The Process for Analyzing and Testing  
17 Hypotheses determined that breaching the four Snake  
18 dams is the option with the highest probability of  
19 success.

20 206 biologists put their name on a letter  
21 to President Clinton endorsing this.

22 The tribe has made sacrifices. We have  
23 curtailed our own harvest. Since 1977 we have not had  
24 a spring harvest. It is time for the United States to  
25 restrict its own harvest; hydropower.

1                   Man is destroying our Mother Earth. We  
2                   support the breaching of the dams out of respect for  
3                   our children and those generations to come after them.  
4                   Those children who will inherit our world.

5                   Lastly, using the words of James Holt, the  
6                   Nez Perce Tribe will not accept the extinction of  
7                   salmon as an inevitable price for progress. (Speaking  
8                   in native tongue).

9                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
10                  much, Anthony.

11                  Vinni Penro, followed by Denton Derrington,  
12                  followed by Lionel Boyer. Vinni? Denton Derrington,  
13                  followed by Lionel Boyer, followed by Clint Stennett.  
14                  Denton Derrington.

15                  Okay. Let's hear from Lionel Boyer,  
16                  followed by Clint Stennett, followed by Beatrice  
17                  Miles.

18                  We're moving right through this list,  
19                  aren't we. Lionel Boyer, no. Clint Stennett. Great.  
20                  Thank you. Followed by Beatrice Miles, followed by  
21                  Peter Wilson.

22                  MR. STENNETT: Thank you. I am  
23                  Senator Clint Stennett and I represent District 21 in  
24                  the Idaho Senate.

25                  My comments here today reflect my personal

1 views, and the views I believe to be the majority of  
2 the opinion in my District 21. They are not the views  
3 of the Senate democratic caucus which has diverse  
4 opinions on this issue.

5 The issue of salmon recovery has tremendous  
6 economic and social ramifications for the citizens of  
7 Idaho. Not more than 40 years ago federal officials  
8 came to the region of Southeastern Washington and  
9 North Central Idaho and presented citizens with the  
10 proposal to boost the economic base of our region.

11 In arguing for the proposed projects  
12 assurances were given that the proposed actions would  
13 not harm salmon and steelhead runs that were important  
14 to the region and to all Idahoans.

15 Now having built a significant economic and  
16 cultural base around these projects we are coming to  
17 the conclusion that the initial representations made  
18 by the federal government in support of these projects  
19 was incorrect.

20 I believe that something must be done  
21 quickly if we are to save these fish. Despite all the  
22 elaborate scientific endeavors undertaken by the  
23 National Marine Fisheries Service and the Corps of  
24 Engineers, there is really no debate.

25 The fish are going extinct. In my mind

1 extinction is not an adoption. The Endangered Species  
2 Act requires an action to be taken to recover the  
3 species.

4 The decision that needs to be made is how  
5 to recover the species, not if we should recover. The  
6 time has come to act and we must adhere to this  
7 responsibility.

8 In Idaho and in the United States we  
9 believe that much is possible and a solution that will  
10 recover the fish is possible. And what we must have  
11 is the courage and determination to find that  
12 solution.

13 Many of Idaho's elected officials have  
14 drawn a line in the sand on this issue. They say no  
15 breaching, no flow augmentation. And drawing a line  
16 in the sand gives people false hope that nothing needs  
17 to be done with water or dams.

18 This eliminates the potential for  
19 meaningful public dialogue.

20 There are a number of very complex issues  
21 facing the economic and cultural well-being of North  
22 Central Idaho.

23 A comprehensive solution must consider all  
24 of these factors and develop a solution that addresses  
25 all of the concerns.

1                   To simply remove the dams without a  
2 detailed plan to provide economic and cultural support  
3 is not an option.

4                   To augment flow without detailed and  
5 economic cultural considerations is also not an  
6 option.

7                   Far too little dialogue has taken place on  
8 what these four measures are, and these measures have  
9 not be related to the broader issues that currently  
10 face timber and agricultural industries.

11                   As a Southern Idaho rancher who uses both  
12 surface and groundwater for irrigation, I stand firmly  
13 in opposition to flow augmentation as the sole  
14 solution to this problem.

15                   My opposition stems from the fact that I  
16 have yet to see any real solutions that would allow me  
17 to understand how I would be compensated by this  
18 action.

19                   The issue that I would like to bring to the  
20 attention of the Corps as well as to local, state and  
21 federal officials is the mechanism for public dialogue  
22 that will discover a solution must occur and occur  
23 fast.

24                   If meaningless study, public comment  
25 continue to delay the enforcement of law, we will

1       deter the creation of meaningful action and will once  
2       again be constrained by judicial policy making.

3               Time for study is over. It's time for the  
4       Corps to step back, and the region to step forward  
5       with the solution.

6               If we continue to bow our necks and refuse  
7       to take some meaningful steps towards a regional  
8       solution, a judge will decide. Leaving this decision  
9       up to out of state interests who would sue in Federal  
10      Court should not be an option.

11              MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
12      very much, Clint.

13              Beatrice Miles, followed by Peter Wilson,  
14      followed by Horace Axtel.

15              MS. BEATRICE MILES:   (Speaking in  
16      native tongue). I came to speak in behalf of the Nez  
17      Perce Tribe, whom I am a part of.

18              Years back before the horses came to the  
19      tribe my people used to walk down by foot to Celilo  
20      Falls. They would have dogs with them and they would  
21      put little packs on the dogs to carry some of their  
22      packs.

23              But every little while they would stop  
24      along the river and fish, and dry the fish, and then  
25      they would proceed on to where they got down to where

1 Celilo Falls is.

2 This has been a long time ago, because  
3 horses were not here yet.

4 But anyway, that's how long ago our people.  
5 Beyond that they had fished Columbia River and all  
6 like that man was saying, they destroyed fishing, kind  
7 of cussed them out, I don't know who he was, from  
8 Rapid River.

9 That was our fishing place, too. We lived  
10 in the Salmon River country.

11 During the war of 1877 my people were  
12 driven out of there, along with the Wallowas people as  
13 they came through and they drove them out with guns.  
14 Driving our people to Montana, until they surrendered.

15 My people were taken out of their land,  
16 their way of life they had. Everything disappeared  
17 for us.

18 Now I read in Sunday's paper, opinions of  
19 different people talking about the Indians. They were  
20 kind of cussing us out for what we were.

21 We were here first. We had the salmon  
22 first. We had the buffalo, we had the moose, we had  
23 all of these things to ourselves. Salmon was our own.

24 And nobody should say that the Indians  
25 should do this, should do that. If those young boys

1 did that, they were untaught.

2           When I was a young child in the '20s, we  
3 were all taught to respect game, to respect our way of  
4 life, and the people were very religious. They took  
5 care of the earth, they took care of the salmon, they  
6 never ran out and fished or hunted until the game was  
7 all gone.

8           Our buffalos disappeared. We used to go  
9 over to Montana to get buffalo, until they all  
10 disappeared.

11           We never killed them off. We never ate up  
12 all the salmon. We had everything so perfect and  
13 everything doing for us, until the Caucasian people  
14 came after Lewis and Clark, everybody came out west,  
15 took our lands away, killed us off for our country.

16           My people died in battle. Even old women,  
17 little children, old people were killed off in  
18 Montana, because of our land and our way of life.

19           And I don't think people should say like  
20 that man was saying, this is what they did, because  
21 they must have been untaught.

22           In my day, they taught the young kids to  
23 respect game. Don't go out and shoot it just for  
24 nothing.

25           And they always blame the Indians. But I

1 don't think they are all to blame.

2 I think it is because the parents do not  
3 train their children to do the right thing, that's why  
4 it's happening that way.

5 I'm proud to be a Nez Perce. I'm a  
6 full-blooded Nez Perce, and I'm proud of it. On one  
7 side of my family, I come from a Buzwat, first  
8 generation, he's the one that got our hunting and  
9 fishing rights in our treaty.

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Beatrice?

11 MS. BEATRICE MILES: Yes.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I am sorry to  
13 interrupt you. I am afraid the time is up.

14 MS. BEATRICE MILES: All right.  
15 Thank you. (Speaking in native tongue).

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
17 much, Beatrice.

18 Peter Wilson, followed by Horace Axtel,  
19 followed by Judy Danielson.

20 And if I could ask you all, when I call  
21 your name, if you could just jump right up and be at  
22 the microphone, so I know you're here, I'd appreciate  
23 it. Thank you.

24 MR. PETER WILSON: I am Peter Wilson,  
25 a commissioner at the Port of Lewiston, a life-long

1 rancher and farming in the Lewiston area.

2 As we speak, there are lines of trucks  
3 hauling Montana wheat to the Port of Lewiston, there's  
4 a big push that quite a bit of wheat has to be moved  
5 in 60 days.

6 Prior to the river transportation the  
7 Montana farmer used to figure that every third crop  
8 went to the railroad. Every third crop.

9 When river transportation became available,  
10 that now is about every fourth crop.

11 Now, that's quite a major saving for the  
12 Montana farmer.

13 Some of the people in Riggins, and not to  
14 pick on those people in Riggins, but I hear them say  
15 that a small portion of the power is produced by those  
16 four dams.

17 My answer to that is, to Donnie Heckman and  
18 Ernie Robison and Frank Zumalt and those ranchers in  
19 there, when they go up and get their truck overhauled,  
20 just tell the mechanic to just overhaul seven of  
21 those, we will leave that one system vacant, and we  
22 will save a little money in rehall.

23 I don't think they'd buy that.

24 Okay. In December '44 -- That's the year I  
25 was born. In December of '98 Eric Barker, the

1 Tribune, wrote an article in the paper, and he quotes  
2 biologist Ed Schiver, there is no shortage of fish in  
3 the river.

4 Idaho Fish & Game Brent Ball says seven  
5 hours per fish, can't get any better than that.

6 The Corps count of 1918 fall Chinook  
7 crossed Lower Granite dam, largest amount of fish  
8 since the dams were built.

9 Well, I asked the railroad people if they  
10 had anything to do with this. They said no. The  
11 barge people said it wasn't us. The trucking people  
12 said we didn't do it. UPS, did you do it? No.

13 The only conclusion I could come with,  
14 those fish swam and swam, right over the dam.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
16 very much, Peter.

17 Horace Axtel, followed by Judy Danielson,  
18 followed by Gorton Crow.

19 MR. HORACE AXTEL: My name is Horace  
20 Axtel. I am a Nez Perce, full blood Nez Perce. All  
21 my ancestors were full blood. My children are full  
22 blood Nez Perce, my wife.

23 I'm a proud person. I am also a veteran of  
24 World War II. I have been to other countries in the  
25 world. I didn't want to go there, but I was sent

1       there.

2                   I come back to a mess that I was fighting  
3       for, freedom. There wasn't much freedom for our  
4       people, ever since this country was taken over by  
5       other people.

6                   I can't say too much about the other  
7       people, because I was raised with very, very friendly  
8       people.

9                   The old people that first came here had  
10      much respect for us. But then again the subject here  
11      is salmon to me.

12                  The salmon are so important to our life,  
13      each time salmon come up the river to give up their  
14      life, so that there could be more salmon reproduced.

15                  The cycle of the fish has that problem,  
16      that job to do. That's the only thing they know how  
17      to do.

18                  Now, when things are built to block their  
19      road, the travel of their life, it's hard for them to  
20      come up the rivers.

21                  When the salmon come up the river now they  
22      are probably in danger. Some of them extinct. They  
23      have a hard time.

24                  So in order to come up the river we must  
25      have a free-flowing river, one that is clean, one that

1 flows fresh water. Not dirty water like it is now.  
2 We talk about the silt in the water. They talk about  
3 the silt, what is going to happen to it.

4 Well, what happened to it before? It went  
5 down the river, out into the ocean. There was nothing  
6 to stop it.

7 So here we are, thinking about what's going  
8 to happen to all these people who are crying about the  
9 jobs they are going to lose.

10 There were jobs there before the dams were  
11 even built.

12 I'm a retired person. I worked for  
13 Potlatch Corporation for 36 years. I'm retired from  
14 there. I know what it's like to work.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Horace?

16 MR. HORACE AXTEL: Thank you.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
18 much.

19 Judy Danielson, followed by Gordon Crow,  
20 followed by Shirley Ringo. Judy, are you here?

21 MS. JUDY DANIELSON: Yes. Thank  
22 you.

23 My name is Judy Danielson, Idaho State  
24 Senator, majority caucus chairman and chairman of the  
25 Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force, which

1 is inclusive of Oregon, Washington, California and  
2 Alaska.

3 I have come here today with grave concerns  
4 about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the  
5 All-H paper.

6 Conclusions in the draft appear dependent  
7 upon assumptions of indirect or delayed mortality  
8 associated with juvenile transport.

9 Given this draft is the outcome of a  
10 five-year study, it would seem to me that it is  
11 dereliction of our duties not to have tested this  
12 critical assumption better.

13 Generally, barging juveniles does not  
14 subject them to predator pressure. It is arguable  
15 that in fact transport results in higher survival  
16 rates.

17 Not one of the alternatives address another  
18 of the dynamics, commercial fishing.

19 In 1899 Governor John Rogers, Governor of  
20 Washington State, in his state of the state address,  
21 said something ought to be done to prevent the final  
22 extinction of the salmon fisheries.

23 In August 1883 General Sherman spoke as  
24 reported in the Congressional record, salmon have  
25 become scarce.

1                   Both of these comments were made many years  
2 ago, prior to the construction of these dams now being  
3 considered for breaching.

4                   If breaching of these four dams occurs, the  
5 silt build-up alone will destroy more fisheries than  
6 has occurred in the last hundred years, and the silt  
7 is already there.

8                   Good stewards must ask the question, how  
9 much are individual taxpayers willing to pay and what  
10 is actually going to save these salmon species for the  
11 future?

12                   We can increase the salmon runs. I am  
13 confident in that. But breaching still does not  
14 appear to be the silver bullet.

15                   And I have time left over. Thank you.

16                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
17 very much. Okay.

18                   Gorton Crow, followed by Shirley Ringo,  
19 followed by Jack Riggs. Gorton Crow?

20                   Shirley Ringo. Thank you. Followed by  
21 Jack Riggs, followed by Ron Crane.

22                   MS. SHIRLEY RINGO: I am Shirley  
23 Ringo, State Representative from Legislative District  
24 5.

25                   I have heard conversations between

1 legislators from the northern and southern parts of  
2 Idaho that included the statement, you leave our water  
3 alone, and we'll leave your dams alone. Such mutual  
4 agreements are simply not compatible.

5 If the dams are not breached as the All-H  
6 paper indicates, a prime alternative for salmon  
7 recovery involves taking of additional water from  
8 Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

9 This point has perhaps been minimized a  
10 bit, but it deserves a great deal of attention.

11 This taking of water threatens the success  
12 of water that irrigate and Idaho's economy.

13 It is also not accepted as giving the best  
14 chance of restoring the salmon.

15 Some lawmakers express the opinion that  
16 breaching the dams is an unacceptable alternative.

17 It seems reasonable to assume that those  
18 taking this position believe that if breaching is  
19 required to restore the salmon, then the salmon are  
20 simply expendable.

21 There is the reality that some citizens  
22 would be adversely affected by breaching the dams.  
23 Their way of life would be disrupted.

24 Last year I asked my colleagues in the  
25 legislature for an exhaustive study to determine

1 exactly who would be affected and what mitigation  
2 would be needed.

3 If someone loses a job, it's not enough to  
4 say, don't worry, there will be other others. We need  
5 to talk to farmers about how to move their products  
6 140 miles from Lewiston to Pasco.

7 My fellow lawmakers won't consider  
8 initiating such a study. I believe it is fair to say  
9 they refused because they didn't want to be perceived  
10 as favoring the action of breaching the dams.

11 I think that's regrettable.

12 The information coming from such a study  
13 would be very useful in this debate. While some of  
14 that information was shared today, I think some points  
15 were not discussed.

16 If the decision is made to breach the dams,  
17 we must move forcefully to ease the burden on those  
18 that are most affected.

19 Another component requiring consideration  
20 in this debate is that of human responsibility. These  
21 fish have no way to advocate for themselves.

22 If our way of life threatens their  
23 existence and it is within our power to make  
24 corrections, then that we must do.

25 Truly it is within our capabilities to take

1 appropriate action and care for humans as well.

2 As I study the All-H paper, it appears we  
3 have some choices. Among them we can barge to  
4 mitigate for the effects of the dams, augment water  
5 flow to mitigate for the effects of the dams, hatch  
6 fish to increase the population of the fish,  
7 mitigating for the effects of the dams, reverse  
8 harvest, mitigating for the effects of the dams, or  
9 breach the dams to mitigate for the effects of the  
10 dams.

11 Given these considerations, some folks will  
12 still argue that the dams are not the problem.

13 I believe it is quite clear which option  
14 would best eliminate the problems created.

15 Some would say the cost of breaching is too  
16 great.

17 If the dams cause us to lose the salmon, I  
18 would submit that the cost of not breaching is too  
19 great.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
22 Shirley something.

23 I would ask you to hold the clapping.

24 Thank you.

25 Jack Riggs, followed by Ron Crane, followed

1 by Dan Mader.

2 MR. JACK RIGGS: Thank you. My plan  
3 certainly is not to give you a recital on the science  
4 because you have heard it and you have heard it over  
5 and over.

6 And of course we know science can be  
7 interpreted in many different ways when it's not real  
8 science.

9 My name is Jack Riggs and I am a member of  
10 the Idaho State Senate. And I believe it's my job not  
11 just to represent the people of my district, but the  
12 over one million people that live in the state of  
13 Idaho. And I take that responsibility very seriously.

14 I think, as you know, this decision,  
15 there's always reference to science, but really it's  
16 going to be a political decision. It is a public  
17 policy decision.

18 There's always much talk about species and  
19 species preservation, but in the final analysis, we  
20 are looking at a political decision that politicians  
21 at some level will make.

22 I believe the best public policy decision  
23 in this arena is to do the very best we can to  
24 preserve the salmon, but without breaching the dams.

25 I think unfortunately literally in the past

1 few weeks and months we hear over and over about  
2 politicians at really high level, the Governor of  
3 Oregon, and certainly at the highest level in our  
4 country, talk about creating a legacy for themselves.

5 I think it is very unfortunate that public  
6 policy may be determined by individuals wanting to  
7 create a legacy.

8 And I will close by saying, it is certainly  
9 not my goal to create a legacy, but if I had to  
10 choose, and I were to create a legacy for myself in  
11 the realm of politics, it would be that I stood up  
12 strongly for the human species in this debate.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
15 Jack.

16 Ron Crane, followed by Dan Mader, followed  
17 by Joe Stegner.

18 MR. RON CRANE: Good afternoon. My  
19 name is Ron Crane. I am the state treasurer for the  
20 State of Idaho. And I thank you for the opportunity  
21 to testify before you this afternoon.

22 I am opposed to the breaching of dams.  
23 Such approaches as better predator control, estuary  
24 habitat improvement, harvest modifications, fish  
25 passage improvements, better fish screens, spillway

1 modification, bypass improvements, and hatcheries that  
2 more closely mimic nature, can be of more help to the  
3 salmon runs more quickly than dam breaching.

4 The public has been told the choices are  
5 simple. Tear down the dams or give up Idaho water.

6 The truth is, all of the options that you  
7 are considering, including breaching, call for Idaho  
8 irrigation water to be used for the purpose of flow  
9 augmentation.

10 I believe there are many less radical, less  
11 expensive, and more effective tools available to us in  
12 preserving the salmon runs.

13 Those who contend that the science is all  
14 in and that it clearly indicates the dams must come  
15 down, are playing fast and loose with the facts.

16 The salmon spend most of their lives in the  
17 ocean, and we know next to nothing about the effects  
18 of ocean conditions on the fish.

19 Removing dams will do nothing to change  
20 these ocean conditions, nor will it help the  
21 endangered and threatened runs that don't pass the  
22 four dams.

23 The answer doesn't lie in simplistic one  
24 shot rolls of the dice, such as dam breaching. We  
25 need to understand that as Senator Danielson referred

1 to, no silver bullet will get us out of trouble with  
2 this particular issue.

3 It is time to stop the shouting and work  
4 together on common sense solutions that will recover  
5 the salmon and the steelhead without crippling our  
6 economy and endangering our environment.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
9 Ron.

10 Dan Mader, followed by Joe Stegner,  
11 followed by J.D. Williams.

12 MR. DAN MADER: Good afternoon. My  
13 name is Dan Mader. I am a State Representative from  
14 District 6, which is in Northern Idaho. I'm the  
15 majority caucus chairman here in the Idaho House of  
16 Representatives, and I am also an ag producer in the  
17 Palouse country of Eastern Washington and Northern  
18 Idaho

19 I want to start by thanking you, the Corps  
20 primarily, for bringing us a system that has brought a  
21 lot of benefits to our country, including a very  
22 efficient transportation system, and I don't want to  
23 leave out a clean, quiet environment, much cleaner,  
24 much quieter than it would be without that system.

25 I think now clearly the science is saying

1       that this delayed mortality factor that we have all  
2       been arguing about is beginning to clear up, and I  
3       think the science is clearly indicating that that  
4       number is rising, which indicates that the survival of  
5       smolts through the system is very high, and I think  
6       that's because of all the improvements that the Corps  
7       has done to the system. And I don't want to stop  
8       there. I'd like to say that I know and believe that  
9       there are lots more things we can do to the system  
10      that will increase it even more.

11                 I do want to say that one of the big  
12      problems with the breach option for agriculture in  
13      south Idaho as well as Northern Idaho is that it  
14      increases the transportation cost in Northern Idaho by  
15      around 20, 25 cents a bushel, and in south Idaho the  
16      costs go up because the power rates go up.

17                 I don't know exactly how much that is on a  
18      per acre basis in south Idaho, but in north Idaho,  
19      it's around 20 to \$25 an acre, which is a full 10  
20      percent increase in our operating costs.

21                 What happens is, when operating costs go  
22      up, profit margins go down, and profit margins are  
23      under water today, so they go even deeper. And we  
24      can't pass that on because we're in international  
25      markets.

1                   So, over a short period of time a lot of  
2                   people are squeezed with liquidity. Over a long  
3                   period of time the price of land will drop to get us  
4                   back into a profitable situation.

5                   But here's the problem. We have a  
6                   revolution going on in agriculture today that we have  
7                   not seen the likes of for over 10,000 years.

8                   And it's a revolution around no tillage  
9                   farming. It started, a lot of it started in the  
10                  Palouse country, which is the most highly erodible  
11                  farmland in the world. And now that revolution is  
12                  actually surpassing us in Argentina and South America,  
13                  Australia, Canada, all over.

14                  The thing that is stopping it from going  
15                  forward is the fact that most farmers don't have the  
16                  capital to make the transition. They just don't. And  
17                  especially with these kinds of prices, they don't have  
18                  the money.

19                  It's like Micron needing to retool to be  
20                  more efficient, competitive, but they don't have any  
21                  profits to get the money to make that transition.  
22                  That's what's going on in agriculture.

23                  A lot of agriculture wants to make the  
24                  switch, but they can't, from a liquidity problem.

25                  My point here today is that with a breach

1 option, we lower the profit margins, and we delay  
2 that, and that will bring tremendous improvements to  
3 the environment in the long run. And I think we need  
4 to keep the dams, improve the environment, and we can  
5 do both.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
7 Dan.

8 I would like to take a break between Joe  
9 Stegner and J.D. Williams, and invite Governor  
10 Kepthorne to come up if he would like and make his  
11 talk.

12 Are you ready?

13 GOVERNOR KEPTHORNE: Good afternoon,  
14 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Idaho, and I  
15 appreciate your efforts here on this critical issue.

16 I appreciate the opportunity to comment on  
17 the alternatives that you have put forth for salmon  
18 recovery in the Northwest. For far too long salmon  
19 recovery has been too narrowly focused on a single  
20 argument; to breach or not to breach.

21 But you know and I know that there is no  
22 silver bullet. Let's be candid. Breaching the dams  
23 is no immediate solution for the fish. Because it's  
24 guaranteed to be tied up in the courts and in Congress  
25 for at least a decade.

1                   Silt has built up behind these dams and for  
2 more than a quarter century it has built up.  
3 According to your own studies it could take five to  
4 ten years for this system to cleanse itself.

5                   People whose livelihoods are at risk by dam  
6 breaching won't let it happen without a fight, and  
7 there is no consensus in the scientific community that  
8 breaching will work.

9                   We have talked at length about the Hs that  
10 are involved in this debate.

11                   Today I ask you to consider a fifth H, and  
12 that's humans.

13                   Last Friday I was in Lewiston and I was  
14 presented with these petitions which are in front of  
15 me. These petitions are added to these others that  
16 are in front of me, 80,000 individuals which have  
17 signed these petitions.

18                   When I was given these petitions, some  
19 asked me, does any of this make a difference? Is  
20 anyone listening?

21                   And I assured them that in fact it does  
22 make a significant difference. So I'm formally  
23 presenting these petitions to you. I want you to know  
24 just how important this issue is to these people,  
25 their lives, their jobs, their families, and the

1 communities must not be ignored in this decision.

2 And I will tell you that these signatures  
3 do not reflect individuals that are antisalmon. They  
4 want to see the return of the salmon. They want a  
5 solution that gives a future both to salmon and to  
6 people.

7 So where should we focus our efforts? We  
8 can take steps right now that will make a real  
9 difference. We can increase the screening of  
10 diversions, we can install advanced hydroelectric  
11 turbines, we can focus on conditions in the estuaries  
12 in the ocean, we can improve habitat, and we can take  
13 immediate steps to stop predation by caspian terns at  
14 Rice Island, an island created by the federal  
15 government, by other birds and fish, and by marine  
16 mammals.

17 Next month is when the state of Idaho will  
18 submit its formal and comprehensive evaluation of the  
19 All-H paper. It will include solid and timely  
20 scientific data, and it will contain recommendations  
21 which will improve salmon and steelhead runs now. And  
22 that's the key.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, you sit here today at  
24 ground zero of the salmon debate. It is here in Idaho  
25 where the whole process starts. Here is where the

1 salmon begins the remarkable journey to the sea. And  
2 for those fish that are hearty enough to return, it is  
3 here where they end their lives, and the cycle begins  
4 anew.

5 Salmon are part of our history. They are  
6 part of our economy. And a part of our way of life.

7 We in Idaho are mindful of a  
8 responsibility. Idaho will do its part. But we  
9 cannot and will not do it alone. Others must share in  
10 the effort as well.

11 Challenging work lies ahead. I look  
12 forward to working with you to develop and implement a  
13 salmon recovery plan that can be supported  
14 biologically, economically and politically.

15 I do not believe breaching is the answer.  
16 There are other answers. Let's pursue them together  
17 immediately.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
20 very much, Governor.

21 Joe Stegner, followed by J.D. Williams,  
22 followed by Wayne Meyer.

23 Joe Stegner? J.D. Williams? Followed by  
24 Wayne Meyer, followed by Lawrence Denny.

25 J.D.? Wayne Meyer, followed by Lawrence

1 Denny, followed by Pete Cenarussa.

2 MR. WAYNE MEYER: Thank you. I am  
3 State Representative Wayne Meyer. I represent  
4 District 2 in the state of Idaho, which is the Post  
5 Falls area.

6 Outside the legislature I am a farmer.

7 Over the years I have shipped several truck  
8 loads of grain to Lewiston, Central Ferry, and Pasco  
9 for shipment by barge down the river.

10 I grew up in a small community called  
11 Colton, Washington, between Lewiston and Pullman. I  
12 married a farmer's daughter from Dayton, Washington.

13 I have personally delivered grain to  
14 Almota, and also Lyon's Ferry, the grain facility that  
15 was in the picture that was shown when I came in.

16 There are extensive amounts of grain that  
17 are shipped through these facilities, from the dryland  
18 regions of the Palouse. The farmers in these areas  
19 have retooled their operations to take advantage of  
20 these grain ports, since many of the railroad lines  
21 have been removed from the farming regions of the  
22 Palouse.

23 Last two days my wife and mother-in-law  
24 were here in town. We went to lunch yesterday with  
25 some relations. He happened to be a member of a

1 fishing group. And before long our conversation got  
2 around to the dam breaching subject. He asked how is  
3 this going to affect you personally. How much is it  
4 going to cost you?

5 I think Representative Mader gave you those  
6 figures.

7 He says, well, the railroad will just come  
8 in and pick up where the barges left off.

9 I called a representative of the railroad  
10 this morning to find out what it cost to build a mile  
11 of railroad track. That figure is \$800,000 for one  
12 mile.

13 To conclude, in my opinion, the economic  
14 impact statement is gravely underestimated.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
17 very much. Lawrence Denny, followed by Peter  
18 Cenarussa, followed by Ruby Stone.

19 MR. LAWRENCE DENNY: Thank you. My  
20 name is Lawrence Denny. I am a member of the Idaho  
21 House of Representatives. I'm also the assistant  
22 majority leader. I represent District 9, which  
23 represents Gem, Washington, and Payette Counties.

24 When it comes to this debate, we need to  
25 ask the question, how do we restore our salmon? When

1 we ask that question, we find that dam breaching is  
2 the option that has the most drastic consequences and  
3 the least likely opportunity of succeeding.

4 Therefore, I'm here today to testify  
5 against the dam breaching and destroying the four  
6 Lower Snake River dams.

7 As much as I would like to say that one  
8 solution would solve the problem, we know that that  
9 won't happen. We don't have conclusive science that  
10 proves that destroying four dams on the Snake River  
11 will recover fish.

12 We have supposition. We have a computer  
13 model based upon assumptions, and those assumptions do  
14 not match the facts.

15 The Path model predicted that only 20 to 30  
16 percent of salmon smolts would survive the trip  
17 downstream past eight dams. However, facts show that  
18 57 percent of the smolts are surviving the trip.

19 There's a lot that we don't know. This  
20 problem is much broader than the four Lower Snake  
21 River dams. We have 26 West Coast runs of salmon and  
22 steelhead that are listed as threatened or endangered.  
23 There are another eight which are candidates for  
24 listing.

25 Of these 34 runs only four pass the lower

1 four Snake River dams.

2 Common sense tells us that taking out these  
3 four dams will not solve the problems for the other 30  
4 runs.

5 Breaching dams will have an impact on our  
6 air quality. It will have an impact on our water  
7 quality. And our resident fish species. And it will  
8 not recover the salmon runs.

9 We do not want to send 75 million tons of  
10 sediment down the Snake and Columbia Rivers. That  
11 will destroy the resident fish populations. We do not  
12 want to replace clean, renewable hydropower with  
13 natural gas turbines that add tons of carbon dioxide  
14 to the air. We do not want to endanger the health of  
15 our children by adding air pollution. We do not want  
16 to put our farmers out of business by increasing their  
17 costs of power and transportation.

18 We need a common sense solution, and  
19 breaching the dams is not that solution.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
22 Lawrence.

23 Peter Cenarussa, followed by Ruby Stone,  
24 and then I am just going to double-check to see if  
25 some of the folks, we started a little earlier than

1 some of the folks we had spoken to earlier, so let me  
2 see if Guy Dodson or Vinni Penro are here.

3 Peter Cenarussa? Ruby Stone?

4 MS. RUBY STONE: Thank you, Madam  
5 Chairman.

6 Madam Chair, my name is Ruby Stone and I am  
7 a State Representative from District 17 here in Boise.

8 I oppose any salmon recovery measures that  
9 include breaching of dams or the exploration of Idaho  
10 water for flow augmentation.

11 Other more reasonable and cost effective  
12 methods are available to us in the effort to recover  
13 fish runs. Indeed breaching may doom not only the  
14 poor runs we are trying to save but other runs on the  
15 Columbia and tributaries downstream from the dam.

16 Breaching could also endanger the many  
17 other species that have come to depend on the 14,000  
18 acres of wetlands those dams have created.

19 Consider this: Up to 75 million tons of  
20 silt currently estimated to lie behind the four dams  
21 will wash downstream if they are breached. That silt  
22 will clog the river and bury spawning beds for  
23 downstream runs.

24 32 Northwest runs of salmon and steelhead  
25 are listed as either threatened or endangered or are

1 candidates for listing.

2 How many of those runs will be wiped out if  
3 this misguided effort to save the four that must pass  
4 through the dams?

5 It is tempting to think that one simple  
6 action can bring back the fish. Breaching dams  
7 appeals to that part of the human element that doesn't  
8 want to be burdened with complex problems.

9 But this is one of the most complex  
10 problems the Northwest has ever faced.

11 We might long for a silver bullet, but  
12 recovering our salmon and steelhead runs will require  
13 a multifaceted solution.

14 The effects of breaching on our regional  
15 economy have been downplayed in the media in a major  
16 way.

17 The four dams have a capacity of 3,000  
18 megawatts of power. The experts tell us we will  
19 shortly face an energy deficit in the region of 3,000  
20 megawatts. Breaching would double that deficit.

21 Our options to replace that loss would be  
22 natural gas generation at three times the cost of  
23 power from the hydro plants, or coal generation of  
24 four and a half times the cost, or nuclear power at  
25 six times.

1                   It flies in the face of common sense to  
2                   restore these very real assets on a risky and  
3                   expensive roll of the dice such as breaching. It is  
4                   especially ridiculous to breach when other surer  
5                   options are available.

6                   We need to remember the salmon recovery  
7                   efforts that didn't work were designed by some of the  
8                   same people who now want to breach the dams.

9                   Should we trust that again? Thank you, but  
10                  I think not.

11                  Thank you very much.

12                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
13                  very much, Ruby.

14                  And before I read down this whole list, let  
15                  me just see, are there any more elected officials in  
16                  the room that I skipped at the beginning that want to  
17                  come to the microphone?

18                  Okay. Thank you to all the elected  
19                  officials. And let us move on now to the public  
20                  testimony, and we will continue in exactly the same  
21                  fashion that we have been doing so far, and I thank  
22                  you all again for your patience and for holding back  
23                  that clapping that I know we all really like to do.

24                  All right. So we will start with Russ  
25                  Bragnee, followed by Scott Bosse, followed by Thomas

1 Joseph.

2 Russ?

3 MR. RUSS BIAGNEE: Biagnee. My name  
4 is Russ Biagnee. I am with the Idaho Wildlife  
5 Federation. Thank you.

6 Over the course of human history there have  
7 been many causes that have caught the hearts and  
8 imagination of the average citizen.

9 These causes usually started with only a  
10 handful of individuals, and they would not turn their  
11 heads away, no matter what the personal pain was, or  
12 the sacrifice, or the challenges that they met upon  
13 those with opposite points of view.

14 They somehow found inner strength to fight  
15 the good fight, and every time, every time that that  
16 happened in our history, mankind was well served.

17 Let me give you some examples of that in  
18 some recent history. Well, maybe not so recent.

19 Remember when slavery was an important part  
20 of our economy in this country? And if you were to  
21 talk to the public officials during that era, and to  
22 the leaders, and to the people who had control of the  
23 money, you were told that you could not possibly have  
24 any kind of business activity without slavery.

25 And we found out something. We had to

1 fight a war to do it, but it was untrue.

2 Can you imagine what it would be like if we  
3 didn't allow women to vote in this country? We were  
4 told that by doing that somehow it would destroy  
5 politics. And nothing could be further from the  
6 truth.

7 Can you imagine what would happen if we  
8 didn't adopt safety in our workplace and didn't  
9 control the environment, for not only our workers, our  
10 employees, but for their well-being, and for the  
11 future of the nation?

12 Can you imagine what we would be like if we  
13 didn't have those rules and regulations?

14 And remember when you were told that  
15 somehow business would fail if we adopted safety in  
16 the workplace?

17 I remember when the Environmental Species  
18 Act was adopted. We were told that somehow that was  
19 going to destroy the economy of this country.

20 And each and every time when man has  
21 stepped up to solve a problem that he has caused, we  
22 have found ourselves able, not only to overcome the  
23 obstacle, but we have been able to improve it.

24 Now I suggest to you we have that challenge  
25 today with the salmon in Idaho.

1                   This is a very critical issue to all of us  
2                   and very emotional. But I suggest to you that we can  
3                   find a way to solve the problem.

4                   We need to breach the dams. Did.

5                   You notice that we didn't have this problem  
6                   until we built them? We did not have the silt until  
7                   we built them. We did not have the loss until we  
8                   built them.

9                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Excuse me.  
10                  You need to finish.

11                  MR. RUSS BIAGNNE:     Thank you very  
12                  much.

13                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you very  
14                  much, Russ.

15                  Scott Bosse, followed by Thomas Joseph,  
16                  followed by Cliff Wogsland.

17                  Scott? And again if you could all jump up  
18                  when you hear your name and move right up here, we  
19                  would appreciate that.

20                  MR. SCOTT BOSSE:     Thank you. My name  
21                  is Scott Bosse, and I represent Idaho Rivers United.  
22                  It's good to see you all again.

23                  I would like to start out again by saying  
24                  on behalf of Idaho Rivers United, we support  
25                  Alternative 4 in the Army Corps Draft EIS, which

1 involves dam breaching. We also support a  
2 comprehensive recovery plan in the All-H paper that  
3 includes but is not limited to dam breaching on the  
4 Lower Snake River.

5 We chose these alternatives because dam  
6 breaching is the only alternative that addresses  
7 salmon survival, both through the dams and through the  
8 reservoirs. No other alternative does that.

9 We can argue until the moon rises over  
10 science, but you know and I know and we all know that  
11 dams are the biggest human caused source of salmon  
12 mortality.

13 The Path studies showed that.  
14 Unfortunately the Path studies seem to have been  
15 thrown in the basement and the lock and the key was  
16 thrown away.

17 The Path studies pointed out so clearly  
18 that the dams were the problem by comparing upriver  
19 and downriver stocks.

20 Idaho stocks have declined by 90 percent  
21 since the lower Snake dams were built. Downriver  
22 stocks in the Columbia that only have positive pass  
23 through four fewer dams have not declined by 90  
24 percent. They have held steady.

25 Everything about these fish, virtually

1 everything, about these fish, is exactly the same.  
2 The same predators. The same commercial fishing  
3 pressures. The same caspian terns. The same ocean  
4 conditions. Everything is the same about these fish.

5 CRI has never answered that question. Why  
6 are downriver stocks outperforming Idaho stocks by ten  
7 times?

8 We have tried barging as our primary  
9 recovery strategy. It hasn't worked. It's failed.  
10 It is time to let that one die.

11 In 1975 when the National Marine Fisheries  
12 Service helped develop that program with the Corps,  
13 they hubris to stay that with this transportation  
14 program, with this marvelous transportation program,  
15 we can produce more fish than existed in this river  
16 before the lower Snake River dams were built.

17 That was a farce, and we all know it is a  
18 farce now, and it was a farce because barging  
19 inherently involves removing salmon from the very  
20 environment from which they have evolved for four or  
21 five million years.

22 Asking a fish to survive in a barge is like  
23 asking a human to spend their life on the top of Mt.  
24 Everest without oxygen. Those fish need that river.

25 Now, politicians and bureaucrats alike are

1 extremely fond of saying there is no silver bullet. I  
2 don't know how many times we have heard that today.

3 I say any recovery plan that does not  
4 involve dam breaching and restoring normative river  
5 habitat amounts to shooting blanks.

6 If we were to try rebuilding a car in our  
7 garage, you do not spend all your time, energy and  
8 money focusing on hood ornaments, hub caps, and  
9 windshield wipers, and ignore the engine.

10 The lower Snake River is the engine that  
11 drove the Snake River salmon, and while we waste our  
12 time on caspian terns, fish friendly turbines,  
13 eliminating what little harvest remains, that amounts  
14 to ignoring the engine, these fish.

15 I have one concluding comment. In Governor  
16 Kitzhaber's speech last week he quoted Theodore  
17 Roosevelt. He said in any moment in decision the best  
18 thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing  
19 you can do is nothing.

20 Delay is not some benign and place holder,  
21 it is a choice to abandon the Columbia River  
22 ecosystem.

23 We are not willing to abandon our salmon.  
24 There are ways that we can make up for the benefits of  
25 those dams. It's up to you to explore them.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
2 Scott.

3 Thomas Joseph, followed by Cliff Wagsland,  
4 followed by Amy Haak, and again if you could hold your  
5 applause, thank you.

6 MR. THOMAS JOSEPH: My name is Thomas  
7 Joseph, and I am standing here before you today  
8 because of the DNA that runs through my blood, the  
9 heritage that's inside of me, my ancestors that have  
10 put me here today.

11 There are some things that I want to throw  
12 out to you guys, to the audience, and to the officials  
13 up there, just a thought that came to my mind while I  
14 was listening to some of the representatives.

15 How can we kill off one of the species to  
16 save another? Also how can representatives of the  
17 state disrespect and belittle the Tribes of the state  
18 which they work together on?

19 Work together. And do what's best for the  
20 state, which is your job. And pledge. Oh, and  
21 please, be honorable.

22 Today there are will be talk about don't  
23 take out the dams because people will suffer. Or take  
24 out the dams because people will suffer.

25 What we need to talk about today is what is

1 best for the salmon. For the good of progress, the  
2 salmon have suffered. And it must stop.

3 No longer can people of this region think  
4 about what is good for themselves. No longer can the  
5 people of this region let the abuse of our rivers our  
6 fish, or culture, our heritage continue to exist.

7 It is time to fight for what is right. It  
8 is time to think of our descendents. It is time to  
9 admit of our wrongs. It is time to save our salmon.

10 It is time to take out the lower four dams  
11 on the Salmon River. Not because it's good for Idaho.  
12 Not because it's good for Idaho's economy. Not  
13 because we are going to become wealthy over it. And  
14 not because of the treaties.

15 But because of the people, -- not because  
16 of the people that want them removed. But because it  
17 will save the salmon, but because you strive, you  
18 folks up there on the table, you strive to do your job  
19 to the best of your ability.

20 But because you know it's time to correct  
21 the wrongs. It is time to ask our Mother Earth to  
22 help us in our recovering process.

23 But the only way she will help us is if  
24 everyone in this region honors her, believes in her,  
25 loves her, and trusts her.

1                   Take out those dams. And she will do the  
2 magic and she will show her love back to us.

3                   We must turn over the rivers to our Mother  
4 Earth. Our mother earth, by removal, removal,  
5 removal.

6                   When this team arrived -- Okay. Hold on.  
7 Okay.

8                   A long time ago a team arrived in the  
9 Northwest sent by the United States, and they arrived  
10 out here starving. And what was the medicine that  
11 brought them back to health? It was those salmon.  
12 Those people that came over here to bring the  
13 Northwest region to the United States, because the  
14 United States Government knows how valuable this  
15 region is, they were saved by salmon.

16                   Now the descendents of those salmon that  
17 saved those people are suffering. They are dying off,  
18 they are becoming extinct.

19                   It is time for us, descendents of those  
20 people that came over here so the Northwest becomes  
21 the United States, to save those salmon to saved our  
22 heritage. To save those salmon that made the  
23 Northwest part of the United States.

24                   All I've got to say, another thing I've  
25 got to say for our representatives --

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Real quickly,  
2 Thomas.

3 MR. THOMAS JOSEPH: Okay. For the  
4 Congressional representatives from Idaho, listen to  
5 tone what the true representatives of Idaho have to  
6 say, and that is everybody in this audience.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Cliff  
9 Wagsland, followed by Amy Haak, followed by Nathan  
10 Hollinsworth.

11 MR. CLIFF WAGSLAND: My name is Cliff  
12 Wagsland. I live in the Lewis & Clark valley. And I  
13 am thankful to talk to everybody here today.

14 My message to everybody here is  
15 cooperation. Everybody needs to cooperate. We need  
16 to all get out there and do our part. The Nez Perce  
17 Tribe and the Pulp and Paper Resource Commission  
18 Council has been working together on hatch boxes,  
19 stream side hatch boxes, very normal, natural things  
20 that will give us our native salmon back, if we can  
21 get the Bosses and the McCarthys that run these groups  
22 to actually get out of their lawsuit filing offices,  
23 get these people organized, everybody here, we have a  
24 lot of energy in this room, if we could put all of  
25 that energy together, get out in the streams, have an

1 adopt the stream, just like the adopt the highways,  
2 adopt the hatch box, a hundred thousand hatch boxes.

3 How many fish do you think we could get out  
4 of that?

5 You know, we got the eagle back, but I  
6 don't think we blasted that thing back into existence.  
7 If you have ten mule deer standing out in the field,  
8 am sure not going to shoot five of them to help them  
9 get back and then blame the fences because there's  
10 only five left.

11 You need to stop killing them first. 98  
12 percent go out in the ocean, 5 percent come back.  
13 There's not very many. Stop killing the fish.

14 For a few years, we could have some salmon  
15 farms. Five, six years, get the stream runs back.

16 You know, we need to cooperate. We have a  
17 lot of predators out there. We do not have a silver  
18 bullet. We have a lot of problems. We need to  
19 address each one. And I do not believe that dam  
20 breaching is one of them.

21 I support Mr. Sandy's comments and Governor  
22 Kepthorne's, and I believe that if everyone can  
23 cooperate and work together on this issue you, and  
24 actually get out of your office and into the stream.

25 And don't kill them. Not for a while

1           anyway. Let them come back.

2                       I saw some bald eagles on the way over  
3 here. Beautiful. Majestic. But we didn't kill them.  
4 We let them come back.

5                       Thank you.

6                               MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
7 Cliff.

8                               Amy Haak, followed by Nathan Hollinsworth,  
9 followed by Pat Barclay.

10                              MS. AMY HAAK:     Thank you for the  
11 opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Amy  
12 Haak and I am the owner of a high tech consulting  
13 business located here in Boise.

14                              I will be commenting on the DEIS and the  
15 All-H paper.

16                              I support Alternative 4 in the Draft EIS  
17 and Alternative A in the All-H paper.

18                              Breaching the four lower Snake dams is the  
19 only means of fully restoring salmon runs to the  
20 Salmon River Basin.

21                              Salmon recovery, not just species survival,  
22 must be the goal. Within this context any option put  
23 forth from the Draft EIS and the All-H paper must  
24 include breaching of these dams in conjunction with an  
25 aggressive plan to mitigate adversely affected

1 parties.

2 As a business owner I am well aware of what  
3 seemingly minor increases in the cost of doing  
4 business can do to your bottom line.

5 But as a consultant, I must be willing to  
6 make the investments necessary to meet the changing  
7 needs and demands of my clients.

8 The citizens of this country are your  
9 clients, and it is your job to do what is best for the  
10 majority of your clients.

11 This does not mean just the Port of  
12 Lewiston, the grain producers, the aluminum industry,  
13 Potlatch, or even residents of the Northwest, but  
14 rather all of the citizens of the United States.

15 Currently you are doing a disservice to  
16 your clients. Barging subsidies, and the three  
17 billion dollars spent to date on salmon recovery while  
18 the fish have continued to decline adversely affects  
19 every citizen of this country.

20 You have before you the opportunity and the  
21 ability to correct these mistakes and do the right  
22 thing for everyone.

23 There's no mitigation for the loss of  
24 salmon and steelhead. The peoples whose lives are  
25 intertwined with these species will lose their jobs

1 and their way of life if the fish do not recover.

2 There is no substitute.

3           However, for those that are dependent on  
4 the dams for barging and irrigation, there are other  
5 options. Rail terminals and an improved highway  
6 network can replace barging as a means of moving  
7 commodities to market.

8           The government should be looking at ways to  
9 change the infrastructure of the region so that the  
10 needs of the residents are met and the salmon are  
11 restored. Rather than continuing to spend nearly a  
12 billion dollars a year on technological fixes such as  
13 barging that don't work.

14           Options based on severely unused  
15 restrictions in the upper basin and the flushing of  
16 Eastern Idaho water through the system will have  
17 adverse impacts on many of the residents and  
18 businesses of Idaho and ultimately will still not save  
19 the salmon.

20           The majority of scientists agree that dam  
21 removal is the best option for restoring Snake River  
22 salmon. The majority of the citizens want salmon  
23 returned to the Salmon River.

24           Studies have shown that the region will  
25 benefit economically, from the growth of the sport

1 fishing and commercial fishing industries.  
2 Substantial sums of money will be saved by ending  
3 expensive, ineffective technological fixes and  
4 government funded subsidies for barging.

5 You have before you a unique opportunity to  
6 determine whether a species will be allowed to  
7 continue to exist or must instead go the way of the do  
8 do.

9 Breaching the dams is the right thing to  
10 do, socially, biologically, economically and  
11 ethically. You owe it to your clients, the citizens  
12 of this country, to do the right thing. If you don't  
13 and these magnificent fish are lost, future  
14 generations will never forgive you.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
16 Amy.

17 Nathan Hollinsworth, Pat Barclay, and  
18 Sierra Laverty, I think it is, and, again, please hold  
19 your clapping.

20 Thanks very much.

21 MR. NATHAN HOLLINGSWORTH: My name is  
22 Nathan Hollinsworth.

23 I am a graduate of the University of  
24 Wisconsin and now make my living fishing in Riggins,  
25 Idaho.

1                   I grew up on the Columbia River and  
2                   witnessed first hand the last time Kettle Falls flowed  
3                   freely behind Grand Coulee Dam and Lake Roosevelt  
4                   reservoir, the very reservoir that will replace the  
5                   lost irrigation water on the lower Snake.

6                   Whether we realize it or not the stage has  
7                   been set, the future of Idaho is tourism. Salmon and  
8                   steelhead fishing will support all upstream  
9                   communities. It is a great day for the people of  
10                  Idaho.

11                  Today we can celebrate the Frank Church  
12                  wilderness, the largest contiguous wilderness area in  
13                  the lower United States. Through this wilderness  
14                  flows the longest free flowing river in the lower  
15                  United States, 425 miles of natural spawning habitat.

16                  The Salmon River has over 100 major  
17                  tributaries that are ripe for spawning. What we have  
18                  in our state is a national treasure that is too great  
19                  to be ignored.

20                  By saving the Salmon River and the Frank  
21                  Church Wilderness, this state has gone the nine yards.  
22                  It is now fourth and one and time to go for the first  
23                  down. No punting.

24                  Breach the dams. The Columbia River was  
25                  once the richest fishery in the entire world.

1                   When Grand Coulee Dam went in, the fish  
2 runs on the north fork of the Columbia were lost  
3 forever.

4                   Today we are talking about the south fork  
5 of the Columbia, the Snake, the Clearwater and the  
6 Salmon Rivers. These Idaho Rivers make up one-half of  
7 the richest fishery in the entire world. The people  
8 of Idaho have cared about the fish for centuries. The  
9 Indians, the trappers, pioneers, ranchers and citizens  
10 loved these fish.

11                   Today the people of Idaho love these fish.

12                   When the Salmon River was dammed at Sun  
13 Beam the locals blew it out when they saw the effects  
14 on the fish run.

15                   When the lower Snake dams were put in it  
16 was important to find hydropower to support Hanford.

17                   Today the Cold War is over and these dams  
18 are no longer needed.

19                   Great mistakes have been made, and these  
20 forums and studies are the first step towards saving  
21 what we haven't ruined yet. Save the frank, save the  
22 last best rivers, save the farthest inland runs of  
23 salmon, and save the south fork of the Columbia.

24                   The reason I am up here today is because  
25 the laws of my country allow me to voice my opinions.

1 I agree to live by these laws for the greater good of  
2 my country. By living by these laws, we will all  
3 accomplish more together.

4 I now ask our leaders to do what is right  
5 and live by these same laws. I ask our leaders to  
6 honor the treaties they made with the Native  
7 Americans.

8 I ask our leaders to live by the Endangered  
9 Species Act, the very law they made themselves.

10 If the dams are breached, everyone wins.  
11 Lewiston wins because when the trees are gone, they  
12 will have the transportation and highway system needed  
13 to survive.

14 The Palouse wins because when the trains  
15 return, the towns will be reborn.

16 The upstream communities win with return  
17 fishing industry.

18 The state of Idaho wins because future  
19 generations will be able to enjoy this wonderful  
20 species.

21 The United States wins because we are all  
22 setting the tone for a culture revolution.

23 Through this process I have heard people  
24 scream environmentalists. To these people I scream,  
25 educated, scientific decision making.

1                   I ask President Clinton to hear our cry and  
2                   make the most important decision of his Presidency.  
3                   Free the salmon, pull the plug on the Snake.

4                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
5                   Nathan.

6                   Pat Barclay, followed by Sierra Laverty,  
7                   followed by Tom Stuart, followed by a brief break.

8                   MS. PAT BARCLAY:     My name is Pat  
9                   Barclay. And I am here today speaking for a group  
10                  called Idaho United for Fish and Water, which includes  
11                  19 organizations representing thousands of Idahoans.

12                  We oppose breaching the dams and we oppose  
13                  the use of Idaho water for flow augmentation.

14                  A new study is just coming out by Canadian  
15                  researcher Dr. David Welch. In this study it shows  
16                  that Snake River stocks migrate in the ocean to that  
17                  area around Vancouver Island. Hanford reach stocks  
18                  migrate farther north.

19                  This is important because Hanford Reach  
20                  stocks are in the cold water with fewer predators, and  
21                  the Snake River stocks are in warmer ocean conditions  
22                  with more predators, which could be one explanation.

23                  But we won't ever know if we spend all of  
24                  our time looking at breaching the dams. Breaching  
25                  those dams will not change where the fish migrate, and

1 it will not change the ocean conditions.

2 I'd like to read a letter from Senator  
3 James McClure, United States Senator, retired. Idaho  
4 common sense says it's wrong to gamble our future and  
5 the future economic health and the future of our  
6 salmon on a single unproven roll of the dice. We must  
7 focus on actions that are feasible. It's fruitless to  
8 discuss options that cannot happen and will not  
9 revitalize wild fish runs.

10 We must devote our time and resources to  
11 improving techniques that are working and finding new  
12 actions we can take that will have the best chance to  
13 save salmon.

14 Some of these actions include continuing to  
15 improve transportation.

16 98 percent of transported smolts according  
17 to pit tag data reach the estuary a life. Transported  
18 fish return to spawn at twice the rate of the fish  
19 migrating in river. We can improve habitat for fish  
20 passage. We can install better fish screens. We can  
21 modify the spillways and upgrade bypass facilities.  
22 We can speed up the elimination of predator losses to  
23 marine mammals and birds. We can modify dam  
24 operations. We can address harvest problems.

25 We need to use the voice of reason and

1 common sense to look at those things that we can do  
2 now to save the salmon.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
5 Pat.

6 Sierra Laverty, followed by Tom Stuart.  
7 Sierra? Tom Stuart.

8 MR. TOM STUART: My daughter Sierra  
9 is a fifth generation Idahoan and she wanted to say a  
10 few words. I am going to put a chair up so she can  
11 reach the mike.

12 MS. SIERRA LAVERTY: Hello. My name  
13 is Sierra Laverty. I live in Boise.

14 And the government made a promise when they  
15 put in the dams. The promise to all of us kids that  
16 salmon wouldn't go extinct. Thank you.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
18 Sierra. Tom Stuart.

19 MR. TOM STUART: That's a tough act  
20 to follow.

21 Welcome back to Boise. I would extend a  
22 special welcome to you, General Stock.

23 I spent 31 years in a blue uniform. So  
24 it's always nice to see another uniform here.

25 Welcome to Boise, all of you. I am Board

1 President of Idaho Rivers United. I'll comment on  
2 both the DEIS and the All-H paper just briefly.

3 When the four lower Snake dams were built  
4 we truly believed we could maintain healthy salmon  
5 runs. We know now that that simply wasn't true. We  
6 made a mistake with those dams. They didn't make  
7 sense then and they don't make sense now.

8 The big question is not what salmon need.  
9 We concur with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
10 recommendation, with that of many others, that  
11 breaching is required.

12 The big issue is dealing with the fear of  
13 change, and taking care of people, while we undue a  
14 four dam mistake.

15 Now, breaching we know restores around  
16 25,000 fish related jobs in the region, and up to  
17 5,000 jobs in Idaho. And Idaho would benefit further  
18 from about 1,000 permanent jobs that shift into upper  
19 areas, that include our state, and 20,000 or so, union  
20 wage jobs additionally that will be needed during the  
21 breaching period.

22 But let's not forget the few people who  
23 will need help with the program like this. I will  
24 have a question about that later.

25 I wanted to offer some technical input to

1       you, specifically Rick, about the science issue, the  
2       DEIS and All-H papers.

3               I really think abandoning fish barging is  
4       totally appropriate. It hasn't worked sufficiently  
5       well in 20 years to reverse the loss of these stocks,  
6       and I have no confidence that it ever will.

7               In your CRI method, Rick, there are some  
8       major problems in understatement of the true  
9       extinction risk.

10              One involves the quasi extinction threshold  
11      of one fish that I don't believe is nearly  
12      conservative enough.

13              And the second issue is ignoring the  
14      population trend in favor of some average population  
15      growth rates over time, which also tends to ignore the  
16      accelerated rate of decline that we are currently  
17      experiencing.

18              And we have also for some unknown reason  
19      ignored the post-1990 brood year population data after  
20      a very recent revision.

21              All these tend to understate the true  
22      extinction risk in your document. I think that needs  
23      to be fixed.

24              Another notable problem, I think the CRI is  
25      using the wrong SAR's, the wrong smolt adult survival

1 rates. They are using four times, rates four time  
2 hirer in fact than the actual SAR's measured for many  
3 years.

4 These critical parameters must be brought  
5 into line with observed data. When you use the exact  
6 -- the observed survival data, the CRI conclusions  
7 change. In fact the changes are dramatic. They are  
8 different than what you briefed today.

9 The most important is no longer first year  
10 mortality. It's now post-Bonneville mortality.

11 Last, the CRI and E-Fish appendices both  
12 use improper sensitivity analyses. The resulting  
13 conclusions point erroneously to improved habitat as  
14 the number one management tool for recovering Idaho  
15 spring and summer Chinook in pristine wilderness  
16 watersheds. That's an indefensible position.

17 With these errors corrected, CRI points  
18 clearly to dam removal is a key step in salmon  
19 recovery, and to delay as a major risk.

20 A couple of economic points here. The  
21 All-H paper really needs to analyze the comparative  
22 cost of the alternatives. The data shows that  
23 breaching strategies are cheapest.

24 Some errors in Drew. The 82 million dollar  
25 increased recreation is too low. The gains in Idaho

1 alone are that large.

2 And I will conclude here. Drew also  
3 ignores Clean Water Act compliance cost, 125 million  
4 buck per year item, and flow augmentation cost, which  
5 is 430 million.

6 So in conclusion, we need to take care of  
7 salmon and the people who depend on them by breaching.  
8 That's the only strategy that works.

9 And for the few affected by breaching, we  
10 need to devise the alternative shipping and mitigation  
11 programs which are absolutely required. That's how to  
12 take care of the people, all of them, and not just a  
13 few. And that's what we need in this decision.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay.

15 MR. TOM STUART: I was going to ask a  
16 question, if I might, about the mitigation plans.

17 Is there any time we can expect a  
18 mitigation plan to be on the street?

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I think I'd  
20 like to ask you to ask that at a break, and we are  
21 going to take a ten minute break.

22 The people that are up when we come back  
23 are Pat Ford, Bill Clark and Lilisha Moses.

24 Thank you all very much. We will start  
25 promptly in ten minutes.

1 (Short recess).

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: All right. So  
3 for the folks that are here right now, let me let now  
4 that we are only on number nine at this point, and now  
5 I think you will understand why I am been trying to  
6 impress upon everybody the need not to clap, and to  
7 get right up to the microphone.

8 I was hoping we would be more about number  
9 15.

10 Also I would like to impress upon you to  
11 please stop talking. I really don't like to have to  
12 interrupt you and ask you to walk away from the  
13 microphone. But on behalf of everybody else, please  
14 watch your time and please be done when the bell  
15 rings. Or even better yet, before the red light comes  
16 on.

17 All right. So with that, let me also ask,  
18 a number of people have asked that I ask you to turn  
19 off your cell phones. They are really pretty  
20 disruptive for folks sitting around you that are  
21 trying to listen to what is going on.

22 Also again let me remind you to state your  
23 name and also the organization that you are with, with  
24 any organization, and say that for that clearly for  
25 our court reporter.

1                   And with that, are our panelists ready to  
2                   hear more testimony?

3                   We are on number nine. We are going to  
4                   keep moving right through.

5                   And I might be able to strike a deal with  
6                   the panel here, if we can get you all to hold your  
7                   clapping and follow with the three minutes, we might  
8                   be able to go over the five o'clock time and try to  
9                   hear everybody that's on the list. So if you can help  
10                  me, then I will do my best to help you with these  
11                  folks.

12                  So with that, Pat Ford, followed by Bill  
13                  Clark, followed by Lilisha Moses.

14                  MR. PAT FORD: Thank you. My name is  
15                  Pat Ford. I am Executive Director of the Save Our  
16                  Wild Salmon coalition, and I have lived in Idaho for  
17                  49 years.

18                  Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition is a diverse  
19                  group of 54 organizations; sport fishing, commercial  
20                  fishing, fishing business, conservation groups in the  
21                  Northwest. We represent about 400,000 people in the  
22                  Northwest, and our members represent about 8,000 jobs  
23                  in the Northwest.

24                  Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition considers  
25                  partial removal of the four lower Snake River dams,

1 the cornerstone biologically, economically and  
2 politically of a Comprehensive Plan to restore  
3 harvestable populations of wild salmon to the Columbia  
4 and Snake Rivers. Not the only action, but the  
5 cornerstone.

6 So far are 400 groups across the nation  
7 representing six million Americans have endorsed the  
8 partial removal of these dams. As of yesterday we  
9 have accumulated 107,000 separate individual comments  
10 which you will be getting. Some of them you already  
11 have, from people all over America, in support of  
12 removing these dams.

13 The NMFS regional director here has made  
14 statements that pit Columbia Basin salmon, Columbia  
15 River salmon against Snake River salmon. There's  
16 limited dollars, limited political will.

17 The exact opposite is the case. We will  
18 not restore Columbia River salmon unless we restore  
19 Snake River salmon, and vice versa. That is true  
20 biologically, economically and politically. We are  
21 convinced of it.

22 I want to give our view of the 4-Hs, and  
23 whether I'll get them all four or not before my time,  
24 I don't know.

25 We agree there are four, but they are not

1 the same four. They are habitat, harvest, humans and  
2 honor.

3 The foundation H is habitat. SOS believes  
4 restoring and protecting natural habitat processes  
5 and conditions must underlie any and all effective  
6 actions to restore salmon and steelhead.

7 There is no separate hydro H. It is  
8 fatally misleading and fundamentally flawed to say as  
9 NMFS officials say repeatedly the key is habitat, we  
10 can't focus just on hydro.

11 The intense attention of these hearings to  
12 the lower Snake dams is fully justified by the fact  
13 that the most critically degraded habitat for Columbia  
14 and Snake River salmon, is the migratory habitat of  
15 the dams and reservoirs, affecting all species,  
16 resting habitat affecting all species, and spawning  
17 and rearing habitat particularly affecting fall  
18 Chinook.

19 It is time for the administration to stop  
20 saying and acting as if habitat is one thing and hydro  
21 is another. It's time for the administration to stop  
22 saying that it is guided by habitat restoration, by  
23 conserving ecosystems, when it is actions in the most  
24 critically degraded portion of habitat are to put 60  
25 to 90 percent of migrating young salmon in an

1 ecosystem called barge, or an ecosystem called truck.

2 Is that three minutes?

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: That was three  
4 minutes.

5 MR. PAT FORD: Good grief.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Yes, it is  
7 quick. So thank you very much.

8 MR. PAT FORD: You are welcome.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: If you have  
10 written comment, we would love to have them, and you  
11 could do the tape recording.

12 Now, watch the applause now. Come on, if  
13 you want to stay longer.

14 Followed by Bill Clark, followed by  
15 Lilisha Moses, followed by Ron McMurray.

16 MR. GENE BRAY: Honored assembly,  
17 General Strock, I am Gene Bray of Meridian. I am  
18 offering comments from the perspective of Captain  
19 William Clark, former governor of Missouri Territory,  
20 superintendent of Indian Affairs and with the esteemed  
21 Captain Maryweather Lewis, Explorer of the once  
22 magnificent rivers of the Northwest.

23 Returning to these waters after 15 years I  
24 am overcome with despair as to find the Columbia and  
25 Snake River salmon many nearly eradicated by the

1 nation I so once proudly served.

2 I am filled with the melancholy I have not  
3 previously known. Not only at the breadth of this  
4 tragedy but at the purposefulness with which our  
5 people have embarked upon this destructive course.

6 The Corps of Discovery discovered 122  
7 unknown animals, none more plentiful than salmon. So  
8 plentiful as to make these rivers boil in the manner  
9 of turbulent rapids, so plentiful a man could pull  
10 ashore and in a single place see 10,000 pounds being  
11 cured by native bands who lived judiciously but  
12 prosperously besides these waters.

13 It is not a coincidence that when the Snake  
14 River flowed, as one of our men noted, swifter than  
15 any horse could run, it was swollen with millions of  
16 Sockeye, coho and Chinook.

17 Nor is it surprising that because the  
18 damming efforts of this nation transformed these  
19 living waters into stagnant ponds, relatively few  
20 salmon remain.

21 We first tasted the salmon of the Pacific  
22 along the Lenhigh River when we took fellowship with  
23 the Shoshone people. But the salmon were sweetest as  
24 we struggled out of the terrible mountains of the  
25 Clearwater country, an ordeal of such rigor that my

1 men ate even their candles.

2 Fortune provided our greeting by the  
3 Nemepu, the Nez Perce, who fed us salmon and camas  
4 root. We were so starved we ate ourselves ill.

5 The Nez Perce again gave us hospitality as  
6 we waited for the melting of the snows in the high  
7 country on the return home.

8 I humbly extend my regrets and apologies to  
9 Chief Twisted Hair and his people for the wanton  
10 carelessness and selfishness of the people of my  
11 nation who later pushed west.

12 The Nez Perce honored their word, we  
13 continued to violate ours, in no small measure by our  
14 refusal to better aid dwindling salmon populations.

15 You have taken from these lands and rivers  
16 in every manner possible. Your damaged severed the  
17 arteries that brings subsistence and life for the  
18 rivers, the streams, the giant white pine, and all the  
19 animals and plants that formerly thrived there.

20 Can you not give back in some small measure  
21 under these dire circumstances?

22 Four dams? Nay, four dikes are little to  
23 ask for those who have profited so much.

24 Honor President Thomas Jefferson and his  
25 Corps of Discovery by distinguishing yourselves as the

1 modern Corps of Recovery.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
4 Bill.

5 Lilisha Moses, followed by Ron McMurray,  
6 followed by Ted Koch.

7 MS. LILISHA MOSES: Hi. I am Lilisha  
8 Moses with the Nez Perce Tribe. And I'd like to start  
9 out with saying my dad, the late Lester Moses, Sr.,  
10 believed in his fishing rights and the fishing rights  
11 of our Tribes during the fight for the fishing rights  
12 at Rapid River. He went to jail. He got in fights.  
13 And he was hospitalized twice, just going down there  
14 so he could fight for his fishing rights down there at  
15 Rapid River.

16 And those were his beliefs, so that's what  
17 he would do. He wanted his rights for his children  
18 and their children there at Rapid River and their  
19 usual and accustomed places.

20 The rights are there for us at Rapid River,  
21 and I believe the fishing will be better for us on the  
22 Snake River once again once the dams are breached.

23 I caught my first steelhead when I was four  
24 years old up on the locks by Sellway Falls. I  
25 remember thinking, I don't know if I could pull this

1 in, yelling for my dad. Help, I can't do this.

2 All he did was grab the camera and tell me  
3 I could do it. You can do it.

4 My cousins were trying to take the fishing  
5 pole from me, but my dad wouldn't let them. He wanted  
6 me to pull my first steelhead in. I did it. And I am  
7 proud of it. And I know he was, too.

8 I want this to live on. I want my unborn  
9 children to go through what I have and many others  
10 have went through. It is a good feeling to catch your  
11 first salmon or Chinook.

12 These memories should be there for each  
13 generation down the line. Fishing together helps  
14 unite family members, strengthening relationships.

15 Another point that I would like to bring up  
16 is the respect of tribal surveys. On the tribal  
17 survey there is a greater amount of salmon consumed by  
18 Tribal members compared to a non-tribal survey. How  
19 could non-tribal survey know the exact consumption of  
20 Tribal members unless you are there all the time and  
21 you could see with your own eyes how much fish we  
22 actually do consume?

23 If the four Lower Snake River dams aren't  
24 breached electric rates will not increase  
25 significantly because these dams were not designed to

1 churn out large amounts of power.

2 There has been two dams in our area that  
3 have been breached successfully. The Lewiston dam and  
4 the south fork on the Clearwater. The Edwards Dam on  
5 the Kennabeck was breached last June or July, and the  
6 fish have increased since then.

7 As you can see, the sediment behind these  
8 dams have not caused as much damage as they make it  
9 seem. Here are some examples that have worked, even  
10 with all the sediment build-up.

11 Breach the dams. Dam breaching will bring  
12 911,300,000 in construction and will bring 20,790 jobs  
13 on the Lower Snake River. A temporary increase in  
14 personal income will be 677 million, or an average  
15 annual income of 32,548 per job.

16 Other construction projects include  
17 placement power facilities at 5,572 jobs and new grain  
18 elevators at 692.

19 Let me see. Well, I guess that's it.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay.

21 Thanks, Lilisha.

22 Ron McMurray, followed by Ted Koch,  
23 followed by Steve Paules.

24 MR. RON McMURRAY: Thank you. My  
25 name is Ron McMurray and I am a native Idahoan.

1                   My comments are general and primarily  
2                   directed towards the United States Army Corps of  
3                   Engineers Draft Lower Snake River Feasibility Study.

4                   Today I stand before you as a candidate for  
5                   United States Congress. And if chosen to represent  
6                   Idaho's first district, I can say without a doubt that  
7                   no federal proposal to remove Snake River dams will  
8                   ever get my vote.

9                   My position against breaching the Snake  
10                  River dams is backed up by evidence taken from the  
11                  Corps' own study. The study found that existing then  
12                  conditions today, the average survival rates through  
13                  all four dams and reservoirs on the Snake River for  
14                  juvenile salmon is over 80 percent, and adult salmon  
15                  is 88 to 94 percent.

16                  Yet nowhere, nowhere in this study did I  
17                  see any scientific data that could prove that removing  
18                  these dams would restore salmon runs.

19                  However, much of the Corps' own evidence in  
20                  this feasibility study reinforces the fact that the  
21                  economic and social effects caused by breaching the  
22                  dams would be devastating to this region.

23                  The annual cost to the region would be 745  
24                  million dollars, and they would include high cost from  
25                  hydro power, lower farm values, pump modification

1 cost, increased modifications in highways and  
2 railroads to replace barging.

3 And now in addition to all of that, all of  
4 that loss, the federal government, you, you, you, us,  
5 have to come up with taxpayer dollars to the amount of  
6 one billion dollars to remove those dams.

7 This feasibility study also acknowledges  
8 that breaching the dams would have adverse impacts on  
9 the environment.

10 Fish and wildlife would be subjected to  
11 higher water temperatures, along with 50 to 75 million  
12 cubic yards of eroding sediment traveling down the  
13 river. Our air quality would be decreased from  
14 increased dust and emissions caused by replacing  
15 hydroelectric power with natural gas and replacing  
16 barging with highway and rail traffic.

17 It appears that we've lost our focus.  
18 Saving salmon is no longer the issue. Promoting an  
19 agenda is. And that agenda is free-flowing rivers  
20 versus dammed rivers.

21 But that's not why we are here. The issue  
22 is saving fish, not taking our dams. And I strongly  
23 believe, and new science shows, that we can build  
24 strong fish runs by using reasonable and prudent  
25 measures without, without destroying the backbone of



1 chapter of the American Fisheries Society, a society  
2 of professional fishery scientists, how the region had  
3 the wisdom to maintain their salmon runs.

4 The answer I got from the colleagues was  
5 essentially there's not been enough time to kill them  
6 all yet.

7 11 years later I find myself as President  
8 of that same organization. I led the chapter in a  
9 vote and a resolution that said, if society at large  
10 determines that they want to save Snake River salmon,  
11 then one biologically required action is to remove the  
12 dams.

13 92 percent of my colleagues in the Idaho  
14 chapter agreed with that statement.

15 Since then 71 percent of my colleagues in  
16 the western division of the American Fisheries Society  
17 have agreed to that statement.

18 Just last week the Oregon chapter of the  
19 American Fisheries Society voted unanimously in  
20 support of removing the lower four Snake River dams as  
21 the best scientific option for saving Snake River  
22 salmon.

23 The temporal and spatial correlations with  
24 how well Idaho salmon fair compared to how well they  
25 fared previously when the dams were installed, how

1 well they fared compared to Yakima River fish runs, is  
2 overwhelming evidence.

3 Much of that is evidence which forms the  
4 basis for the Path report that many referred to.

5 We also have previous experience in Hells  
6 Canyon where we suffered a dramatic extinction of a  
7 significant portion of the Snake River salmon runs.

8 It should come as no surprise that the  
9 lower four Snake River dams are having the same  
10 effect. It's just taking a little longer than it took  
11 with Hells Canyon.

12 The Fish and Wildlife Service in 1946 on  
13 this issue said to the region, there is the strongest  
14 doubt that these added obstacles, the lower four Snake  
15 River Dams, can be overcome by Snake River salmon.

16 In 1947 the U.S. Department of Interior  
17 said, recognized that if we are going to build these  
18 dams, the present salmon runs must, if necessary, be  
19 sacrificed.

20 We should not act surprised today that, as  
21 scientists and decision makers, that we're faced with  
22 the decision of removing dams to save salmon or not.

23 Most recently the U. S. Fish & Wildlife  
24 Service said that even the very programs set up by  
25 Congress to mitigate the effects of the four lower

1 Snake River dams, the Lower Snake River compensation  
2 Plan Program, cannot achieve its goals with the dams  
3 in place, yet we continue to waste millions of  
4 taxpayer and ratepayer dollars a year.

5 I would just as soon see my money spent on  
6 better education for my children here in Idaho, than  
7 continue to waste money on failed salmon recovery  
8 measures. We have 30 years and three billion dollars  
9 of experience in failure to have salmon and dams, too.

10 The government's promises are hollow.

11 I want you to remove the dams, or give me  
12 my money back.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
15 Ted.

16 Steve Paule followed by Phil Brown,  
17 followed by Ann Christensen.

18 DR. STEPHEN PAULE: Thank you. My  
19 name is Dr. Stephen Paule. I am a retired physician,  
20 a board member of Idaho Rivers United.

21 I support breaching and Option 4.

22 This is the fourth salmon recovery hearing  
23 I have attended in the last five years.

24 That fact alone means that something is  
25 terribly wrong. Since my last testimony here in Boise

1 all salmon stocks within the Columbia Snake basin have  
2 are now listed under the ESA, yet no recovery plan is  
3 in place.

4 All the independent science says breach,  
5 but science and common sense have been discounted.

6 Instead two more dams have been added and  
7 those are politics and PAC money. The two dams that  
8 stall recovery measures.

9 At best your 4-H recovery plan should be  
10 titled, hem, haw, hedge and hesitate.

11 And I say this because we were supposed to  
12 have a '99 decision, gentlemen and ladies, and here we  
13 are, we heard today, that it is now February 2001, and  
14 isn't it a surprise that that's just about a month  
15 after the new President has been inaugurated.

16 The real problem is that no one is in  
17 charge of salmon recovery. And let's look at the  
18 players. Clinton Gore. The White House is where the  
19 buck should stop. But instead the buck is tucked  
20 away, pocket vetoed until the November elections are  
21 finished.

22 How about NMFS and the Corps? Your bosses  
23 are members of the cabinet under Commerce and Defense.  
24 Your salmon recovery plan must have their okay and  
25 that won't happen until after the November elections.

1                   How about regional politicians? We keep  
2 hearing about the need for a regional solution, but  
3 until last Friday not a single prominent regional  
4 politician had a recovery plan.

5                   Finally, Governor John Kitzhaber had the  
6 courage to come forward and support breaching.

7                   How about the U.S. Congress? Members of  
8 Congress depend upon learning Northwest salmon  
9 recovery issues from our regional senators like Larry  
10 Craig, Mike Crapo, Gorton Smith and Slade Gorton.

11                   These men incorrectly paint a picture of an  
12 economic collapse in the Northwest if dams are  
13 breached. It's no wonder that none in Congress will  
14 endorse breaching.

15                   Shouldn't Congress know instead that they  
16 have wasted three billion dollars of taxpayer money on  
17 so-called salmon recovery measures with nothing to  
18 show for it?

19                   Shouldn't Congress know that salmon  
20 recovery means 5,000 new jobs to Idaho and a 200  
21 million dollar a year salmon economy for Idaho?

22                   Shouldn't Congress know that breaking 1855  
23 tribal treaty obligations put U.S. taxpayers at risk  
24 for tens of billions of dollars if salmon go extinct?

25                   And how about fairness and appropriations?

1 Over the last two years these Senators were able to  
2 find 15 billion dollars to bail out the U.S. farmers  
3 from crop losses and low commodity prices.

4 Why then can't they find an extra 1.5  
5 billion to breach the dams, mitigate all losses, and  
6 save our fish?

7 Isn't preventing extinction worth that  
8 much?

9 So, who is in charge of salmon recovery?  
10 My answer to that, ladies and gentlemen, is it's not  
11 these seven people up here, it's we the people. We  
12 the people are in charge of salmon recovery. Time has  
13 run out. It's time to speak out, make your message  
14 heard, not just in Idaho or the Northwest, but  
15 throughout the United States.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
18 much, Steve.

19 Phil Brown, followed by Ann Christensen,  
20 followed by Theresa Floyd.

21 MR. PHIL BROWN: I am Phil Brown. I  
22 am a citizen. I was born and raised in Lewiston,  
23 Idaho.

24 When I was a teenager I strongly recall my  
25 parents, and my parents' friends, going to meetings



1 daughters were children. During the summers on our  
2 ranch in the Stanley basin we'd rescue the salmon from  
3 our irrigation ditches and run with them back to  
4 Valley and L Creeks so they could spawn where nature  
5 intended.

6 In the late '70s fish screens were  
7 installed to keep the salmon in the creeks, but this  
8 habitat improvement didn't help. We watched the  
9 numbers of these magnificent creatures that made it to  
10 the Salmon River and its tributaries continue to  
11 decline.

12 I believe it's our moral duty to save  
13 Idaho's wild salmon from extinction.

14 Science tells us that to save our salmon we  
15 must remove the earthen parts the four Lower Snake  
16 River dams.

17 Our runs have declined by 90 percent over  
18 the last 25 years while downriver runs of similar  
19 stocks, like those that spawn in the Hanford Reach,  
20 have held steady. These stocks must face the same  
21 harvest, the same kill erosion, the same killer  
22 caspian terns and the same killer seals.

23 The only difference is the number of dams  
24 the two stocks must negotiate as juveniles and adults.

25 We must return the Lower Snake River to a

1 natural river, improve habitat, modify hatchery  
2 operations, and possibly harvest, and whatever else it  
3 will take to save our salmon.

4 All facets of the population must give, not  
5 just the fish and those who need and love them for so  
6 many reasons.

7 These four dams and the industries they  
8 support are heavily subsidized by the taxpayers.

9 I want my tax money to pay for salmon  
10 restoration and mitigation for those that would be  
11 hurt by the loss of the dams. I want my tax money to  
12 create jobs by rebuilding the commercial, tribal and  
13 sports fisheries.

14 I want my tax money to provide up to 13,000  
15 temporary jobs by removing four dams that kill our  
16 salmon. And I want my tax money to save Idaho's water  
17 for Idaho's farmers. Removing the earthen parts of  
18 the four dams is the only option being considered by  
19 the U.S. government which will not take Idaho's water  
20 to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species  
21 Act.

22 In the last 15 years ratepayers and  
23 taxpayers have spent three billion dollars bargaining,  
24 trucking, screening, building and running hatcheries  
25 and modifying the dams, with no results.

1                   It is time to stop studying the fish to  
2 death and to face the truth.

3                   By the year 2017 the Snake River salmon,  
4 once the most prolific runs in the Northwest and  
5 Idaho's first natural resource industry, will be gone  
6 forever.

7                   I believe that restored salmon runs are  
8 what the people of Idaho want. They do not want to  
9 explain to future generations that they allowed their  
10 politicians to sacrifice their salmon heritage for  
11 four costly and senseless dams that should never have  
12 been built.

13                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
14 Ann.

15                   Theresa Floyd, followed by Jack Fisher,  
16 followed by Steve Bliss.

17                   And if I can remind you on the clapping  
18 again, I'd appreciate that. Thank you.

19                   MS. THERESA FLOYD:     Hi. My name is  
20 Theresa Floyd. I have lived in Idaho for 33 years. I  
21 am here representing the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen  
22 and over 150 individual and family members.

23                   We have been strong advocates for fishery  
24 resources for over 27 years here in the Boise valley.  
25 Over the last four years we have made it very clear

1 that we treasure our Idaho salmon and steelhead  
2 resources. While many of our members have fished for  
3 and remember quite vividly the large runs of adult  
4 Chinook returning to our rivers and streams, the  
5 decline of our wild steelhead is also a major concern.

6 We know that if we lose our salmon the loss  
7 of our native steelhead is almost sure to follow.

8 Our members and families live in Idaho and  
9 represent average hard working middle class Idahoans  
10 whose choice to live here is due primarily to the  
11 quality outdoor opportunities this great state has to  
12 offer.

13 We live here to fish and to raise our  
14 families in a healthy environment. Without our rich  
15 heritage of salmon and steelhead, we have lost  
16 something very dear to us. Most of us have relished  
17 the chance to support fish for Idaho salmon and  
18 steelhead for many years.

19 We plan our family vacations around fishing  
20 season. It has also become a cherished part of us  
21 that we refuse to depart -- it has become a cherished  
22 part of us that we have refused to part with even as  
23 our fish runs continue to decline.

24 I feel very strongly that my five year old  
25 son Travis deserves to share in this vast wealth of

1 outdoor opportunities.

2 Speaking for him, those opportunities must  
3 include salmon and steelhead. It is for this primary  
4 reason that I want to leave him and his generation the  
5 legacy of Idaho Rivers teaming with wild fish.

6 Is it not his birthright to experience  
7 fully the bounty that nation has to offer here in our  
8 great state that we proudly call home?

9 The Boise Valley Fly Fishermen have also  
10 been strong advocates for the best and most efficient  
11 method of restoring our wild salmon and steelhead here  
12 in Idaho.

13 Our members and our families feel strongly  
14 that the only option that accomplishes both is the  
15 partial removal of the four Lower Snake River dams.  
16 We are an organization of fishing families who care,  
17 not only about the salmon but also for our north Idaho  
18 friends who may be affected by the dam breaching  
19 decision.

20 We favor a full investment package for  
21 those affected by breaching but we realize, too, that  
22 the economy, the people of north Idaho, and the  
23 salmon, will be the winners if we face this tough  
24 decision now to bypass these dams.

25 As you all have heard today, and I will say

1 it once again, these dams don't make sense for people  
2 or salmon.

3 Thank you for accepting my comments, as a  
4 representative of the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen and  
5 150 families and individuals.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
8 Theresa.

9 Jack Fisher, followed by Steve Bliss, who  
10 just for reference is number 20, and followed by Keith  
11 Kinzer.

12 MR. JACK FISHER: Thank you, Madam  
13 Chairman. My name is Jack Fisher. I am the President  
14 of the Idaho Wildlife Federation. I am a resident of  
15 Idaho, and was born here, and have lived here most of  
16 my life.

17 Our affiliates which number 24 equal up to  
18 nearly 6,000 members, and they sent me here with a  
19 message for you today.

20 And, General, I would just like to say that  
21 I was happy to hear you say that early on in your  
22 opening statements that you were, by saving salmon is  
23 why we are here, and that's why I'm here, too.

24 The message that my constituents would like  
25 to convey today is that we want to save our salmon and

1       our steelhead, and we want to do it now, while we  
2       still have some.

3               We support Alternative 4, which includes  
4       the breaching of the dams. We realize that breaching  
5       of the dams in itself is not the answer to the  
6       recovery for our problem, but we realize also that it  
7       is the key issue around which any program which has a  
8       chance to save the salmon will -- that it will be  
9       built around.

10              We do not support any plan that requires  
11       additional Idaho water for flushing of salmon, because  
12       we know at this point that that does not solve the  
13       problem.

14              We also support doing the right thing now  
15       and let us not continue with any strategy that will  
16       just continue to study the salmon to death.

17              We have a short window here of probably  
18       less than ten years in which to do something, and so  
19       we need to do it now.

20              And I would just like to close with this  
21       statement, that I haven't heard here today, and it  
22       would be a suggestion with what to do with these dams  
23       after they are breached.

24              And my suggestion, and by the way, this is  
25       mine, not Idaho Wildlife Federation's, these four

1 great monuments to concrete and steel construction  
2 could be modified into four additional federal prisons  
3 with a river view. And we see that there is an ever  
4 growing need for that, so we would hate to see these  
5 facilities just go totally unused after we breach  
6 them.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
8 Jack.

9 Steve Bliss, followed by Keith Kinzer,  
10 followed by Mitch Saachotena.

11 Steve Bliss?

12 MR. STEVE BLISS: My name is Steve  
13 Bliss. I represent the Northwest Timber Workers  
14 Resource Council, and I have been in Idaho, I am a  
15 native Idahoan for 49 years.

16 The question should not be, should we  
17 breach the dams, but how can we save the salmon.

18 Breaching the dams is the most radical  
19 approach being proposed to save salmon. Breaching  
20 would destroy the river shipping system and could cost  
21 taxpayers 230 million dollars to replace, with over  
22 3,000 lost jobs.

23 75 million tons of sediment will wash down  
24 the Columbia and Snake Rivers from behind these dams,  
25 destroying both salmon and resident species as well.

1                   3,000 megawatts of power will be lost, as  
2 much as the total generating capacity of Idaho Power.

3                   These are only a few of the impacts of  
4 breaching. Using current data breaching has as little  
5 as two percent chance over 48 to 100 years of recovery  
6 over nonbreaching alternatives.

7                   Of the 26 listed West Coast runs of salmon,  
8 only four pass over the dams proposed for breaching.

9                   This problem is much bigger than four dams.  
10 We need a solution that will help these fish runs and  
11 not just destroy four dams.

12                  I support Alternative 3 with some  
13 additions. We should make improvements to the  
14 juvenile fish passage, like turbine modifications,  
15 fish screens, spillway modifications and improvements  
16 to the barging system.

17                  We should also change hatchery practices so  
18 they more closely mimic nature, like the hatch boxes  
19 being used by the PPRC, the Nez Perce and the Shoban  
20 Tribes. These boxes increase hatch survival from a  
21 few percent to over 90 percent, still keeping the  
22 natural aspects of instream spawning. All spill and  
23 added flow requirements should be dropped since there  
24 are no demonstrated benefits.

25                  We should relocate the tern and cumrad

1 populations an Rice Island. New data says we are  
2 losing as many as 30 percent of salmon smolts to these  
3 birds that are on a manmade island.

4 We should reduce the marine mammal  
5 population. 30 percent of the salmon at the first  
6 Columbia River dam have mammal damage and will die  
7 before spawning.

8 These acts alone could have more effect  
9 than breaching the dams.

10 We should reduce or eliminate harvest for a  
11 few years, using money you have been spending on  
12 studies to offset the losses to the Indian Tribes and  
13 fishermen.

14 Every returning adult fish can mean  
15 thousands of smolt.

16 I saw in a recent report from Marine  
17 Fisheries Service is planning to concentrate more on  
18 spawning habitat. We already have 300 foot buffer  
19 strips on all our salmon and bull trout streams.

20 Our habitat in Idaho is in good shape. We  
21 can have all the spawning habitat in the world, and if  
22 the fish don't return, it will sit empty.

23 There is no silver bullet to save salmon.  
24 It will take ten years to complete breaching if  
25 everything went just right and with no political

1 support for dam breaching in Congress or the  
2 legislatures of the affected states, it would take 15  
3 to 20 years to complete.

4 Too late for the salmon, they'll be gone.  
5 Let's quit talking about things that have little  
6 chance of helping salmon and get to the work of  
7 actually doing things that will help them recover.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
10 Steve.

11 Keith Kinzer, followed by Mitch Saachotena,  
12 followed by Eric Lawrence.

13 MR. KEITH KINZER: Well, thank you  
14 for this time. My name is Keith Kinzer, and I farm up  
15 in Genese, Idaho. I am a small farmer but I represent  
16 the Idaho Grain Producers. I am on my last year on  
17 the executive board there.

18 I'm here on behalf of over 18,000 barley  
19 and wheat producers in the state of Idaho. We don't  
20 support breaching, and we don't support losing any  
21 more water out of Idaho. That's basic.

22 What we do support is what we are really  
23 are here for, and that's for returning salmon runs to  
24 a sustainable level.

25 Let's get back to that issue.

1                   First of all, we have something that's been  
2                   thrown out today a couple times, delayed mortality  
3                   syndrome. Well, that's a fancy word, thought up by  
4                   some breaching advocates to confuse the system here.

5                   Let's blow a hole in it right now. All of  
6                   you up there have read enough of these studies to know  
7                   that we have salmon runs on the West Coast that don't  
8                   go through a single dam, they don't have any problems  
9                   as far as habitat, and they are returning at the same  
10                  percentage rate that we are getting fish back in the  
11                  Snake River.

12                  So what do they call it? Delayed mortality  
13                  syndrome? That's done and over. We know that's not  
14                  the problem.

15                  Path. The Path process hasn't been brought  
16                  up much today. And do you know why? Because the  
17                  assumptions that were made by those fisheries  
18                  biologists and those scientists in that Path process,  
19                  they didn't meet ocum's razor. They didn't meet  
20                  common sense. You couldn't physically back up the  
21                  Path process if you thought about it for ten seconds.  
22                  It didn't even import the newest data that we have.

23                  The Path process was flawed and has been  
24                  flawed. And it will remain flawed until we get to  
25                  people that are working on it that don't have a set

1 agenda.

2 I heard one of the native people up in --  
3 one of the Native Americans up here say life is kind  
4 of holistic. I believe that. I don't believe that we  
5 can do one thing in this life that doesn't affect the  
6 rest of our lives.

7 And I have been, though I have never been  
8 over there, but I have seen what has happened in other  
9 economies, and I can tell you that the environmental  
10 health is tied to the economy.

11 If you don't believe me, go over to China  
12 and see what's happening. You cannot sacrifice the  
13 economy and have a healthy environment.

14 We talked about hundred year extinction  
15 levels. How do you know what the harvest levels are  
16 going to be in the next hundred years?

17 And speaking of harvest levels, how come we  
18 are blowing the masts off of ships out in the ocean  
19 that are still using mile long nets and killing  
20 Russian captains of ships?

21 It is time for America to demand that every  
22 country in the world get off our coast and quit  
23 fishing our waters. It's time that --

24 I think we can allow the Native Americans  
25 to fish. I believe those people will take care of

1 themselves. I believe they have a good heart. They  
2 are not out there to hurt salmon.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
5 Keith.

6 Mitch Saachotena, followed by Eric  
7 Lawrence, followed by Rick Johnson.

8 MR. MITCH SAACHOTENA: My name is  
9 Mitch Saachotena. I am the Executive Director for  
10 Idaho Steelhead and Salmon Unlimited.

11 Idaho Steelhead and Salmon Unlimited was  
12 formed in 1984 by a diverse group of businessmen,  
13 guides, conservationists, and concerned citizens from  
14 throughout the Northwest with the singular goal of  
15 restoring harvestable sustainable populations of wild  
16 steelhead and salmon.

17 We represent approximately 2400 members,  
18 and those members unanimously support Alternative 4,  
19 breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams, to  
20 restore harvestable runs.

21 I would like to thank the panel, first of  
22 all, for only allowing the politicians one hour. Next  
23 time I would suggest you give the bastards the last  
24 hour, maybe they will figure out what their  
25 constituency is trying to tell them.

1                   I would also like to thank the Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service for the courage in coming out  
3 singularly on the breaching proposal in the A-Fish  
4 appendix. It is good to see folks with courage. We  
5 support them.

6                   I heard a lot about harvest, reducing  
7 harvest to restore harvestable sustainable  
8 populations. I'm confused. If we reduce harvest to  
9 restore harvestable runs, what happens when we go back  
10 to harvesting? We go back to extinction. It's  
11 ludicrous.

12                   Harvesters are the victims of four federal  
13 dams that make absolutely no sense. There's not been  
14 a harvest on an Idaho Chinook, wild Chinook, since  
15 1978. There's not been a harvest on a wild Idaho  
16 steelhead since 1982.

17                   You are punishing the victims when you look  
18 at the harvest to find resolution to this problem.

19                   We talked about hatcheries and the problems  
20 hatcheries have caused.

21                   I guess we are a group that feels, if you  
22 can't pay the bill, and hatcheries were intended to  
23 pay the bill to provide harvestable runs of salmon and  
24 steelhead to the people of the region, from Alaska to  
25 Stanley, Idaho, if you can't pay the bill, get the

1 dams out of the system.

2 You can't go buy a new Ford pickup and  
3 drive it for five years and not pay for it. You're  
4 going to have to pay, and it's time to pay up right  
5 now, take the burden off the backs of Idaho fishermen,  
6 Alaska fishermen, and tribal fishermen, and either you  
7 pay the bill, if you think you can't do it with  
8 hatcheries, and we know you can't, then it's time to  
9 get the dams out of the system. But you can't punish  
10 the victims any longer.

11 Economically, I heard the General there say  
12 that the status quo was good economically. Bull. The  
13 status quo has cost 60,000 jobs in the Northwest and  
14 literally hundreds of millions of dollars.

15 The little town of Clayton, Idaho in the  
16 '50s used to pump 2000 gallons of gas a day to Idaho  
17 fishermen and sell about that many gallons of beer.  
18 Today there is no economy in Clayton, Idaho. It is a  
19 ghost town.

20 The same holds true for Stanley, Challis,  
21 Salmon, Riggins, Orofino, Cascade, and the rest of  
22 these river dependent communities.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
25 Mitch.

1 Eric Lawrence followed by Rick Johnson,  
2 followed by Ted Cochell.

3 MR. ERIC LAWRENCE: My name is Eric  
4 Lawrence, and I am a citizen.

5 I oppose breaching dams. The Draft EIS is  
6 asking the wrong question. It should ask how may the  
7 salmon be saved, instead of asking should dams be  
8 breached.

9 No one option alone can save the fish. The  
10 National Marine Fisheries Service has found that  
11 breaching alone will not return the salmon. Putting  
12 the salmon's future on one action will push the fish  
13 into extinction.

14 There are 26 West Coast runs of salmon and  
15 steelhead listed, and there are eight more waiting to  
16 be listed.

17 Of these 34 only four pass the lower Snake  
18 dams. The use of hydro power in the Northwest keeps  
19 28.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the air.  
20 That's the equivalent of 5.7 million cars on the road.

21 Breaching dams is the most drastic option  
22 available. It cannot happen in time to save  
23 endangered salmon runs.

24 We must look at reasonable alternatives  
25 that help recover the salmon quickly and we must not

1 waste any more time, effort or money. Dam breaching  
2 is not the silver bullet.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
4 Eric.

5 Rick Johnson, Ted Cochell, and Pete  
6 Ellsworth.

7 MR. RICK JOHNSON: Hi. I am Rick  
8 Johnson. I am the executive director of the Idaho  
9 Conservation League. The Idaho Conservation League  
10 works to protect the water, wildlands, and wildlife of  
11 Idaho. We were founded in 1973, and are the largest  
12 conservation organization homegrown in Idaho.

13 I would like to thank everyone for coming  
14 and thank you for listening and taking the time.

15 I would like to offer my hope that it's not  
16 too late.

17 Just for a moment let's all appreciate the  
18 fact that we love the state that we live in and we all  
19 have some special places and special memories about  
20 Idaho. Let's just for a moment think of them.

21 Red Fish Lake. The Salmon River. The  
22 south fork of the Salmon. The east fork, or the  
23 incredible middle fork.

24 If we don't get our job together, I would  
25 like to propose that we change the names of all those

1 places. Salmon are as much a part of Idaho as the  
2 saw-tooth mountains. Salmon nourished first citizens  
3 for a millennium and kept the Lewis & Clark  
4 expedition, Idaho's first tourists, from starving to  
5 death. We've named our rivers and our towns and our  
6 lakes for the salmon.

7 Idahoans are proud people and we love the  
8 outdoors and outdoors we care for and are tremendously  
9 proud of. We want to save our salmon.

10 But our salmon are going extinct. Extent,  
11 dead, finished. It is our fault.

12 It is morally contemptible that we are not  
13 doing more to stop this doomed cycle. We are all  
14 responsible. Everyone of us for what we leave for  
15 future generations.

16 There have been some that have been  
17 protesting the thought of some politicians leaving a  
18 legacy. We elect them to leave the legacy. Idaho's  
19 leaders' legacy is failure.

20 If we continue on this current path Idaho's  
21 entire legacy of leadership on salmon will be  
22 cheerleaders for the most significant loss of species  
23 since white settlement.

24 But we can do something about it.

25 Bypassing the four dams on the Lower Snake

1 River can save our salmon. And it will cost the same  
2 as what we now spend on mitigation. The dams don't  
3 make sense if we care about the future.

4 We can save Idaho salmon. We must save  
5 Idaho salmon. By taking action now to bypass the four  
6 dams killing our salmon and steelhead, we can in the  
7 words of Wallace Stegner, create a society to match  
8 our scenery.

9 Otherwise we are simply throwing away  
10 America's heritage, and our children will never  
11 forgive us.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
14 Rick.

15 Ted Cochell, followed by Pete Ellsworth,  
16 followed by Bas Hargrove.

17 MR. TED COCHELL: My name is Ted  
18 Cochell. Thank you. And I am here as a concerned  
19 citizen of Idaho.

20 Historically 30 to 40 percent of all salmon  
21 in the Pacific Ocean were Idaho fish. We had millions  
22 of salmon returning each year. This was an economic  
23 and recreational benefit to the people of Idaho and  
24 the entire Pacific Northwest.

25 Now we have drastically eliminated and

1       dwindling salmon runs. Why? Is it overharvesting?  
2       Is it Indians? Is it predators? Is it dams? Is it  
3       politics? Is it habitat destruction? Is it the  
4       ocean?

5                   Well, the answer is yes. All these  
6       contribute to declining salmon runs in the Pacific  
7       Northwest.

8                   But why are Idaho fish numbers declining  
9       more than the other salmon runs in the Columbia River  
10      system? The reason Idaho's fish fair worse than the  
11      other salmon runs in the Columbia, are the four Lower  
12      Snake River dams.

13                  The other salmon runs on the Columbia go  
14      through the same gauntlet of obstacles that Idaho's  
15      fish do, with some loss, but not near the loss that  
16      Idaho fish suffer in going through these four dams.

17                  The extra four dams Idaho fish go through  
18      are spelling extinction for them. These dams are  
19      killing Idaho's fish, and that is a fact.

20                  These dams have been putting people in  
21      Idaho, Washington and Oregon out of business quietly  
22      for last 40 years, while we have tried our failed  
23      methods of salmon recovery.

24                  The time to act is now. The scientific  
25      studies are complete. Breaching the dams offers the



1 Hargrove, followed by Pat Holmberg.

2 MR. PETE ELLSWORTH: I am Pete  
3 Ellsworth. I am the natural resource representative  
4 of the International Association of Machinists and  
5 Aerospace Workers Local 364 out of Lewiston.

6 Primarily, I'm here to help restore salmon.  
7 And maybe to help restore some sanity.

8 I consistently hear people say the Hanford  
9 Reach fish are exactly like the fish that go up the  
10 south fork of the Columbia, basically through the four  
11 lower Snake dams.

12 If that were true, we'd just take the fish  
13 from over there and put them ours and we wouldn't have  
14 any problem.

15 That is not the case. The salmon and the  
16 steelhead of each one of these areas move at a  
17 different time. They also move into a different part  
18 of the ocean. They move into multiple areas that  
19 change things.

20 Am I scientifically qualified to say this?  
21 No, I'm not. I've read the papers. And I'm really  
22 disappointed in the scientific papers I've read.  
23 Because I read those same papers back in '73, '77,  
24 that said we wouldn't have a problem.

25 But consistently we talk about the salmon

1 runs and the steelhead runs being decimated. I've  
2 heard numerous people here use the correct term, the  
3 wild salmon, and the wild steelhead. Those are what  
4 are endangered.

5 You know, we have approximately 5,000 miles  
6 that the salmon goes through, in his lifecycle 140  
7 miles, which runs upriver through those dams, is not a  
8 problem.

9 Multiple things go into a large process  
10 like this. While fish fertilization is normally about  
11 10 percent, why don't we take those wild fish and use  
12 the eggs from the female and the sperm from the male,  
13 and then deposit those in the stream and get a hundred  
14 percent. That would restore wild salmon and wild  
15 steelhead.

16 So I leave you this thought. Leave no  
17 stone unturned in finding a sensible solution, even if  
18 that solution is leaving no turn unstoned.

19 I would like to give support to  
20 Representative Ruby Stone, Governor Kepthorne, Pat  
21 Barclay, Ron McMurray, and Steve Bliss.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
24 Pete.

25 Bas Hargrove, followed by Pat Holmberg,

1 followed by Tricia Blaha, and I would also like to  
2 remind folks that you can tape in the other room and  
3 get your same testimony in the other room. We are now  
4 starting number 27.

5 Also if you've got a statement that you are  
6 reading from, if you could turn it in to us, it will  
7 help the court reporter make sure that he get all of  
8 the comments down.

9 MR. BAS HARGROVE: I am Bas Hargrove,  
10 and I thank you for the opportunity to share my  
11 thoughts.

12 As a citizen and a scientist, I urge you to  
13 remove the four dams on the Lower Snake River to  
14 restore Idaho salmon and steelhead.

15 While all of the H's in the All-H paper are  
16 important, it is clear that without removing the dams  
17 the other Hs are a waste of time and money.

18 We cannot keep kidding ourselves.  
19 Tinkering at half measures will not make the problem  
20 go away. It is time for bold action.

21 Common sense, science and our consciences  
22 tell us that dam removal must happen for recovery to  
23 occur. Common sense tells us that salmon runs have  
24 declined dramatically since the dams were built and  
25 that decades of bargaining have not stopped the bleeding.

1                   Science has shown that Idaho stocks have  
2                   declined faster than the stocks below the dams and  
3                   restoring more natural river is the fastest and  
4                   probably the only way to recovery.

5                   Make the most compelling argument of all.  
6                   We can work together to replace jobs and keep the  
7                   human stakeholders whole.

8                   But once the salmon are gone, they are gone  
9                   for all time.

10                  Let us leave a legacy we can be proud of,  
11                  not one to be ashamed of.

12                  As I understand it, the recovery options  
13                  for the lower Snake hydro system are flow  
14                  augmentation, smolt transportation and engineering  
15                  modifications, or removing the four dams.

16                  Flow augmentation is impractical and puts  
17                  too much burden on Idaho.

18                  Barging, technological effort have already  
19                  shown their futility year after year after year.

20                  That leaves dam removal as the lone  
21                  solution. And exhaustive modeling efforts have shown  
22                  that this solution is the best bet for recovery.

23                  The independent scientific group agreed  
24                  that these fish need natural river conditions to  
25                  complete their life cycles. The only way to a more

1 natural river is by bypassing Lower Granite, Lower  
2 Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams.

3 While these dams have proved economic  
4 benefits in some communities, they have brought havoc  
5 on others.

6 Native American Tribes in small towns like  
7 Riggins, Idaho, have lost big since the dams went in.

8 It is time to restore the cultural and  
9 economic benefits to these communities by restoring  
10 salmon, while compensating those who stand to lose  
11 from dam removal.

12 We can provide transportation alternatives,  
13 irrigation alternatives, and energy alternatives.

14 But we cannot provide alternatives to  
15 salmon and steelhead. They are one-of-a-kind. We can  
16 afford to compensate the irrigators and shippers who  
17 benefit from the dams, but we cannot afford to lose  
18 our salmon and steelhead.

19 Please remove the dams and remove them  
20 quickly before more Idaho salmon go extinct.

21 Thanks.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
23 Bas.

24 Pal Holmberg, followed by Tricia Blaha,  
25 followed by Pat Hull.

1 MS. PAT HOLMBERG: I stand to  
2 represent the small entrepreneurs and the taxpayers  
3 who are fighting for the freedom to survive.

4 I have however heard one surprising thing  
5 today. With all due respect I have never known  
6 either National Marine Fisheries or the Corps to do  
7 anything in 60 to 90 days.

8 I respect the lady who spoke about Celilo  
9 Falls, but I seem to remember the tribe taking payment  
10 for the loss of fish there, and yes, I don't think our  
11 children are raised to respect what they should.

12 However, I am confused. Our salmon does  
13 not become endangered until it reaches the Snake. How  
14 then does anyone know that they are our salmon before  
15 that? Do we have any fish talks out there checking to  
16 see if anybody takes one of our salmon?

17 National Marine Fisheries, why are you  
18 doing this on a biological opinion? If you really  
19 believe this is a terrible thing, why haven't you  
20 issued jeopardy opinion. You have put most of us out  
21 of business already over habitat, and apparently you  
22 don't have the fish to use it.

23 Joan Lock, who helped write our  
24 Constitution, said, freedom is the right to do any  
25 damn thing you want to as long as you don't infringe

1 on your neighbor.

2 I'm being infringed on. And is the freedom  
3 of one any less than the freedom of two? Is doing to  
4 us what was done to these people and their ancestors,  
5 does that make it right, because it's us this time?

6 I think not. I believe that all of this  
7 has been said and resaid since the hearings and the  
8 extended hearings and the extended, extended hearings  
9 were done prior to the dam being built.

10 I think everyone knew the risk then. But,  
11 you know, if we get -- I've heard this all night and I  
12 have to agree with it, if we get 80 percent out and  
13 only 5 percent back, we need to put luminous dots on  
14 our salmon so nobody else gets them.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
16 Pat.

17 Trisha Braha, followed by Pat Hull,  
18 followed by Lois VanHoover.

19 MR. TRICIA BRAHA: I am Tricia Braha,  
20 and I am not a politician, and not a scientist. I am  
21 a lover of the natural world. And I am here to speak  
22 for myself and for salmon and for passion.

23 I grew up spending summers in Stanley with  
24 my family, on the family property. I remember days  
25 when the Red Fish Creek was red with spawning salmon.

1 And that Salmon Lake had red fish in it. And Red Fish  
2 Lake had red fish in it.

3 I still spend summers in Stanley and I have  
4 not seen a spawning salmon since the mid '70s. My 15  
5 year old son has never seen a spawning salmon on our  
6 property. The Salmon River has few salmon. Red Fish  
7 Lake is no longer red.

8 The timing for the loss is directly related  
9 to the building of the Lower Snake River dams.

10 The natural world teaches us about  
11 ourselves. The salmon teach us about passion.  
12 Through their life cycle, overcoming endless  
13 obstacles, natural obstacles, to give up their lives  
14 so there can be more abundant life, this is true  
15 passion.

16 We must breach the dams, let the water run  
17 free naturally. Save the salmon. Save the passion.  
18 Without passion, we the humans will be extinct.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
21 Tricia.

22 Pat Hull, followed by Lois VanHoover,  
23 followed by Michael Heckler.

24 MR. PAT HULL: Pat Hull, Cascade,  
25 Idaho. Life long resident. Thank you for the chance

1 of testifying.

2 Salmon are an important part of the  
3 Northwest and should be saved. But at what cost? It  
4 sounds great, breach the dams, and the salmon will  
5 return.

6 If I could walk up to the river below Ice  
7 Harbor Dam and it was full of salmon, the decision  
8 would be easy. Even if we go on down the Columbia  
9 River, it doesn't do much better.

10 To my knowledge all the wild runs of salmon  
11 and steelhead in the Lower Columbia River are in  
12 trouble.

13 Could the low runs be attributed to the 25  
14 year ocean cycle we have heard about? Even the runs  
15 in Alaska are having problems. Ocean conditions could  
16 very well be the major factor in the salmon's life  
17 cycle.

18 Before the dams are breached, ocean and  
19 river harvest must be reduced, giving the runs a  
20 chance to recover. Gill nets in the ocean and Lower  
21 Columbia account for most of the harvest.

22 More should be done to reduce the  
23 predators. The population of seals and sea lions are  
24 at an all time high in the Lower Columbia.

25 I have fished the Lower Columbia and seen

1 the sea lion population grow from around 100 in 1991  
2 to three to four hundred in 1998. I observed these  
3 sea lions on the south jetty of the Columbia River.  
4 We all know these are very large marine mammals, and  
5 they eat a lot of salmon.

6 The caspian terns through pit tag studies  
7 have been shown to take a heavy toll on smolt  
8 returning to the ocean.

9 I think all of these issues should be  
10 addressed before we breach the dams.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
13 Pat.

14 Lois VanHoover, followed by Michael  
15 Heckler, followed by John Hull.

16 MS. LOIS VanHOOVER: Hello. I am  
17 Lois VanHoover. I am here today representing the  
18 McMurray Freedom Fighters.

19 The argument is not whether or not to save  
20 the salmon, it is how we are going to save the salmon.  
21 Salmon is part of Idaho's history and our heritage.

22 However, at this point we the Idahoans must  
23 ask ourself for whose benefit and at what cost will we  
24 continue down this nonprotected path to preserve  
25 salmon.

1                   The four Lower Snake River dams are not  
2                   located in the state of Idaho. Yet Idaho has paid a  
3                   tremendous price. The spill and augmentation of water  
4                   threatens our irrigation reserves. Land use  
5                   restrictions ignore that Idaho has more than enough  
6                   pristine habitat to accommodate the historic runs.  
7                   Drawdowns destroy an entire ecosystem , domestic  
8                   fisheries and wildlife. And jobs, all of this cost  
9                   Idaho jobs and affect our Idaho tax base.

10                   What have we done to save the salmon?  
11                   Experimental science does not work. We must use sound  
12                   science.

13                   Breaching has captured center stage as a  
14                   quick fix that provides an easy answer to a complex  
15                   issue.

16                   Breach damages, save fish. The simplicity  
17                   of that premise is easy to grasp. However, just as  
18                   Will Stelle of National Marine Fisheries said in the  
19                   Washington Times, dams are not the silver bullet  
20                   either.

21                   We can only ask ourselves, if dams were  
22                   totally responsible for the decline in salmon, why are  
23                   their sockeye in Lake Wenatchee? And why hasn't the  
24                   National Marine Fisheries issued a jeopardy opinion?

25                   If the goal is to save fish, and not a

1 debate of free flowing river versus dammed river, then  
2 right now, not tomorrow or the next day, we must do  
3 the following. We must pursue technology alternatives  
4 that are scientifically sound. Address all of the  
5 cumulative effects. Continue to explore improvements  
6 to transportation of smolts.

7 But quite frankly, smolt delivery is not  
8 the question, it is adult return. The federal  
9 government cannot pass the red face test when it comes  
10 to the re-establishing of the fish runs.

11 As a legal process of the National  
12 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, the government is  
13 mandated to consider the social and economic impacts.

14 It is important to note that the purpose of  
15 NEPA is to protect the human environment while  
16 considering the rest of the environment.

17 Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, a  
18 recovery plan for every endangered species must be  
19 formulated and then comply with NEPA. To date no such  
20 plan exists for salmon.

21 Two biological opinions have been  
22 formulated, but not one recovery plan. Even though  
23 it's the law.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,

1 Lois.

2 Michael Heckler, followed by John Hull,  
3 followed by Amy VanHoover.

4 MR. MICHAEL HECKLER: Good afternoon.  
5 My name is Michael Heckler, and my comments are  
6 related to the economic analysis under the Draft  
7 Environmental Impact Statement.

8 Salmon are a symbol of the Northwest to  
9 many Americans. Just knowing that 40-inch long summer  
10 Chinook still swim the equivalent of a quarter away  
11 across our continent and live themselves more than a  
12 mile in the air in that process only to spawn in a  
13 pristine area in the mountains of Idaho has a value to  
14 many Americans.

15 Economists have a term for the type of  
16 benefit that comes from just knowing that something  
17 still exists. They call them passive use values.

18 The current draft of your EIS does not  
19 quantify passive use values for the four alternatives.  
20 And by not including passive use values in the  
21 economic analysis, you are biased against alternatives,  
22 like Alternative 4, which have a higher probability of  
23 maintaining the continuing existence of summer Chinook  
24 runs.

25 By not including evaluation for passive use

1 I find the current analysis biased and fundamentally  
2 flawed.

3 The second area where I perceive a  
4 substantial flaw in the draft EIS, economic analysis,  
5 is related to the price of electricity. Those who  
6 have been in the Northwest for a few decades will  
7 remember the debacle of the Washington Public Power  
8 Supply System, WPPSS. They got into by trying to  
9 build nuclear generating facilities at Hanford and  
10 Satsop.

11 I am not suggesting that your analysis  
12 should be associated with nuclear power plants, but  
13 your analysis does make the same mistakes that WPPSS  
14 made, those being improperly estimating the  
15 incremental cost of electricity supply and failure to  
16 reduce estimated future demand caused by increasing  
17 costs.

18 The single largest cost element in your  
19 analysis of Alternative 4 is the cost of replacing the  
20 electricity no longer available when the four dams are  
21 breached.

22 You have in my estimation overstated this  
23 cost substantially by estimating the nets cost to at  
24 five mills when market values of wholesale power  
25 supports a price differential of three mills or lower.

1                   The bias is further overstated by failing  
2                   to adjust substitution effect of reducing demand for  
3                   electricity in the face of higher prices.

4                   The effect of selecting a too high of  
5                   replacement price and too little product substitution,  
6                   is to overstate the estimated cost of Alternative 4 by  
7                   more than a hundred million dollars a year.

8                   The third cause for concern in your  
9                   analysis stems from what I see as comparing apples and  
10                  oranges.

11                  The EIS is being developed because there  
12                  are endangered anadromous fish populations.

13                  The four alternatives presented vary in how  
14                  effective they would be in protecting these endangered  
15                  runs. But no adjustment is made for the cost of  
16                  Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 to reflect the variation and  
17                  the effectiveness of those alternatives in meeting the  
18                  intended purpose of protecting salmon and steelhead  
19                  populations.

20                  If you wanted to directly compare the cost  
21                  of the four alternatives, you need to first make an  
22                  adjustment for those costs to take into account the  
23                  differences in the effectiveness of the four  
24                  alternatives.

25                  I trust that you are committed to fairness

1 in your analysis and ask that you seriously consider  
2 updating that analysis to address these three items  
3 before the next iteration of the EIS is released.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
6 much, Michael.

7 John Hull, followed by Amy VanHoover,  
8 followed by Craig Gehrke, I think it is.

9 MR. JOHN Hull: Hello. I am John  
10 Hull from Boise. I have lived in Idaho for 64 years.

11 I, too, want to save the salmon. I oppose  
12 breaching the dams because removal is not the answer.

13 I can support Alternative 3, predator  
14 control, habitat improvement and harvest improvement.

15 If the two trillion dollars already spent  
16 would have been for salmon, we would not be here  
17 today.

18 At the present time the salmon are safer at  
19 the dams than any of the journey downriver or ocean.  
20 Seattle, Washington, to Missoula, Montana, Portland,  
21 Oregon, to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the Northwest is  
22 having a population explosion.

23 The dams are very young, repairable, and  
24 very, very important. If any of the dams are  
25 breached, it will be one of the biggest disasters to

1 ever hit the Northwest.

2 Also every one of us better be prepared to  
3 watch all dams across the U.S. to come under the same  
4 fate. Should this occur, I would like to welcome you  
5 to the new millennium and nuclear power.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
8 John.

9 Amy VanHoover, followed by Craig Gehrke,  
10 followed by David Fokuria.

11 MS. AMY VanHOOVER: Hello. My name  
12 is Amy VanHoover. I represent the Independent Miners  
13 and the McMurray Freedom Fighters.

14 Please note that experimental dam breaching  
15 is not part of the Endangered Species Act. Certainly  
16 no reasonable person could support such a flawed  
17 application which obliterates ecosystems now dependent  
18 upon dams, jeopardizes domestic fisheries and  
19 wildlife, destroys communities current economic basis  
20 and most importantly, places the salmon at risk.

21 Agencies must consider the cumulative  
22 effects. Guess what hasn't been done, even though  
23 it's the law. Flawed documents guarantee that third  
24 party lawsuits will debate the issue until salmon  
25 recovery is a moot issue. The salmon will be extinct.

1                   I will not address the Draft EIS. It never  
2 addressed the right subject. How do we save the fish?  
3 The All-H paper had two admirable basic goals. Save  
4 salmon, and inspire discussion.

5                   The All-H paper, however, should have  
6 included another H, the human element. Here and now,  
7 the paper is being used by some to attempt to divide  
8 user groups, only to perpetrate their -- perpetuate  
9 their own philosophy, breach dams, and once again the  
10 salmon is lost in the debate.

11                   It will not work. Try again. The  
12 complexity of the issues defy simplistic solutions.  
13 Breaching dams is the most time consuming and the  
14 least likely to occur.

15                   It is imperative that we do something  
16 feasible now. We must pursue technological  
17 alternatives that are scientifically sound and unify  
18 the region behind a Comprehensive Plan to reestablish  
19 a sustainable population of Idaho's wild salmon and  
20 steelhead and preserve Idaho's water and jobs.

21                   We demand that the federal government do  
22 its job. We say this, not to obstruct conservation,  
23 rather to ensure conservation and demand that sound  
24 science is applied.

25                   Every job in Idaho is important. Every

1 drop of water is important. It is Idaho water. We  
2 demand that salmon conservation be based on sound  
3 science.

4 You can have not one drop of Idaho water,  
5 not one Idaho job, and there will be not one land use  
6 restriction, not one drop, not one job, not one.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
9 Amy.

10 Craig Gehrke, followed by David Fokuria,  
11 followed by Hans Hayden.

12 MR. CRAIG GEHRKE: Thank you. My  
13 name is Craig Gehrke. I am the regional director for  
14 the Wilderness Society in Idaho. It is a conservation  
15 association that works on public land issues in the  
16 United States. We have about 200,000 members  
17 nationwide.

18 Our mission largely is to deal with wild  
19 land protection and the resources that those wild  
20 lands support, and certainly in Idaho a big part of  
21 those wild land resources are the salmon and steelhead  
22 populations.

23 A very wise man once wrote that the  
24 greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be  
25 judged by the way its animals are treated.

1                   We have not treated the Snake River  
2 steelhead and salmon very well. The wilderness  
3 society supports breaching of the four lower Snake  
4 dams, and aggressive measures to protect habitat.

5                   We were told at the beginning of the  
6 hearing that the salmon and steelhead are at serious  
7 risk of extinction. That serious risk calls for  
8 serious measures and serious steps to be taken.

9                   It's not time for more babble about better  
10 barges and better turbines. It's time to take the  
11 logical and critical step of bringing back the Lower  
12 Snake River as a river, to bring these fish back.

13                  It's disappointing that Idaho's political  
14 leaders continue to say a flat out no to the option of  
15 breaching. This kind of line in the sand response  
16 does nothing more than guarantee that the decisions on  
17 salmon recovery will not be made in Idaho.

18                  Whether it is wolf recovery, national  
19 forest wilderness area protection, or salmon  
20 protection, politicians do our state a real disservice  
21 by just flat opposition to options on the table.

22                  Again, that response means that the  
23 decision will not be made by local people, it will be  
24 made either through lawsuits or by people outside this  
25 region.

1                   One person who testified earlier implied  
2                   that salmon recovery basically is only about some  
3                   legacy for the Clinton administration. How  
4                   comfortable are Idaho's politicians going to be with  
5                   extinction of Idaho salmon and steelhead as their  
6                   legacy?

7                   Thank you for this hearing.

8                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
9                   much, Craig.

10                  David Fokuria, Hans Hayden, and Jim  
11                  Keating.

12                  MR. DAVID FOKURIA: Howdy. My name  
13                  is David Fokuria.

14                  I am glad to be able to come here and  
15                  testify in front of you guys.

16                  I would like to start out by saying I am a  
17                  five generation native Idahoan, and I need to say one  
18                  thing.

19                  We all have a problem here. We need to  
20                  work together as one to be able to recover the salmon.  
21                  If we bicker and fight, we do not go nowhere. We have  
22                  to learn to come together as one and only one.

23                  This is the only way the salmon will live,  
24                  before they become extinct.

25                  Okay. Our future is our children. We have

1 to make a point to show our children what our future  
2 is and let them have a future that we have.

3 I have been able to fish salmon twice  
4 legally in the state of Idaho in my 39 years, and that  
5 was once as a wild salmon and once as a hatchery fish  
6 on the south fork of the Salmon.

7 I believe that we shouldn't breach the  
8 dams. I think we need to control predators, like  
9 California sea lions, the Pacific harbor seal, and the  
10 terns off Rice Island, and various other predators.

11 The other predators can be the Chinese and  
12 the Japanese. They come out here and they come  
13 within a hundred miles of our coastal grounds.

14 We need to move their fisheries out 200  
15 miles out, stop the drift nets. Drift nets take every  
16 kind of fish. It has no mercy on anything.

17 I feel that the harvest, overharvesting of  
18 salmon in the late 1800's and early 1900's caused a  
19 very bad degradation of the salmon.

20 We have had some very serious fires on the  
21 Salmon Rivers and the locks that's destroyed our  
22 salmon habitat.

23 I feel that we should pass our heritage  
24 along to our children, but we need to make the right  
25 choice, and that is to come together as one and only

1 one.

2 Okay. I would like to be able to make a  
3 statement just a little bit here. I want to fish  
4 salmon again in the state of Idaho like my father did  
5 when he was young. And his father before him, and his  
6 grandfather and his grandfather before him. This is  
7 what I would like to ask.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
10 very much, David.

11 Hans Hayden, followed by Jim Keating,  
12 followed by Marti Bridges.

13 MR. HANS HAYDEN: My name is Hans  
14 Hayden. I am from Eastern Idaho, and I am  
15 representing the Idaho Wheat Commission.

16 I, like you, am worried for the salmon. We  
17 are making this everything but a salmon issue. The  
18 truth is, we all want to save the salmon. Placing  
19 recovery on dam removal will prove to be a failure for  
20 the salmon as also the economies, for the economies  
21 and the people.

22 We all know the speed of our political and  
23 court systems. This will surely block or greatly  
24 delay removal. This doesn't even consider the money  
25 appropriations and the engineering difficulties.

1                   My friends, I've seen a river after a dam  
2 removed itself, and salmon will not survive for five  
3 or ten years at least in an ecosystem of mud.

4                   Removal for many reasons is not the answer.

5                   Though some continue to claim that the  
6 passage through the dam seems to be the problem, your  
7 studies show and the science that the problem appears  
8 to be in the lower river and the oceans.

9                   But all our studies focus only on the dams.

10                  If we continue to follow this path the  
11 salmon will be gone. Dam removal talk does nothing  
12 for the real problem, because the science seems to  
13 show that's not where it's at.

14                  To save the salmon we must remove the  
15 emotional and political side. This can only be done  
16 with science that includes doable options. Spending  
17 time trying to remove dams will surely mean we lose  
18 the salmon and the people.

19                  Thank you.

20                                 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
21 Hans.

22                                 Jim Keating, followed by Marti Bridges,  
23 followed by Phil Doyle.

24                                 MR. JIM KEATING:     It's getting so we  
25 are almost having a one-on-one conversation here.

1                   My name is Jim Keating. I live at 12014  
2                   Ginger Creek, Boise. I am a fisherman. Long time  
3                   resident of Idaho. I am also a retired fisheries  
4                   biologist who as followed the saga of Idaho's  
5                   declining salmon runs since 1954, when my first job  
6                   with Idaho Fish and Game was a statewide survey of  
7                   salmon spawning streams. By air, by foot, by horse,  
8                   by helicopter, every way you could do it.

9                   In the period of 1954 to '67 as the salmon  
10                  and steelhead researcher and fisheries manager at  
11                  Lewiston, I saw a stream full of hundreds, some with  
12                  thousands of spawning salmon and steelhead.

13                 I saw hundreds of Potlatch workers come out  
14                 of the mill at Lewiston, grab their steelhead rods and  
15                 fish their lunches hours. I saw wee-eyed loggers and  
16                 Nez Perce Indians fight over fishing rocks at Sellway  
17                 Falls. I drove a hundred miles along the Salmon River  
18                 where every campground, every flat spot, every bar,  
19                 every restaurant, hotel, was filled with salmon  
20                 fishermen, and the river was filled with salmon.

21                 I even surveyed spawning grounds on the  
22                 Snake River at Marsing, where probably the largest  
23                 salmon, Chinook salmon in the continental U.S., these  
24                 big fish, they had to be to do that.

25                 Salmon and steelhead was a way of life and

1 the economic engine of Idaho's economy.

2 I am one of hundreds of fisheries  
3 biologists who has watched the failed techno-fixes  
4 such as the skimmer net at Brownlee, barging on the  
5 Snake River dams do little except provide employment  
6 for a cadre of researchers.

7 The only realistic option in my mind to  
8 return the salmon to the Snake River is to get them  
9 back to pre-dam levels, return the Snake River to its  
10 pre-dam condition. That is, to remove the dams.  
11 Notice, I said realistic option.

12 Do we really believe that Idaho's farmers  
13 will provide a million and a half acre-feet of water  
14 to speed up four reservoirs? Do we believe that a  
15 shutdown of all sport, tribal and commercial fishing  
16 is an option? Do we believe that the American  
17 conscience will go along with the massive slaughter of  
18 whales, sea lions, birds and other predators, even if  
19 it is doable?

20 One thing we can believe is there are those  
21 that will stall it out until the salmon are gone.

22 I ask you if we cannot muster the social  
23 courage and will to accept some cost and save the  
24 salmon, what species can we afford to save?

25 We've worked on snails, spotted owls,

1 everything else, and here we have an icon of the  
2 Pacific Northwest, and I'm afraid we're going to let  
3 it go.

4 What are we going to tell our children? We  
5 couldn't afford to save the most magnificent, most  
6 valuable species in the Snake River Basin, because it  
7 would raise our power bill minimally and cost a few  
8 more cents to ship subsidized wheat?

9 Salmon are not a creature of no value.  
10 They are of value. If we can't save them, again, what  
11 good does an Endangered Species Act, what species can  
12 we afford to save?

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
15 much, Jim.

16 Marti Bridges. And I just want to note  
17 that it's five o'clock right now. Is the panel  
18 willing to press on here?

19 COL. STROCK: Yes.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Marti is number  
21 39.

22 COL. STROCK: How many more do we  
23 have?

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: We have 75  
25 people signed up. Not 75 more. We are on number 39.

1 Marty is going to be 39.

2 COL STROCK: Yeah. Let's go to 5:30  
3 and see where we are then.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: So 5:30.

5 Marti Bridges, followed by Phil Doyle,  
6 followed by Jennifer Scott.

7 MS. MARTI BRIDGES: Thank you. My  
8 name is Marti Bridges. I am here representing myself.  
9 I am from Boise, Idaho.

10 Throughout my childhood I dreamed of seeing  
11 salmon and living amongst them. Unfortunately for me,  
12 I grew up in the landlocked Midwest. So I moved to  
13 Idaho in 1976 after graduating from college.

14 In 1976 when I moved here Red Fish Lake  
15 still had Sockeye salmon. Lots of them. Dagger  
16 Falls, the middle fork of the Salmon had hundreds of  
17 Chinook jumping over the falls.

18 In 1982, which was the last general  
19 steelhead fishing season in Idaho, I caught my first  
20 salmon on the -- or my first steelhead on the Salmon  
21 River near Clayton, Idaho. It was beginner's luck,  
22 and only three hours of fishing. So I felt very  
23 fortunate, having heard that the norm was closer to  
24 40.

25 But starting soon after that I noticed that

1       there were a lot less Sockeye salmon showing up in Red  
2       Fish Lake, and even fewer Chinook salmon at Dagger  
3       Falls.

4                   Now, I am sure you folks have sent those  
5       trendy ads featuring the pregnant waitress and the  
6       Palouse farmer who might lose their jobs if we breach  
7       the dams.

8                   What I ask is what about my husband who is  
9       a 13 year veteran guide on the middle fork of the  
10      Salmon? Fishing guide, I might add. Who no longer  
11      can take his clients fishing for salmon. What about  
12      my three-year old daughter's right to see or fish for  
13      steelhead.

14                   If we don't breach the four Lower Snake  
15      River dams, the only Idaho steelhead my daughter will  
16      see are the 19 professional hockey players who will  
17      play tonight some 200 yards away in the arena across  
18      the walk.

19                   There were plenty of salmon and steelhead  
20      in the Salmon River until we built four too many  
21      concrete monuments to mankind.

22                   People created this man-caused problem, and  
23      I believe that breaching of the dams is the one  
24      scientifically credible and critical element needed to  
25      fix Idaho's share of the salmon problem. And I say

1 Idaho's share.

2 Let's not forget all the people, let's  
3 breach the dams, and if we do, let's take Idaho water  
4 upstream of Brownlee Reservoir off the table for flow  
5 augmentation so we don't jeopardize our farmers. And  
6 furthermore let's provide some equitable mitigation  
7 measures to make the economies of the Lewiston  
8 Clarkston area whole for those folks, and honor our  
9 obligations to the Tribes and all the citizens of  
10 Idaho who are here because they want to have salmon.

11 My daughter and I are counting on you.  
12 Thanks.

13 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
14 Marti.

15 Phil Doyle, followed by Jennifer Scott,  
16 followed by Roger Singer.

17 MR. PHIL DOYLE: Hello. My name is  
18 Phil Doyle. And I have come here this afternoon to  
19 oppose the dam breaching proposal.

20 The breaching would take years to  
21 accomplish, and according to the National Marine  
22 Fisheries Service, will not bring these fish runs back  
23 to the levels we saw in the past.

24 However, consider some other options with  
25 me. First let us reduce the predators that have

1 reached epidemic portions over the last decade on the  
2 Lower Columbia.

3 The caspian terns, and I know we have heard  
4 a lot about them, but ten years ago I came from  
5 Warrington, Oregon. That's just down river from Rice  
6 Island. That's my old stomping grounds. I've seen  
7 what these terns can do.

8 The caspian terns who nest on and about the  
9 lower Columbia, along with coumarones ingest juvenile  
10 salmon at an alarming rate.

11 Estimates put the total at millions of  
12 smolts each year.

13 The caspian terns nest primarily on Rice  
14 Island, an island formed by dredging materials. The  
15 island needs to be eliminated, thus causing the terns  
16 to look elsewhere to nest.

17 The sea lions have reached numbers never  
18 before seen as a result of the protection given them.  
19 In 1944 -- or 1994 40 percent of the returning adult  
20 salmon had mammal scars on them, according to  
21 observations at the Bonneville Dam.

22 The tern, sea lion and coumarone numbers  
23 need to be cut back to ensure survival of juvenile as  
24 well as adult salmon.

25 Second, let's look at the fishing practices

1 of the past and the present. There are still foreign  
2 ships in the ocean with drift nets that stretch for  
3 miles, catching everything in their path. These same  
4 nets, if lost at sea, continue to catch fish for years  
5 to come. Many salmon reach their end in this manner.

6 In the past fishermen have been required to  
7 release the smaller salmon, called shakers, with the  
8 idea that the fish will grow larger if released. Some  
9 estimates state that 30 percent of these salmon die  
10 after release. What a waste of a precious resource.

11 Make the limit the same regardless of size.  
12 This will broaden the gene pool resulting in healthier  
13 fish stocks in the future.

14 Why are we considering a proposal that will  
15 cost 28.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide to be released  
16 into the atmosphere? This is what would happen if the  
17 cheap, clean, renewable hydroelectric power is  
18 replaced with fossil fuels that eventually will run  
19 out.

20 The power generated by the dams is far the  
21 most environmentally friendly.

22 In closing, let's look at reasonable,  
23 logical, common sense solutions to the recovery of our  
24 salmon. I propose that we initiate alternate fish  
25 recovery options such as improved guidance systems,

1 improved screening methods, and artificial streams  
2 which bypass reservoirs.

3 We need to implement improvements for the  
4 passage of juvenile salmon through modifications of  
5 spillways and turbines.

6 The breaching of the dams is a shot in the  
7 dark. With the arrow falling where it may. This is  
8 hardly the approach taken by thinking individuals  
9 looking for sound solutions.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
12 Phil.

13 Jennifer Scott, followed by Roger Singer,  
14 followed by Dale Pearce.

15 MS. JENNIFER SCOTT: Hi. My name is  
16 Jennifer Scott, and I am here representing students  
17 who are involved in an organization called TREE Club  
18 at Timberline High School.

19 TREE stands for Teens Restores Earth's  
20 Environment. It is an action oriented group that is  
21 very concerned about the fate of our vanishing  
22 species, especially the salmon in the Pacific  
23 Northwest.

24 At the beginning of the year TREE took a  
25 trip to Stoley Meadows and we witnessed salmon

1 spawning first hand. For many of the students it was  
2 their first time they had seen spawning in the natural  
3 habitat.

4 The students were deeply affected and moved  
5 by this experience. As one student said, I have read  
6 books about this and heard lectures, but to see the  
7 salmon up close makes me appreciate them more.

8 We then went to Lower Granite Dam near  
9 Lewiston, which is one of the four dams being  
10 discussed for removal. There we met engineers who  
11 presented their findings and showed us how the power  
12 plants operate and the devices that are in place to  
13 help them pass the dams.

14 We found that the dams did more harm than  
15 good to the salmon, and that the removal of the dams  
16 would be the most cost effective and beneficial way to  
17 replenish the salmon runs.

18 I am also here representing the future  
19 generation and parents in years who will have to live  
20 with the decisions that are paid by you, our elected  
21 representatives and decision makers.

22 Growing up in Alaska, I was first exposed  
23 to the wonderful salmon and its benefits to the people  
24 and the environment. The salmon not only provided the  
25 thriving tourist industry, but they also helped people

1           become more aware of the environment around them.

2                       I want my children to be able to experience  
3           the same things that I have, without having to go to  
4           Alaska to see them.

5                       If salmon are to be preserved for future  
6           generations, then the four Lower Snake River dams need  
7           to be removed.

8                       In closing, I ask you to consider how we as  
9           a society could live with the fact that we had the  
10          ability and opportunity to save the salmon and we let  
11          them go.

12                      Thank you.

13                      MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
14          very much.

15                      Roger Singer, followed by Dale Pearce,  
16          followed by Sherl Chapman.

17                      'MR. ROGER SINGER:     My name is Roger  
18          Singer and I represent the local Northern Rockies  
19          Chapter of Sierra Club, the oldest and largest of the  
20          many grass roots conservation groups here today to  
21          speak in support of saving wild salmon and steelhead  
22          and in support of Idaho's fish based economy.

23                      As I stand here today, I'm excited by the  
24          large wave of support we have seen for choosing to  
25          protect fish and fishermen over a series of outdated,

1 unnecessary monolithic concrete structures.

2 I am excited that Governor Kitzhaber of  
3 Oregon has joined us in supporting the only sensible  
4 alternative to save salmon by bypassing those four  
5 dams.

6 From Portland to Spokane to Lewiston, we  
7 have seen the strength and numbers of conservations,  
8 Americans and sportsmen who are allied with this noble  
9 effort.

10 I hope the U.S. Army Corps and the National  
11 Marine Fisheries Service starts to listen to the  
12 majority, because fortunately we are being ignored by  
13 the majority of Idaho's local elected officials.

14 Governor Kepthorne has chosen to play a  
15 public policy shell game with the salmon issue. He  
16 and his supporters have ignored the science, they have  
17 ignored the economics, and they have ignored public  
18 will.

19 They talk about finding a local solution  
20 but offer us nothing substantive.

21 Everyone remembers the old commercial that  
22 ends with where's the beef.

23 Well, as for Governor Kepthorne's plan, I  
24 need to ask him, where's the fish?

25 The solution really is very basic.

1 Bypassing these four dams offers the best chance for  
2 returning the levels of salmon, not only beyond  
3 endangered species status but also to harvestable  
4 levels.

5           Recreational fishing means more business  
6 and a vibrant Northwest economy.

7           In fact private business has already begun  
8 contingency plans to replace the small amount of  
9 energy we will lose when the dams are bypassed and it  
10 changed the method of cargo transportation.

11           The free market is ready and willing to  
12 respond to dam bypass, and it just makes a lot more  
13 sense to me to have grain on the highway and fish in  
14 the river, not the other way around.

15           This continued state policy of no, no, no  
16 chance, also will lead to the use of more Idaho water,  
17 perhaps an additional million acre-feet of water per  
18 year to try to send salmon over these fish killing  
19 dams.

20           Bypassing the dams means saving Idaho water  
21 for Idahoans.

22           Also, and very importantly, saving of the  
23 salmon will honor the treaties we have signed with  
24 Native Americans and prevent paying literally billions  
25 of dollars in reparations for breaking yet another

1 treaty.

2 The Nez Perce Tribes saved the Lewis &  
3 Clark expedition from starvation nearly 200 years ago  
4 partly by feeding them salmon. We should return the  
5 favor and make sure the Nez Perce continue to have  
6 salmon in their legacy as well as ours.

7 Over 30 years of studies and failed  
8 policies it is quite enough.

9 This is the time to protect the livability  
10 and accountability of our local communities. This is  
11 the time to take bold action to save the very symbol  
12 of our Northwest and Idaho heritage. This is the time  
13 to do the only thing, bypass these four dams. These  
14 dams just don't make sense for salmon or for people.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
17 Roger.

18 Dale Pearce, followed by Sherl Chapman,  
19 followed by Ted Eisele, or Eisele.

20 MR. DALE PEARCE: Dale Pearce, from  
21 Weiser.

22 Government has never been slow to pick up  
23 on the fact that all wealth comes from the earth. And  
24 I suppose that's why we're all here today, basically,  
25 because big government just happened to notice that

1 they control water, power to our property.

2 Our founders gave lawful Constitutional  
3 government one function, just enough power to protect  
4 our life, liberty and property, but not enough power  
5 to take our life, liberty and property.

6 Salmon is the crucible, salmon is the  
7 justification that divides Idahoans. It is about  
8 provocation, I believe, and it is about gauntlets.

9 Here we have salmon that have to get past  
10 the 200 mile corridor of Russian and Chinese and  
11 Japanese crawlers with their drag nets, then the terns  
12 going, and the seals coming, waiting to harvest their  
13 25 million smolts, then through the gill nets, before  
14 they even get to the dams on the Columbia River, much  
15 less the Snake River.

16 This causes me to question the sincerity of  
17 those that would impose a radical solution on a simple  
18 question. Ranchers and farmers, the ag producers, are  
19 now running the big government gauntlet of the BLM,  
20 OSHA, NMFS, the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and how  
21 about the U.S. Forest Service?

22 Now, have we any delusions that we will  
23 have better luck than the salmon at the end of this  
24 run? Do we really accept the premise that the lower  
25 four dams is where government would stop?

1                   This is an attack on property rights. And  
2                   America's economic base. Whether it's the 1.7 million  
3                   acres of coal confiscated in Utah or the spotted owl  
4                   or the ground squirrel or the grizzly, or how about  
5                   Big Foot?

6                   In April of 1994 Mr. Clinton said on MTV,  
7                   it is necessary to give up a little freedom in order  
8                   to get greater security.

9                   What other little freedoms like the right  
10                  to keep our property must we give up to achieve this  
11                  great security? Ben Franklin said those that would  
12                  give up essential liberty for temporary security  
13                  deserve neither liberty nor freedom.

14                  I think I will stick with Ben and not Bill.

15                  What provocation will it take to bring us  
16                  all into compliance? How about the house fly? Big  
17                  government would have to get rid of the American  
18                  housewife, and screen doors, since they are the  
19                  greatest obstacle to the generation of that species.

20                  This is the war on the west and we're not  
21                  allowed to win.

22                  I ask that we put the jeanie back in the  
23                  bottle. Government is to protect property, not to  
24                  take property.

25                  Let's quit straightening the deck chairs on

1 the Titanic. We need to breach the bureaucracies and  
2 regulation edits that are imposed by force upon us.

3 I'd like you to inundate your Congressmen  
4 with your letters and phone calls, and remember the  
5 declaration of independence where it says men are  
6 endowed by their creator with certain inalienable  
7 rights, that among these are life, liberty and the  
8 pursuit of happiness which our founding fathers said  
9 referred specifically to private property.

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
11 Dale.

12 Sherl Chapman, followed by Ted Eisele, I  
13 think it is, and Al Palin.

14 MR. SHERL CHAPMAN: Thank you for  
15 allowing us to testify on this important issue before  
16 you.

17 I want to focus my comments on the flow  
18 augmentation issues that are surrounding this  
19 particular concern of all of ours.

20 The Idaho Water Users Association is an  
21 association of irrigation districts and canal  
22 companies representing essentially about 1.9 million  
23 acres of irrigated land in Idaho.

24 We are the people who manage the water that  
25 essentially has been used for flow augmentation out of

1 Southern Idaho. We're the only group, the Idaho Water  
2 Users Association and the irrigators I represent, that  
3 had voluntarily stepped forward and contributed a  
4 resource in an effort to recover salmon and to gather  
5 data.

6 We've passed statutes through our  
7 legislature, we have voluntarily vented water to the  
8 Bureau of Reclamation for legal use of water for flow  
9 augmentation, in an effort to try to determine whether  
10 or not enhanced flows help the salmon.

11 Over the last ten years we've sent more  
12 than 20 billion acre-feet of water downstream. Part  
13 of that from the Snake River basin, part of it from  
14 the Clearwater basin, but all of it Idaho water.

15 Flow augmentation has occurred in Idaho  
16 since 1983. The 20 million acre-feet of water that I  
17 referred to has just occurred since 1990.

18 The issues that we have heard today  
19 discussed seem to focus on you either breach the dams  
20 or you take Idaho water. That's just not true.

21 As you are well aware, in the EIS and in  
22 the All-H paper, all of the options that include  
23 breaching include at least two million acre-feet of  
24 Idaho water as continued flow augmentation for salmon  
25 recovery.

1                   The studies that the National Marine  
2 Fisheries Service have put together indicate that  
3 there is absolutely zero increase in survival due to  
4 enhanced flow and flow augmentation.

5                   There is some data that would suggest that  
6 there may be a relationship between fall Chinook and  
7 the flow augmentation issues.

8                   Many would suggest, well, the answer is to  
9 take additional water. If you do that, then we lose  
10 at least 630,000 acres of irrigated land in Idaho at  
11 an annual cost of over 430 million dollars, according  
12 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation studies.

13                   That's not reasonable, that's not prudent,  
14 and it's not the way that I think the Pacific  
15 Northwest ought to move ahead.

16                   Clearly flow augmentation does not work, it  
17 should be discarded as one of the options.

18                   There are other options to use. There are  
19 other things that we can look at. But clearly taking  
20 water from Idaho's farmers is not the answer. It  
21 should not be considered as a given. This is  
22 something we voluntarily contributed.

23                   We will work with the agencies. But it is  
24 Idaho water.

25                   Thank you.

1                           MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
2     Sherl.

3                           Ted Eisele, Al Palin, and Lahsha Johnston.

4                           MR. TED EISELE:     Thank you.   I am Ted  
5     Eisele.   I am from Boise.

6                           I want to first of all thank you all for  
7     coming to our fair city today.   We really appreciate  
8     the chance to talk to you and give you our feelings on  
9     this critical issue.

10                          I also want to say you don't look like a  
11     bunch of stuffy East Coast bureaucrats.   And I  
12     apologize for that, but that's what I have been  
13     hearing all day on the radio.   There's an ad by the  
14     Lieutenant Governor of our fair state, saying that  
15     today we are going to have a bunch of East Coast  
16     bureaucrats talking to a bunch fish friendly radicals.

17                          And I'm sorry, but I don't feel like a  
18     radical because I love salmon, and as I look around  
19     the room today, I haven't seen a lot of people who  
20     look out of the ordinary to me either.

21                          I don't see anything radical about loving  
22     salmon, and appreciating the resource that we've had  
23     as a heritage in our state and that we are losing, and  
24     that we desperately want to keep.   I don't see  
25     anything radical about saying that the dams should be

1       breached, when these dams produce only 4 percent of  
2       the Northwest power, when they serve only 13  
3       Washington farms with irrigation water, which these  
4       farms can still be served if they put in pumps.

5                When the barge system that we've talked  
6       about moves only 18 percent of Idaho's grain and 2  
7       percent of our timber, all subsidized by the taxpayer,  
8       I don't understand why the railways and the trucking  
9       systems can't carry these commodities, and why we as  
10      taxpayers have to supplement, or subsidize this  
11      system.

12               I came up with a little mathematical  
13      equation to express my feelings. It goes like this.  
14      Breach the dams, plus stop barging, plus stop  
15      dredging, equals saving tax dollars, plus returning to  
16      the free market system for grain slipping, plus the  
17      return of salmon, plus 170 million dollars and 4,500  
18      jobs for the local river economies, plus saving water  
19      for Idaho farms.

20               Now, that seems to me to be a win-win  
21      situation.

22               We keep hearing how this is a really  
23      difficult issue and there are terrible trade-offs in  
24      this decision, but it seems to me that if we breach  
25      the dams there is a terrible up side for an awful lot

1 of people.

2 Finally, I want to say that two years ago I  
3 went to Alaska to fish for salmon, because that's been  
4 a dream of mine all my life. I have lived in  
5 southwest Idaho for 20 years. And I went up to Alaska  
6 two years ago, and I caught salmon. It was a  
7 tremendous experience.

8 Those were the first salmon I had seen in  
9 the wild in my entire life. After 20 years in Idaho I  
10 had never seen one. But I saw them in Alaska.

11 Now, I recognize it's going to take a while  
12 to bring salmon back. Maybe for me, if I want to see  
13 salmon, I am going to have to continue to go to  
14 Alaska.

15 But I want my children to see salmon in  
16 Idaho. And if you have the courage to take the right  
17 step and breach the dams, I am hopeful that they will.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
20 Ted.

21 Al Palin, Lahsha Johnston, and Bart, I  
22 think it's Bart Burchert, Burchert.

23 MR. AL PALIN: I'd like to thank the  
24 committee for extending the comment period. And thank  
25 you for showing up today.

1                   My name is Al Palin and I am speaking for  
2 myself today.

3                   According to the Food and Drug  
4 Administration study done in 1996, one Chinook salmon  
5 was traced from the central Aleutian Islands of Alaska  
6 and was recovered one year later 3500 miles away on  
7 the Salmon River in Idaho.

8                   This shows that they migrate great  
9 distances and are subject to immense fishing  
10 pressures, from Russia, from Japan, U.S. commercial  
11 fishermen, before they even reach the Columbia River.

12                  On the Forest Service web page on  
13 endangered salmon it states, overharvesting of Chinook  
14 salmon by commercial, recreational, and subsistence  
15 fisheries as well as disease may contribute to the  
16 decline of this stock.

17                  There was not one word mentioned about  
18 dams.

19                  On the Scena and Frazer Rivers in British  
20 Columbia salmon, salmon populations have declined from  
21 '94 until 1998, the last year that data was available.

22                  It is important to note that on these two  
23 rivers there are no dams.

24                  Wolves were supposedly extinct in Idaho, so  
25 stocks were brought in from Canada. People are happy.

1 The wolves are near delisting. So let's explore the  
2 best way to restore salmon runs and improving the  
3 dams. If the stocks run low, import salmon from  
4 Russia, Canada, or Alaska, because if wolves are  
5 wolves, salmon are salmon. Their DNA isn't that  
6 different.

7 On the transportation issue. Three days  
8 ago on CNN it was stated that one over-the-road diesel  
9 truck in one year emits pollution equal to 3,000 cars.

10 If ocean access is denied to the Port of  
11 Lewiston, think of the pollution that that will  
12 involve. This in turn will cause more government  
13 regulations. Do we really need that?

14 On the loss of farm land. When you halt  
15 food production somewhere, someone in the world is  
16 going to go hungry. There's enough hunger in the  
17 world now.

18 I love to fish and I would love to see the  
19 salmon return. But environmental species act critics  
20 say it does not go far enough.

21 I say if we give wolves, salmon, grizzly  
22 bears, snail darters and bruno nails the same value as  
23 human life, then I say the ESA doesn't address the  
24 problem at all. If they are equal to humans, then  
25 humans become the endangered species. We will be on

1 the slippery slope to government mandated population  
2 control. Don't go there.

3 I support Alternative 2. And I oppose  
4 Alternative 4.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
7 much, Al.

8 Lahsha Johnston, followed by is it Bart?  
9 Is Lahsha here? You know who you are, the next  
10 person. Come on up. You're the next one. Followed  
11 by Glenn Burdick.

12 MS. JANET BURCHERT: I am Janet  
13 Burchert, and I am a citizen. You all have done such  
14 a nice job of being attentive, and I really appreciate  
15 it.

16 I'm going to get rid of about  
17 three-quarters of this in hopes of getting someone  
18 else up.

19 I'm here today in support of Alternative 4  
20 in the Corps's Draft EIS and urge you to increase  
21 investment in all of the Hs, including dam removal, as  
22 outlined in the All-H paper.

23 I have come to believe after a significant  
24 amount of personal study that breaching the lower four  
25 dams on this river system and improving habitat and

1 hatcheries provides the best alternative suggested so  
2 far to restore our salmon and steelhead runs.

3 I don't say this without also knowing that  
4 we must invest to mitigate negative impacts to some  
5 farmers and the people of Lewiston. We can do that  
6 more effectively than the report currently states, I  
7 think.

8 Please revisit that section along with cost  
9 associated with loss of power. I think they are too  
10 high.

11 This is one of the those defining moments  
12 when we can turn forward or we can hold onto the past.  
13 I would urge to you help us move ahead with aggressive  
14 measures to save salmon.

15 Thanks.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
17 Janet.

18 Glen Burdick, followed by Evelyn  
19 Marzinelli, followed by Gary Richardson. Are any of  
20 those people here?

21 Evelyn.

22 MS. EVELYN MARZINELLI: Hi. Thank  
23 you for being here and thank you for waiting to let me  
24 speak.

25 My name is Evelyn Marzinelli and I am a

1 citizen and I am also the great granddaughter of wagon  
2 train emigrants to Idaho, even though I had the  
3 misfortune of being born in a state that starts with a  
4 C that nobody says.

5 About dam breaching, which I think is the  
6 bottom line of what we are talking about. Well, one  
7 step above the salmon.

8 The four dams on the Lower Snake River must  
9 be breached if there is any chance at all of bringing  
10 back wild salmon runs in Idaho.

11 We have all heard the opinions of the  
12 majority of scientists who agree. The majority.

13 The few scientists who disagree have  
14 conflicts of interest, I believe. They have been  
15 hired by those companies or entities who have been  
16 feeding at the trough for all these years.

17 Humans are not going extinct. Idaho salmon  
18 are. Almost all humans have the God given ability to  
19 change, learn and adapt. Just because one's job is no  
20 longer needed, alternative jobs can be found or even  
21 made.

22 How do I know? Four times in my life I  
23 have had to move my family to another city or state  
24 because of layoffs. Three times were because of the  
25 actions of Congress who capriciously changed defense

1 contracts from one state to another. Once was because  
2 a corporation decided to close one of its operations,  
3 and I luckily ended up back in Idaho.

4 My family and I survived and we learned and  
5 we adapted, always with unexpected favorable results.

6 With all due respect and compassion for  
7 those relatively few people who may have to relocate  
8 or learn a new profession, if the dams are breached, I  
9 hope, with help from the rest of us, through  
10 government aid, I believe industries or jobs should  
11 not be maintained or subsidized by taxpayers as a  
12 whole, merely for the sustaining of the work force,  
13 especially when such a grave loss, the extinction of a  
14 once vibrant species, is the cost.

15 The largest benefactor of the small amount  
16 of cheap electricity produced by the dams is the old  
17 inefficient aluminum industry. It and other like  
18 minded businesses have exerted years of influence with  
19 some Northwest politicians through huge payouts to  
20 political campaigns, lobbyists, and by misleading  
21 emotional advertising.

22 Their factories and businesses should be  
23 upgraded to use the least, not the most electricity.

24 With rigorous support of electricity  
25 conservation methods all of the electricity users

1           could easily save the amount of electricity now wasted  
2           by inefficiency.

3                        If we study long enough and we wait long  
4           enough, argue long enough, there will be nothing to  
5           study, nothing to weight for and nothing to argue  
6           over.

7                        Is that what dam proponents hope for?

8                        Fish extinction is forever. If a human  
9           loses his life, he can adapt. If a salmon loses its  
10          job, it dies.

11                       MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
12          Evelyn.

13                       And Jerry Richardson, are you here?

14                       Okay. It is 5:30 at this point. Can I see  
15          how many people are still waiting here that wanted to  
16          speak? Four people.

17                       COL. STROCK: We will take all four of  
18          them.

19                       MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Okay. Great.  
20          Where were the hands again? Let's just start here,  
21          and if you guys could just come up to the microphones  
22          and we will get right on through here. Thanks very  
23          much for waiting.

24                       MR. DELBERT ESPLIN:     Science changes  
25          through the years.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Give us your  
2 name.

3 MR. DELBERT ESPLIN: Delbert Esplin.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks.

5 MR. DELBERT ESPLIN: On my own.

6 Trying to farm and can't us because of the conditions  
7 of the government. I tried to.

8 My kids are not going to be able to farm.

9 My heritage is gone.

10 I know to breach the dams is going to hurt,  
11 cost a lot of money. It is great to save the salmon.  
12 But there hasn't been a thing mentioned here, maybe a  
13 little bit, the fact that we are worried about the  
14 Native Americans, we are worried about the salmon, we  
15 are worried about these, but nobody gives a darn about  
16 water rights.

17 Where's our government on water rights? No  
18 one gives a darn. They aren't state owned. The water  
19 is owned by the state, if they remember back when  
20 America was America. And they don't care about  
21 homesteads. They are going to take them.

22 They don't care about range rights.

23 They're taking them.

24 And minority is not to be ruled by  
25 majority.

1                   There is only 12 farmers, ranchers over on  
2 the Owyhee, that is no reason to be kicked off.

3                   That is not the American way. The American  
4 way was set up to protect the minority and protect his  
5 property, and we are not protecting property. We are  
6 losing, we are losing, we are losing.

7                   And I have already been hurt by it. They  
8 turned water down the Payette River, Black Canyon,  
9 promised I would get, they turned it down in August.  
10 It is hard to finish a crop in this warm country  
11 without that water.

12                   So they are already hurting me. My kids  
13 have to leave. And it's all nonsense. And these  
14 people go on talking about support. Farmer support.

15                   Price supports hurt the farmers. They help  
16 the buyer. They keep the prices so low. I milked  
17 cows, and I never did get down to the low price.  
18 That's nonsense.

19                   And I lived by a park, I was raised by a  
20 park, and I know they are not going to quit pushing.  
21 I know back 40 years ago, the environmentalists said  
22 they were going to take forest service, no desert.  
23 Now they are taking desert.

24                   If they take these four dams, they will  
25 take Black Canyon, they will take the ones up Alder,

1 they'll take every dam they can get, and they are  
2 dishonest.

3 They are kind of like some people in  
4 Washington, D.C. are, they don't always tell the  
5 truth, like who invented the Internet and who they  
6 have in the oval office with them on Sunday  
7 afternoon.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
10 very much, Delbert.

11 Next here.

12 MS. ANNE HAUSRATH: My name is Anne  
13 Hausrath. I want to thank you for listening and  
14 staying so long and letting us speak.

15 I really appreciate the opportunity. A lot  
16 has been said here today. I am going to keep it  
17 simple. I urge you, breach the dams and provide  
18 mitigation to those who will suffer economically.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. JEFF ABRAMS: Thanks for giving  
21 me the chance here.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Your name.

23 MR. JEFF ABRAMS: My name is Jeff  
24 Abrams, live here in Boise.

25 We meet in an hour of change and challenge

1 in the decade of hope and fear in an age of both  
2 knowledge and ignorance.

3 The greater our knowledge increases, the  
4 greater our ignorance unfolds.

5 We choose to go to the moon in this decade,  
6 not because it is easy, but because it is hard. But  
7 it will be done. At that moment in American history  
8 President John F. Kennedy made a profound commitment.  
9 In that bold commitment of choice and decision a  
10 parodym was shattered. Success was a deliberative  
11 process initiated that very instant of commitment.

12 The spirit and courage of the words of  
13 President Kennedy are the antithesis of the convoluted  
14 salmon recovery process that has been long on acronyms  
15 and short on truth.

16 The notion of having the United States  
17 military coordinate with marine fisheries commerce  
18 regulators on endangered species recovery is akin to  
19 having Volkswagen and Tillamook cheese company plan a  
20 mission to the moon.

21 We have spent close to four billion dollars  
22 and used almost as many excuses in our failed attempt  
23 to justify a mistake that was committed by a region  
24 and a government during the far different era.

25 The socialistic styled economies that

1 established the west, providing jobs, and an  
2 artificial demand for power have long been outdated.  
3 Market forces are taking over, despite the lobbying  
4 efforts of the pork barrel beneficiaries of the status  
5 quo.

6 In the new millennium capitalism and  
7 competition will drive the economies of the Northwest.  
8 Enterprising individuals and businesses are coming to  
9 recognize and take advantage of this shift.

10 Northwest power enterprises met last week  
11 with the officials in Eastern Washington to present a  
12 five million dollar project to produce 1100 megawatts  
13 of electricity near the city of Starbuck. Lyons Ferry  
14 Power Company has a similar proposal in the  
15 preliminary stages of development.

16 Citing increased flexibility and the  
17 emergence of competitive rail shipping costs, a four  
18 million dollar grain elevator and storage facility is  
19 being constructed in the Tri-Cities area.

20 Time and time again market economies have  
21 proven that they can react to new situations and  
22 create solutions that are better and far more  
23 efficient.

24 In addition to our economies social  
25 attitudes are evolving as well. Slowly but surely

1 people are recognizing that the earth is not flat.

2 Mankind's place in this world is now being  
3 examined more holistically, priorities are being  
4 reevaluated, the measure of success of our human  
5 condition is being redefined.

6 Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's recent  
7 comments embodied this fundamental shift when he  
8 asked, will we as a region act to save the salmon or  
9 let them go extent?

10 To me there is but one answer. We must.

11 Humans are the species that has the ability  
12 to change and adapt. The fish in this instance  
13 cannot. The breath taking speed at which we have  
14 altered so fundamentally the environment of salmon and  
15 steelhead, has rendered their course of evolution  
16 useless. They are going away unless we choose  
17 otherwise.

18 In closing, 40 years ago we made a  
19 commitment to put a man on the moon. Courage, honor  
20 and dignity will put the fish back into our rivers.

21 Breach the dams.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
23 Jeff.

24 And our final speaker this afternoon.

25 MR. DICK DAHGREN: Yeah. My name is

1 Dick Dahgren. I am with Vision Folks of the West, and  
2 I am also a real estate broker of 30 years. My  
3 specialty has been recreational real estate, mainly  
4 along the rivers and streams.

5 I have two problems with what I have read  
6 as far as some of your findings.

7 And the first one is, it deals with the use  
8 of hatcheries and future mitigation plans.

9 And I would like to remind the panel that  
10 those hatcheries, you know, from Little Salmon, Rapid  
11 River, Pasimerine, New Meadows, Saw-tooth, Dwarshak,  
12 they were constructed for one purpose, and that was to  
13 provide salmon and steelhead for fishing, for  
14 recreational fishing.

15 The Saw-tooth hatchery alone had a  
16 mitigation plan that called for 18,500 fish annually.  
17 This year we had 197 fish.

18 So I have a little problem if you are  
19 including the sports fishing aspect of these  
20 hatcheries as part of an ESA component.

21 And the second point that I would like to  
22 address, I would like you very much to reconsider and  
23 perhaps develop an addendum, is the value of  
24 recreational real estate, a resurgence in the value of  
25 these properties as little ghost towns, tiny cabins

1 here and there, along all the rivers in Idaho, not  
2 just the larger cities, you know, the Claytons. I'm  
3 talking about everywhere you see a little cabin that  
4 is dilapidated, it is vacant, falling down, has been  
5 vandalized.

6 I have been talking to some of my associate  
7 brokers that have dealt in real estate, what do you  
8 think the value is, if we had a good strong fishery  
9 that would return to Idaho, what do you think the  
10 value would be per year? Very conservatively, 100  
11 million dollars in real estate sales.

12 That has not been addressed in any of the  
13 plans, and I think it should be included as part of  
14 whatever, maybe a separate category, or at least part  
15 of the recreation features.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
18 very much.

19 And thank you all very much for staying  
20 with us for the entire afternoon, and thank you to the  
21 panel for listening, and thank you to the rest of you  
22 for sitting here and listening to everybody else.

23 I appreciate your assistance today. And  
24 appreciate being welcomed here in Boise as well as we  
25 have been.

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Thank you, and we will see you later.

(5:45 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF OREGON )  
2 County of Umatilla ) ss.  
3 )

4 I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify  
5 that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the  
6 caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified  
7 Shorthand Reporter for the State of Oregon; that at  
8 said time and place I reported in stenotype all  
9 testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing  
10 matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to  
11 typewriting and that the foregoing transcript  
12 consisting, of 174 typewritten pages is a true and  
13 correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and  
14 proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

15 Witness my hand at Pendleton, Oregon, on  
16 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2000.

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 William J. Bridges  
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
23 Certificate No. 91-0244  
24 My certificate expires: 10-31-01  
25