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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

6:30 P.M.

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

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1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you
2 very much. And thank you Rick, for the overview.

3 Get everybody up to speed here. I didn't
4 get any written comments, so I'm just going to go
5 ahead now and move on to our oral testimony, beginning
6 with our elected officials first.

7 And before the elected officials begin, let
8 me just give everybody just a brief reminder of some
9 ground rules. There are a lot of people that have
10 come in since I gave the ground rules. Let me boil
11 them into three pretty simple ground rules for
12 tonight's meeting.

13 It looks like we have got, between elected
14 officials and members of the public, it looks like we
15 have just got 70 people tonight, so that should put us
16 somewhere between 11 and 11:30.

17 So in the interest of the interest of that,
18 these three ground rules should move us along.

19 First of all, treat everybody with respect.
20 No interruptions, no clapping, no cheering, no
21 jeering.

22 The second one is when you need to get to
23 the microphone, when I call your name to get to the
24 microphone, please be there so you can move on and
25 move off as soon as that red light goes off, and we

1 will keep rolling along.

2 The third one is if you can keep your
3 comments and your conversations down and your cell
4 phones off, we would all appreciate that.

5 For your oral testimony, for those of you
6 who have joined later, I am Donna Silverberg. I am
7 the moderator for the oral testimony and this
8 evening's meeting.

9 I am going to call your name to come up
10 based on the sign-up sheets. I have three sheets here
11 and I am going to take the number one from each of the
12 sheets. If you saw your numbers there, that is
13 basically the number you are going to be called. I
14 will move to the second line and so on.

15 Again, I will begin with the elected
16 officials and I will give you a heads up on who's
17 coming. I will call the name of the person who is up
18 and then the person who is going to be next and the
19 person who is going to be on deck.

20 Please be ready to speak. So as soon as
21 you hear your name, if you could just move forward to
22 one of the microphones so you could jump up, that
23 would be great.

24 If we need to bring a microphone to you,
25 please let us know, raise your hand and let us know,

1 we will get you a microphone.

2 As soon as you come up to speak, if you
3 will watch these handy lights here in front of us. We
4 have got the green light means speak, the yellow light
5 indicates you have 60 section left and the red light,
6 yes, you guessed it, means stop. And at the end of
7 the time, if you could leave the microphone, great.

8 For those of you who are reading off a
9 script, we will ring the bell as well.

10 We hope to accommodate everybody who wants
11 to speak tonight. So as I said, if we could just keep
12 folks moving along, we will get as many of you in here
13 as we can.

14 Again for those of you who didn't hear
15 earlier, there is in the other room, in the open house
16 room, there is a booth you could go testify into, so
17 if we start running a little late for you and you want
18 to get your comments heard by the federal officials
19 here, please go put it on the tape recorder in the
20 other room, or don't hesitate to put it in writing.

21 Please indicate whether you are commenting
22 on the Corps' Environmental Impact Statement or the
23 federal caucus' All-H paper, or both. And if you
24 don't know which one you are commenting on, that's all
25 right, we'll do our best to get it sorted out and get

1 it to the right agency for you.

2 Also, if you could please state your name
3 and the organization or agency that you are going to
4 be representing or that you are with, if any.

5 And with that, let's kick off. Is
6 everybody ready for the testimony to begin?

7 Yes. Okay. Great. So, let me start with
8 the public officials. And we will start first with
9 Laird Noh, followed by Bob Lee, followed by Grant
10 Ipsen.

11 And the lights are right here. Microphone
12 here, microphone there, and there's a microphone on
13 the far side. So thank you all very much.

14 MR. LAIRD NOH: Thank you very much.
15 My name is Laird Noh. I serve as chairman of the
16 Senate, Resources and Environment Committee. That
17 committee and the counterpart committee in the House
18 have responsibility for salmon and endangered species
19 and water issues.

20 The two committees had a very constructive
21 I think informative two hour session this afternoon
22 with Ms. Darm and other federal officials. We
23 appreciate that.

24 The legislature is struggling, and the
25 committees are struggling with this issue of whether

1 to renew the state authorization for the 427,000
2 acre-feet of water to go downriver for salmon
3 purposes.

4 One of our concerns is that there appears
5 to be very little data, and what data there is is of a
6 general nature, rather than a marginal, precise
7 nature, that even the 427,000 acre-feet, which has
8 been committed in good water years and bad water years
9 since 1992, has a positive effect on salmon recovery.

10 We are also concerned that until the
11 delayed mortality factor is better evaluated and
12 resolved, much of the data is somewhat specious in
13 nature, particularly the data which is based upon
14 models.

15 Now, in order for the legislature to make a
16 finding that the legislation should be authorized and
17 extended, the law as it exists stipulates, and may I
18 read, that any water made available through this
19 action shall be obtained only from willing
20 lessors.

21 It is the intent of the legislature of the
22 state of Idaho that further extensions of this section
23 be provided only if other parties make sufficient
24 progress toward providing a proportional contribution
25 to solving the salmon migration problems.

1 I think we all must recognize we must share
2 the pain. The citizens of Idaho, the irrigation
3 community, has contributed 427,000 acre-feet of water
4 since 1992. The cost needs to be spread evenly,
5 proportionately and fairly, to the benefit of the
6 salmon downstream from the irrigation areas throughout
7 the Snake and the Columbia River and the ocean
8 fisheries.

9 We wrapped up our hearing today with
10 comments and discussions with Mr. Todd True from the
11 Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund. And he laid out for
12 us the four different lawsuits which they are engaged
13 in.

14 And I think that served as a good reminder
15 to the members of our committee, and hopefully to the
16 citizens of the state of Idaho and political leaders,
17 that if we fail to come together and find a wise and
18 judicious settlement, there are other ways in which
19 these decisions will be made.

20 I might quickly add, we learned something
21 else at that hearing. And we will discuss that with
22 you later. We're not happy with this dredging project
23 we learned about that apparently is adding to the size
24 and dimensions of Rice Island, which may foster
25 additional terns.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very
2 much, Larry.

3 Bob Lee, followed by Grant Ipsen, followed
4 by Joe Stegner.

5 MR. ROBERT LEE: My name is Robert
6 Lee. I am a State Senator from Eastern Idaho, the
7 upper Snake River valley. I am also co-chair of our
8 interim legislative committee on electrical
9 restructuring. I'm a registered civil engineer.

10 I want to tell you that most of the 28,000
11 people that I represent are really opposed to dam
12 breaching and to further flow augmentation.

13 I will talk about the dam breaching in just
14 a minute and why we are am opposed to that.

15 But flow augmentation would devastate our
16 region in dry years. We have many irrigation
17 reservoirs that would have to be drawn down to the
18 minimum levels. It would ruin our recreational
19 industry, all the summer homes that are around those
20 reservoirs. That really has to be a factor to be
21 considered.

22 But I want to speak mainly about the
23 Bonneville Power exchange program that could be
24 dramatically affected by the breaching of the
25 dams.

1 As you are probably familiar, the exchange
2 program was authorized by the Northwest Power Act of
3 1980. Citizens in the Northwest and in our case in
4 Eastern Idaho, who have high power rates, received
5 exchange credits from BPA in the form of dollars that
6 reduced our high power rates so Eastern Idaho would
7 benefit in the lower BPA rates.

8 Those amounts of benefits during the
9 current five-year period that we are in that ends June
10 30th, 2001, are \$47,693,863. That's a great benefit
11 to our area.

12 In the next five-year period, from 2001 to
13 2006, BPA has proposed a new program called the BPA
14 subscription program. We are supposed to get a
15 hundred megawatts of power in this five-year period in
16 Idaho, and then in the next five-year period 240
17 megawatts. This is part of a thousand megawatts of
18 firm power from BPA and another 800 megawatts of
19 purchased power.

20 If those dams are removed, which we
21 understand have a capacity of somewhere around 1200
22 megawatts, the four dams, we would likely lose that
23 credit, because we are on the short end. The
24 preference customers get the BPA credit first, and we
25 would be without.

1 And so it would be a great loss to Eastern
2 Idaho. And I urge you to consider that.

3 One further comment. Please look at what
4 Canada's doing to recover their runs. They have no
5 dams on the Scena River and the Frazier River, they
6 have taken dramatic steps to recover their salmon, and
7 they have not removed any dams. And the salmon runs I
8 understand are coming back.

9 I think you understand that their runs have
10 declined in almost mirror fashion in the way that some
11 runs have declined in the Columbia River system. So
12 there's something else going on besides the dams.

13 And I am sorry that we did not hear
14 anything about those ocean conditions, what's
15 happening there.

16 Don't just focus on the dams.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
19 Robert.

20 Grant Ipsen, followed by Joe Stegner,
21 followed by Jack Barraclough.

22 Sorry. Let me apologize to everybody right
23 now, if I mispronounce your name. No disrespect is
24 meant. Thank you.

25 MR. GRANT IPSEN: Thank you. My name

1 is Grant Ipsen. I am a State Senator, serve right
2 here in Boise. I am chairman of the Senate Health
3 and Welfare Committee.

4 My background is a CPA, so I focus on the
5 economics. And I believe that the economics that are
6 shown here tonight on the slides speak for themselves.

7 It's one alternative is so terribly
8 expensive, it seems to me, and will have some grave
9 economic effects on Idaho.

10 As I read the H paper, the thick book, I
11 think that is that you sent me, I won't say I read
12 everything about it, but I read a lot of it, it seems
13 like there's a lot of questions, and that's what I
14 heard tonight, there's questions, we don't know a lot
15 of answers, we need time.

16 And I would just ask that the very strong
17 approach to breaching dams be carefully considered,
18 because I think that there's a lot of other things
19 that could be looked at.

20 For example, adjusting the seasons for
21 fisheries. Maybe opening the locks. I don't know.
22 I'm not a technical person on that. But in some way
23 let's work with other alternatives before that kind of
24 a real serious step is taken.

25 Thank you very much.

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

3 Joe Stegner, followed by Jack Barraclough,
4 and June Judd.

5 MR. JOE STEGNER: Hello. I am Joe
6 Stegner. I am a State Senator from Lewiston, Idaho.

7 You may find this very surprising, but I
8 oppose dam breaching. I oppose it because, and I
9 don't think I am the only one in that region I think,
10 actually the majority of the people in the Lewiston
11 area, and the Clarkston, Washington, area and the
12 central Idaho area and the Central Washington area
13 oppose it because it represents a lot of an awful lot
14 of benefits, benefits of navigation, recreation, and a
15 considerable social advantage that we have because of
16 the existence of the dams right now.

17 I would encourage you to consider what I
18 believe are two very obvious realities.

19 One, first reality, is there is not the
20 scientific justification or evidence that is solid
21 enough now to warrant the high costs of dam breaching.

22 And the second reality is that there is not
23 at the moment the political will in the region or the
24 nation to spend that money to remove dams.

25 I would encourage you to concentrate on

1 those realities and move dam breaching off the table
2 so that this region, including the four Northwestern
3 states, can concentrate on a plan or series of plans
4 and a series of actions that are not merely as
5 divisive as dam breaching has been.

6 That would be very nice to have the region
7 focused in one direction, or a number of directions,
8 that have broad support and did not have the
9 contentious nature of dam breaching.

10 I think that our energies would be better
11 spent, our time would be better spent, and the focus
12 would hopefully develop much better results.

13 Thank you.

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

16 Jack, I will let you say your last name,
17 followed by June Judd, followed by Mary Lou Shepherd.

18 MR. JACK BARRACLOUGH: Jack
19 Barraclough. I am a State Representative from Eastern
20 Idaho. I'm a certified professional hydrologist.
21 I've got about 50 years of water and environmental
22 studies.

23 I'm chairman of the House Environmental
24 Affairs Committee. I'm a member of the Pacific
25 Fisheries Management Council. The only legislature --

1 legislator ever to be on one of the eight management
2 councils. And I'm chairman of the Pacific Fisheries
3 Legislative Task Force.

4 So you see that fisheries issues takes up a
5 large part of my time other than in the legislature.

6 But I think of the salmon recovery much as
7 I think of restoring an old automobile. You can't
8 just rebuild the engine. You can't just do the
9 transmission. You've got to do it all.

10 And that's the failure with most of the
11 federal plans.

12 Oh, I know the federal system, I was 35
13 years as a research hydrologist for the U.S.
14 Geological Survey. You can't just do a little bit
15 here. That's the problem with the proposals here.
16 You've got to look at the whole system. And you've
17 got to consider, where are the fish losses, where can
18 we improve them, where can we do the research to
19 better understand what's happening.

20 Very little is known about ocean
21 conditions. We don't have observers on fishing boats.
22 We don't have a buy-back program for commercial
23 fishing. We don't have very much research going on in
24 the ocean.

25 Ten years ago we didn't know, hardly know

1 what el nino' meant, or la nino'. So you've got to
2 really look at the whole package.

3 And then for the Army Corps, I would say
4 this, you build wonderful dams, but I'm not much of a
5 fan of Rice Island because we lose about a third or a
6 fourth of our smolts.

7 And the Rice Island story is a pretty good
8 story, because it says the smolts are getting through
9 the eight dams with the improvements you made, but
10 they end up there with the caspian terns. The largest
11 colony of caspian terns on an artificial island.

12 If I were King, that island would be
13 removed about three -- or below water level in a very
14 short time.

15 The pinnipeds, or sea lions and seals, have
16 become great predators, and we just stay there and
17 say, well, we can't do anything about it, and we do
18 very, very little.

19 And we do little with the terns.

20 You've got to do more than just plant
21 grass. It isn't working.

22 Some of the proposals that have been
23 studied, University of Idaho says we need to build a
24 canal parallel to the reservoirs.

25 There's a lot of work that John Woodworth,

1 former director of Idaho Fish and Game, that developed
2 a pipe system inside, using sonic transducers to guide
3 the smolts over to the pipe system and reduce the
4 travel time, keep the system intact. And to me it's
5 just foolish to think of breaching the dams.

6 There are a liner would be another
7 possibility inside the pipeline.

8 Just many things could be done. But we've
9 got to look at it as a whole package, and then we've
10 got to preserve the economy.

11 Flow augmentation from the studies made in
12 Idaho is not really a help for the fish.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

16 June Judd, followed by Mary Lou Shepherd,
17 followed by Bert Stevenson.

18 MS. JUNE JUDD: General, members of
19 the panel, I serve a district from North Central Idaho
20 just on the outskirts of Lewiston that surround that
21 area.

22 I am a representative, serving my fifth
23 term in the legislature. And I'm speaking tonight as
24 a member of the Pacific Fisheries Task Force,
25 legislative task force, and the perspective of the

1 three of us who are here that either are on it or have
2 served on it, and there are some others that are not
3 currently serving.

4 During the past three years the task force
5 has met in Canada, Alaska, California, Oregon, Idaho,
6 Washington, and has heard from many fishery experts
7 concerning the status of salmon stocks along the West
8 Coast of the United States and British Columbia.

9 Alaska has also experienced serious
10 difficulty with Sockeye runs in Bristow Bay, and king
11 salmon runs on the Yukon River.

12 The scientists see the ocean conditions as
13 the common factor contributing to salmon run declines.
14 It is clear that el nino' increased ocean temperatures
15 along the West Coast and British Columbia. This
16 temperature increase diminished or changed salmon food
17 supply and salmon runs.

18 There are also suspected long term
19 climatological changes which affect salmon runs.
20 Research on the effects of el nino' and other factors
21 is continuing.

22 The implications of these findings and
23 subsequent findings for Idaho salmon recovery are very
24 important.

25 First, removal of the four federal

1 hydropower and navigation dams on the Lower Snake
2 River below Lewiston can not guaranty returns of
3 salmon to Idaho. However, the dams do have some
4 adverse effect on salmon runs, and mitigation efforts
5 should continue.

6 I reiterate that it appears that ocean and
7 climatological factors are causing serious declines of
8 salmon runs all along the West Coast where there are
9 no dams.

10 And some of the many factors that affect
11 them have already been mentioned, so I won't do that.
12 It does not seem to me that there is any scientific
13 basis for removal of the four Lower Snake River dams,
14 thereby causing billions of loss of regional power
15 benefits and navigational benefits to Lewiston and the
16 north Idaho region.

17 Neither does it make any sense to allow an
18 additional one million acre-feet of Idaho water to be
19 released for salmon recovery flows in the hope that
20 this will bring about salmon recovery.

21 Current research does not show a strong
22 correlation between salmon recovery and releases of
23 additional water. The economic loss to Idaho will be
24 enormous if this additional water is taken because it
25 could result in drying up hundreds of thousands of

1 acres of existing farm ground.

2 My position is that Idaho should not
3 support any costly dramatic action for salmon
4 recovery.

5 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you
6 June.

7 Mary Lou Shepherd, followed by Bert
8 Stevenson, followed by Roger Chase.

9 MS. MARY LOU Shepherd: Thank you.
10 Mary Lou Shepherd, House of Representatives.

11 Should our dams be breached? That to me
12 does not appear to be the true question. Rather, can
13 we save both our dams and the salmon? One is just as
14 important as the other.

15 And I feel the answer can come from good
16 scientific information and using rational thinking.
17 We can in deed do both.

18 This is such an emotional issue. But we
19 must use our heads, and our hearts will thus follow.

20 The truth is, neither the scientist, the
21 agencies, or even we politicians, can agree on the
22 best means of salmon recovery program. There is
23 absolutely no consensus.

24 In the past five years Idaho has given more
25 than ten million acre-feet of water for flow

1 augmentation, and has seen no measurable salmon
2 benefits. Obviously this is not working.

3 If the Snake River's four dams were to be
4 breached, it would destroy a system of river shipping
5 that could cost taxpayers over 230 million dollars to
6 replace.

7 And what about the several thousand or more
8 families that glean their livelihood from this river?
9 What happens when no fish or goods would be able to be
10 barged between Lewiston and Portland?

11 That is a toll I hope is never seen. Jobs
12 are a scarce commodity. Let's not add to their
13 demise.

14 Can you even imagine the immensity of
15 having enough train cars and heavy trucks to carry the
16 goods that barges do now? A great increase in highway
17 traffic would only add to air pollution and our
18 already grievous highway situation. Not to mention
19 the accelerated consumption of nonrenewable resource
20 for power generation and transportation.

21 I am also deeply bothered by the
22 possibility of 75 million tons of sediment washing
23 down the Snake and the Columbia Rivers if those four
24 dams were to be breached. And I figure, the figure
25 that I find amazing is these dams provide so much

1 power for so many homes in Idaho and Montana.

2 The Corps' efforts to barge fish downstream
3 has resulted in more than 90 percent of passage
4 survival rate.

5 How could you do any better than that?

6 In the past five years the Corps has worked
7 significantly to improve the fish passage. Let us
8 stop looking for that one magic solution that may not
9 work and find the one that is really needed.

10 Perhaps that is a multiple answer to
11 restore our salmon. But my friends, breaching the
12 dams is not one of the options.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
15 Mary Lou.

16 Bert Stevenson, followed by Roger Chase,
17 followed by Lenore Barrett.

18 MR. BERT STEVENSON: I want to thank
19 you for the opportunity, my name is John A. Bert
20 Stevenson.

21 I represent District 24, which is the
22 southern central part of Idaho.

23 These questions that I will pose to you
24 perhaps could be answered as you are evaluating the
25 studies that we have.

1 I would suggest that there are three areas
2 which must be considered when we contemplate the
3 removal of the four Snake River dams.

4 If we breach these dams, will you continue
5 to ask the ratepayers of Bonneville Power to fully
6 fund fish and wildlife programs in the region, which
7 they have been asked to do at this time?

8 Will other federal hydro projects be
9 required to operate under the present NEPA biological
10 opinion?

11 Will Bonneville Power be able to operate
12 the generating facilities and maintain the reliability
13 that the Pacific Northwest has come to rely on for
14 their power if the four Lower Snake River dams are
15 removed?

16 I fear there will be irreparable damage to
17 the economy of the state of Idaho before we know
18 whether or not dam removal will save the salmon.

19 I thank you for this opportunity.

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

22 Roger Chase, followed by Lenore Barrett,
23 followed by Max Black.

24 MR. ROGER CHASE: Thank you, members
25 of the committee, it is a pleasure for me to be before

1 you today. I am Roger Chase, State Representative
2 from District 33, which is in Southern Idaho. I
3 represent the west side of Pocatello and south Bannock
4 County.

5 Many in my community has mixed feelings on
6 the issue of the salmon and whether we should breach
7 the dams or not. But in my community there seems to
8 be three or four issues that are paramount in this
9 decision.

10 The first is certainly we all want to do
11 what we can to protect the salmon and do all we can to
12 help the salmon recover. There is some confusion in
13 our community about how that will be done.

14 One thing that seems to be paramount in
15 that decision is why they haven't effectively dealt
16 with the problem at the mouth of the Columbia River
17 and Rice Island.

18 It seems to me that is paramount, being
19 done immediately to see if that will have an effect on
20 the river and the salmon themselves.

21 Second, any decision that must -- that
22 takes place affecting the region must compensate the
23 region for loss of jobs, must protect the families in
24 that region, must mitigate for the loss and increased
25 cost of transportation.

1 And lastly, to keep this quick, any
2 decision must protect Idaho's waters, and those waters
3 must be used wisely, and certainly the other states
4 must contribute in the same measure.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very
7 much.

8 Lenore Barrett, followed by Max Black,
9 followed by Wendy Jaquith.

10 MS. LENORE BARRETT: Panel members, I
11 am State Representative Lenore Hardy Barrett. My
12 legislative district is rural and severely impacted by
13 environmental regulations.

14 I have no suggestions for you and I make no
15 appeal.

16 I do not mean to denigrate the effort to
17 involve citizens in this process. But in my
18 legislative district, constituents tell me over and
19 over and over, why do we waste our time testifying at
20 these things, our comments are ignored, government
21 agencies just go out and do what they intended to do
22 in the first place.

23 Because I believe that to be true, I will
24 be brief. These five brief comments are generic, and
25 fit most hearings related to federal management

1 policies and decisions.

2 Number one. One man's biological opinion
3 is another man's biological poison. No one bases his
4 agenda on the science. Everyone bases science on his
5 agenda.

6 Two. Human beings are the priority factor
7 for consideration. Human productivity and the
8 economics of resource production are the bedrock of a
9 civilized society.

10 Three. The Endangered Species Act is a
11 violation of the Tenth Amendment and therefore
12 unconstitutional.

13 Four. Dam breaching is god rattling by a
14 primitive witch doctor who must do something, stupid
15 or not, to keep his standing with his peer group.

16 Five. In summary, salmon recovery efforts
17 are a pig in a poke, and an expensive pig in a poke,
18 on which environmental lawyers feed.

19 Thank you.

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

22 Max Black. And please, please. Max Black,
23 followed by Wendy Jaquith, followed by Jim Risch.

24 MR. Max BLACK: Members of the panel,
25 my name is Max Black. I am a representative of

1 District 15 in Boise. I represent Idaho on the
2 executive board of the Pacific Northwest economic
3 region referred to as PENWOR. That region is made up
4 of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British
5 Columbia, Alberta, Alaska and the Yukon.

6 And we, of course, as the name implies,
7 focus on the economic development of this region, and
8 as such the impact, that the economic impact that
9 would be felt by this region, by the breaching of the
10 dams, would be severely felt.

11 And we have passed resolutions supporting
12 all of the resolutions that the Senate, House of
13 Washington, Oregon, Idaho have passed.

14 And I might comment, this past week I was
15 visiting the legislatures in Olympia and Salem, and
16 across the board, bipartisan, it was just an
17 overwhelming concern about the breaching of the dams
18 and the ill-effect on this economic area.

19 And so with that, I thank you.

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

22 Wendy Jaquith, followed by Jim Risch.

23 MS. WENDY JAQUITH: Thank you. My
24 name is Wendy Jaquith. I live at Ketchum, Idaho, and
25 I represent District 21, which is parts of five

1 counties.

2 Thank you for coming here and listening to
3 our testimony.

4 Let me first say that salmon are the icon
5 of the Northwest and as a child I marvelled at the
6 return of the salmon.

7 As a woman of the '60s, this act of nature
8 was an inspiration to me when obstacles that seemed
9 too large confronted me.

10 Today I surround by people who do and do
11 not want to breach the dams. My study of the issue
12 puts me on the side Oregon's Governor who says the
13 cost to keep the dams can very well effect our economy
14 more than we can afford, in both the area of water
15 right and stricter limits on habitat.

16 My real concerns tonight center around how
17 we move forward with our political leadership,
18 striving for a consensus position, and not being
19 subjected to the dictates from Washington or the
20 courts.

21 I continue to be concerned that mitigation
22 studies, plans and comparative cost estimates have not
23 been addressed and must be part of this conversation.

24 Going further, I want to see real economic
25 revitalization in Idaho's panhandle and the

1 surrounding areas. A forest supervisor involved in
2 the spotted owl controversy told me that funds were
3 taken from his forest to assist communities who were
4 directly affected by the administration's plans.

5 This is not mitigation and is not economic
6 revitalization.

7 Finally, the efforts to improve habitat
8 must be part of the plan, too.

9 If folks in the east understood the cost
10 that the west is paying for this federal initiatives,
11 which will benefit all Americans, I think they would
12 be willing to pay.

13 Therefore my support for a breaching plan
14 is contingent on mitigation plans being in place
15 following public input and hearings as part of the
16 deal.

17 Mitigation would include at a minimum an
18 improvement to the infrastructure in Lewiston and
19 assist to shippers, funding for highway improvements
20 to move commodities, retooling of the pumpers along
21 the river, not to mention a hundred percent commitment
22 to not touch any more of Southern Idaho's water for
23 salmon flows.

24 Moving from a resource based economy to a
25 more diversified economy in Idaho continues to be

1 difficult for us. We're not asking for a handout but
2 if federal actions are to be embraced, economic
3 revitalization must be our goal.

4 In summary, what I feel we need to do is
5 to, first of all, if we are going to have support for
6 the breaching of the four dams, we must have
7 leadership from our elected officials, we must have
8 mitigation initiatives outlined in black and white
9 that have been debated publicly, and economic
10 revitalization effort which doesn't take funding from
11 other areas and creates high paying jobs with benefits
12 as an outcome.

13 The revitalization should be looking at
14 entrepreneurships, pushing Idaho to become, for
15 instance, the most wired of the country.

16 I didn't tell you I was a director of the
17 Chamber of Commerce for a long time.

18 An agreement that no more water be taken
19 from Southern Idaho to increase water flows, a
20 reexamination of excessive restrictions on our
21 national forests, and habitat improvements where
22 needed. And certainly the honoring of our treaties
23 with the Tribes.

24 Again, thank you for the opportunity to
25 comment tonight.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very
2 much.

3 Jim Risch, and Tom McGrath, if you are
4 here. Jim Risch? Tom McGrath?

5 Are there any other elected officials that
6 I did not get on this first sheet?

7 Okay. Seeing no one raising their hand, we
8 will then now begin with public testimony.

9 Thank you to our officials for coming, and
10 hopefully you will stay and listen to what some folks
11 have to say.

12 So let's begin here with Rebecca Davis,
13 followed by Sara Denniston, followed by James Turner.

14 So Rebecca Davis.

15 MS. REBECCA DAVIS: Hi. My name is
16 Rebecca Davis. I would first like to ask if everyone
17 who supports dam breaching please stand up.

18 (Applause).

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Please hold
20 your clapping. Thanks very much.

21 MS. REBECCA DAVIS: Okay. I just
22 have a few personal comments in support of dam
23 breaching.

24 I do agree that all views are important and
25 we do need to pay close attention to the voices of the

1 Native Americans.

2 We have promised to protect the species,
3 the salmon species for them and for us also. To break
4 that promise with them would damage our relations with
5 them, and also guaranty the extinction of the species.

6 For thousands of years Tribes have
7 successfully managed fish and wildlife, and for
8 thousands of years we have stood in the way of
9 protecting and caring for something we should all be
10 concerned about, our earth and her creatures.

11 Let us learn from their wisdom and learn a
12 new way of care and management without about the dams.
13 Removing the dams is very important, it is more than
14 obvious that these dams have single handedly
15 diminished the salmon and steelhead runs.

16 We have spent three billion dollars in the
17 last 15 years on salmon recovery efforts that aren't
18 doing the trick.

19 We must ensure the success of the salmon.
20 Please, let's breach for our future.

21 Thank you.

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

24 Sara Denniston, followed by James Turner,
25 followed by David Whitacre.

1 And, again, if you hear your name, please
2 come up to the microphone and we will just keep moving
3 right along her.

4 MS. SARA DENNISTON: My name is Sara
5 Denniston. I am speaking on my own behalf.

6 I am here to support breaching of the four
7 Lower Snake River dams. These dams provide
8 replaceable economic benefits to a small number of
9 people at the expense of wild salmon and steelhead.

10 These fish are a national treasure and a
11 great symbol of the Northwest.

12 In addition, recovering these fish would
13 provide a huge economic boost to the state of Idaho.
14 Saving salmon and steelhead is an economic,
15 environmental and moral necessity.

16 Yet three billion dollars worth of recovery
17 efforts has done little to halt the loss of these
18 fish. It's time to try something new. The status quo
19 is not working.

20 So, I would urge you to do what's right for
21 people and fish, and breach the four Lower Snake River
22 dams.

23 Thank you.

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

1 James Turner, followed by David Whitacre,
2 followed by Bill Eddie.

3 MR. JAMES TURNER: James Turner from
4 Boise. I am testifying on my own behalf.

5 It is fast becoming clear that this issue
6 is far larger than a handful of western towns, paper
7 corporation and 13 area farmers.

8 I can appreciate folks needing to make a
9 living the best way they know how. Hard work is
10 something much of us set our watches to and take a
11 great deal of pride in.

12 Inevitably with work comes taxes, and
13 paying these taxes is something I am willing to do.
14 If I have to pay my hard earned tax dollars to provide
15 someone with the opportunity to work, or facilitate
16 running a business, then I would hope these subsidized
17 operations would prove somehow justified by providing
18 some sort of tangible return to more than just a tiny
19 percentage of the region's citizenry.

20 The four lower Snake dams quite simply do
21 not. In fact they exemplify the waste and
22 inefficiency so often associated with government
23 subsidy. 25 years and three billion dollars worth of
24 failed salmon programs, corporate free lunches and
25 expensive facility maintenance costs, all so a

1 microcosm of the entire region and populus could ship
2 less expensively, discharge industrial waste into the
3 Snake, draw paychecks from dam related occupations, or
4 pay a few dollars on their already low electric bill
5 each month.

6 It doesn't appear to make a whole lot of
7 sense.

8 When one factors in the stumbling blocks
9 these dams are to the overall long-term economic
10 growth of this region and the potential 13 billion
11 dollar lawsuit brought on by the Tribes to be paid you
12 are for with taxpayer dollars if the fish do
13 disappear, makes even less sense.

14 It does make sense, however, to advocate
15 for more sensible tax allocation, like for road and
16 railroad infrastructure investment, or programs to
17 assist those most adversely affected by breaching.

18 The subsidy doesn't necessarily have to
19 end, but it could be utilized in a more effective
20 manner. Especially since there are a number of
21 suitable alternatives to the current situation at your
22 disposal.

23 In addition I feel it is of equal
24 importance to remember that hundreds of thousands of
25 commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, truckers,

1 railway and construction workers, guides, Tribal
2 members, shop keepers, restaurateurs, recreationists,
3 et cetera, throughout the Pacific Northwest that would
4 benefit directly from the dam removal and restored
5 salmon fishery. People in towns like Riggins,
6 Challis, Stanley, Astoria, Joseph, Steamboat,
7 Enterprise, Westport, NeaBay, Sitka, Juneau and
8 Petersburg to name but a few.

9 Hopefully the misinformation campaign
10 coordinated by the ever present corporate and
11 political interests, fueled by a misguided and
12 irrational fear of breaching and a threat of lost
13 jobs, hasn't completely crippled the citizens ability
14 to think objectively.

15 Admittedly, change can be a bit unsettling,
16 but with a bit of foresight and faith it can be
17 undertaken effectively with a minimum of hardship.
18 This holds especially true considering that the
19 primary goal of dam bypass is not to destroy rural
20 economies but to restructure them and rebuild them for
21 the benefit of everyone who calls this region home,
22 and for the future generations that will, to ensure
23 that everyone involved, from commercial and sport
24 fishermen to farmers, the American taxpayer and
25 Tribes, will adequately have their concerns and

1 considerations met both fairly and equally.

2 Since most of our elected officials are
3 more concerned with election campaigns, political
4 action committees, log rolling and pork barrels, it is
5 up to us as citizens to roll up our shirtsleeves and
6 start working towards mutual beneficial resolution.

7 For our families, for our future, remove
8 lower Snake dams.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: David
10 Whitacre, followed by Bill Eddie, followed by Jim
11 Risch.

12 MR. DAVID WHITACRE: I am here on
13 behalf of the Snake River coho salmon, which past into
14 extinction about 1988.

15 I like the definition of the Pacific
16 Northwest as anywhere the salmon can swim upstream to.
17 I like that definition because it recognizes the
18 extent to which these magnificent fish help define our
19 chosen living space and ourselves as occupants of this
20 place.

21 When these four dams were built many people
22 did realize that we were treating the eventual
23 extinction of these fish runs for the benefits
24 provided. Still the dams were built. But times
25 change.

1 Since then we have matured as a nation. We
2 are no longer willing to sit by and watch our fellow
3 creatures pass into extinction at our own hands.

4 I know that bypassing dams is scary to many
5 people, and I sympathize. But these dams are not
6 sacred monuments. They are simply tools. They no
7 longer make sense and our wisest course is to breach
8 them.

9 How do we know that dam breaching is
10 essential? The best available science does tell us
11 so. And the vast majority of fishery biologists do
12 agree on this point.

13 In fact yesterday the Oregon chapter of the
14 American Fisheries Society passed a unanimous
15 resolution in favor of dam breaching.

16 The Lower Columbia salmon stocks are
17 surviving ten times better than are the Snake River
18 stocks, but this has only been true since these four
19 dams went up.

20 In 30 years of barging we have never
21 obtained the survival rates that are required to allow
22 recovery. After 30 years and three billion dollars
23 spent, we have nothing to show for our efforts but
24 continued decline.

25 Now, I don't mind spending money. I don't

1 mind spending real money on this topic. But let's
2 spend it on something that will work.

3 Some people believe that because caspian
4 terns, fishing and other factors contribute to fish
5 mortality, that by addressing those factors we can
6 avoid the need for breaching.

7 And here we need to recall the common sense
8 notion of limiting factors. Okay.

9 One more automotive analogy. If you remove
10 an essential gear from your car's transmission, it
11 doesn't matter how lovingly you may polish and
12 lubricate your remaining gears. The car won't work.

13 So it is with salmon and steelhead
14 recovery. The best science tells us that these four
15 dams are a limiting factor for recovery and must be
16 breached.

17 With respect to the Army Corps study I urge
18 that we adopt the breaching alternative, and with
19 respect to the All-H report, I urge that we select a
20 recovery plan that does aggressively address all of
21 the Hs, but with dam breaching as a centerpiece.

22 I would urge that we listen to the
23 fisheries biologists. If we had listened to them more
24 closely in the past we could have avoided some costly
25 mistakes.

1 I personally find it compelling that the
2 vast majority of fish biologists do agree on the need
3 to bypass dams.

4 In closing I would point out that aquatic
5 biodiversity in this nation is in a crisis condition.
6 The degree of current endangerment and recent
7 extinction is mind boggling nationwide. Aquatic
8 restoration ecology is the future, and I would point
9 out to the Corps of Engineers that it could and should
10 be a very large part of the future job description of
11 the Corps.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
13 David.

14 Bill Eddie, followed by Jim Risch, followed
15 by Tima Wilson.

16 And thank you for holding your applause. I
17 know it's tough with these issues.

18 MR. BILL EDDIE: Thanks. My name is
19 Bill Eddie. I live in Boise here. I'm a fisherman,
20 I'm a boater. I love Idaho's wild rivers.

21 But sadly Governor Keptorne and the
22 majority of the legislature here in Idaho don't speak
23 for me.

24 A couple years ago I took a guided fishing
25 trip with my dad down the middle fork of the Salmon

1 River. It was a great trip. We caught a lot of cut
2 throat trout. We caught no salmon. There were no
3 salmon there to catch.

4 That's why I'm here to ask you, please
5 breach the dams. I want to come back and float the
6 middle fork again with my dad and go after salmon, go
7 after steelhead. Wild salmon and steelhead.

8 Please don't put the burden of salmon
9 recovery on Southern Idaho farmers. Don't put the
10 burden on Alaskan fishermen. Don't put the burden on
11 subsistence fishermen in the Columbia River Basin.
12 They can't afford the sacrifices. The sacrifices that
13 they are going to do won't bring back the salmon.

14 The best option for the recovery of salmon,
15 the best option for the economy, is to bypass the four
16 Lower Snake River dams.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
19 Bill.

20 Jim Risch, followed by Tima Wilson,
21 followed by Barry Ross.

22 MR. JIM RISCH: My name is Jim Risch.
23 I'm an Idaho State Senator. I'm serving my 20th year
24 in the Idaho State Senate. I'm the majority leader of
25 the Idaho State Senate. I'm an attorney. I'm also a

1 rancher.

2 My training prior to law school was in
3 natural resources.

4 I have a Bachelor's Degree in forest
5 management. And in that training I received training
6 in watershed management and in fisheries.

7 When I was trained, it seemed like we were
8 much more interested back then in balance, and back
9 then we called it multiple use. And that's kind of
10 gone by the way, and it seems like we have focused
11 more on one particular aspect rather than a balance.

12 And I have a distinct feeling that that's
13 what's been happening with this salmon issue.

14 Certainly we need to develop a salmon
15 recovery plan. It is very important that we develop a
16 salmon recovery plan. But when that is done, I think
17 all factors need to be considered. There needs to be
18 some balance.

19 You've heard lots and lots of testimony
20 about the adverse factors that would occur if
21 breaching happened.

22 I'm going to talk about just one of them
23 that has always stuck in my mind. I have yet to hear
24 an explanation of what is going to happen in the river
25 channel after breach. I'm very concerned about the

1 amount of silt that is built up behind those dams. I
2 have yet to hear an explanation of what is going to
3 occur if the dams are taken out and we suffer, which
4 we inevitably will suffer a 100 year event, or worse
5 yet, a 500 year event.

6 I suspect that the catastrophic events if
7 those dams are gone are going to be very devastating
8 for commerce, for shipping, in the Lower Columbia
9 River, and in addition to that, I'm very concerned
10 about the effect it will have on the actual salmon
11 population itself.

12 So, until those questions are answered, I
13 am opposed to dam breaching, I have yet to hear any
14 persuasive arguments as to why the dams should be
15 breached.

16 Thank you.

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

19 Tima Wilson, followed by Barry Ross,
20 followed by Bill Sedivy.

21 MR. TIMA WILSON: Last night I dreamt
22 that I was sitting --

23 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Please state
24 your name for the record.

25 MR. TIMA WILSON: Tima Wilson. I

1 work for the Idaho Wildlife Federation, but I am off
2 work for this. I am also Shoshone Bannock.

3 Last night I dreamt I was sitting in a room
4 much like this one. People were speaking and they
5 were heartfelt. Quoted all the facts and figures I
6 have heard so much lately.

7 When it was my turn I stood up, much as I
8 am now. Then to my horror blurted out, geez, they are
9 just fish, you know.

10 I got up immediately and shredded my
11 testimony. I realize that I will leave science to the
12 scientist, biology to the biologist, and dollars and
13 cents to the politicians.

14 My dream reminded me why I care about this
15 issue. Not because it's economically sound, not
16 because it will increase sport fishing.

17 It touches me because it's an assumption of
18 entitlement in our culture, that we have the right to
19 manage animals, to mitigate their existence so they do
20 not cost us money, do not inhabit land that we want
21 and do not get in the way of what we consider
22 progress.

23 These are the same reasons my people were
24 forced onto reservations. They were stripped of their
25 cultures, languages, religions. About the same time

1 they were forced to sign treaties to this very day
2 that are being ignored.

3 My people survived for tens of thousands of
4 years, with no negative effects on natural resources,
5 because they understood in some way that survival
6 meant being a part of the ecosystem and treating
7 wildlife as brothers and sisters, instead of being
8 above them. Society today has forgotten that.

9 Breach the dams. They don't make money.
10 They waste tax dollars. But more importantly, they
11 break native treaties and they are deadly to fish. No
12 amount of dollars, no half way effort, and no fish
13 barge will ever replace the loss of this magnificent
14 creature, to tribal people, to humanity as a whole.

15 I don't want to look at children in the
16 future and explain why money is more important than
17 saving a species, or why our government still doesn't
18 take promises to native peoples seriously.

19 As far as I'm concerned the time for
20 discussion is over. Breaching may not be fail safe,
21 but one thing is certain, if the dams stay, the fish
22 will die.

23 It's time to be responsible, save the
24 salmon.

25 Thank you.

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

3 Barry Ross, followed by Bill Sedivy,
4 followed by Kent Laverty.

5 MR. BARRY ROSS: I am Barry Ross. I
6 am from here in Boise.

7 I think it is time to remove the dams from
8 the Lower Snake River. The first time I ever saw a
9 salmon was on a trip to Idaho to visit relatives while
10 I was still in college. We went to the Salmon River
11 in the Stanley Basin, where I saw several gentlemen
12 catching large majestic fish. The fishermen showed me
13 how you could see many fish stacked in the deep holes
14 in the river.

15 My son, who was two at the time, saw these
16 same fish as they jumped from the water. A sight he
17 will always remember.

18 In 1975 I got the opportunity to locate in
19 Idaho. This was around the time the last Snake River
20 dam was put in service. You know the rest.

21 A few short years, there was no more
22 fishing in the Salmon River for these magnificent
23 fish.

24 Over the years we learned that all of the
25 promises we were given about the dams not harming the

1 salmon populations were not true. Salmon declined
2 despite expenditures of hundreds of millions of
3 dollars we spent to stop it.

4 Trusted scientists now say the only sure
5 way to have the fish back is to remove portions of
6 those dams.

7 Many economists say the most economical way
8 to save the salmon is to take out the dams.

9 Some politicians are saying the best
10 approach is to remove the dams and mitigate for the
11 economic loss to humans. It is now time to admit our
12 past mistakes and take out the dams and give the river
13 back to the salmon.

14 We can mitigate for human losses from the
15 dam removal, but we can never mitigate for the loss of
16 salmon from Idaho.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
19 Barry.

20 Bill Sedivy, followed by Kent Laverty,
21 followed by Richard Jones.

22 MR. BILL SEDIVY: Good evening. My
23 name is Bill Sedivy. I am the Executive Director for
24 Idaho Rivers United, and I speak in my capacity as
25 Executive Director of that group.

1 find a way to get grain and wood chips from Lewiston
2 to the Tri-Cities.

3 Finally, you need to hurry up, decide to
4 bypass the dams before the salmon go extinct.

5 And lastly, I'd like to take a moment,
6 since Governor Kephthone was here today talking about
7 4,000 petition signatures he had gathered from
8 residents of Idaho, I have here 10,000 petition
9 signatures, 6500 of which are signed by Idaho
10 residents that we will be delivering shortly. They
11 are part of the more than 100,000 comments that
12 proponents of dam removal have obtained nationwide.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Kent Laverty,
15 followed by Richard Jones, followed by Jim Cook.

16 MR. KENT LAVERTY: That's a tough act
17 to follow. My name is Kent Laverty. I am Executive
18 Director of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, but I am
19 also a native Idahoan.

20 My grandfather, now 90, has been a cattle
21 rancher and farmer all of his life. My parents have
22 been involved in mining. And I was raised to
23 appreciate the outdoors, the land, the mountains, and
24 the fishing and hunting opportunities in Idaho. And
25 my grandfather and my mother both taught me to believe

1 in the art of the possible.

2 So I'm here to plead with you to believe in
3 the art of the possible. Restoring our salmon and
4 steelhead populations to the Snake River, the Salmon
5 River, the Clearwater River and the tributaries, is
6 the goal we can all agree on.

7 Very few people state that salmon should
8 not be restored. But the inevitable scientific truth
9 is that partially removing the four Lower Snake River
10 dams is the option which must occur if we are to
11 restore our fish.

12 It is without a doubt the single best
13 action we have take.

14 Perhaps more importantly, the trade-offs of
15 not removing the dams are much more costly to humans.

16 One of the alternatives relies on another
17 million acre-feet of Idaho water. That's unacceptable
18 to Idaho farmers, and would prove more costly than
19 breaching the dams.

20 Another option is further limiting harvest.
21 But overharvest is not what is causing our fish to go
22 extinct.

23 Extensive habitat restoration is another
24 option. Idaho's spawning habitat is in relatively
25 good shape. Mostly in or near designated wilderness

1 areas.

2 Why go after the logging industry in Idaho
3 in an extensive way when the dams are the culprit and
4 we know that?

5 I believe we can bypass the dams, save
6 salmon, restore jobs, keep people whole who ship grain
7 using the waterway and invest in people.

8 Let's start talking about what shippers
9 need to recover on costs. Let's talk about rail
10 infrastructure improvements and rail car purchases.
11 Let's talk about investing in our highways so that we
12 can truck grain another 140 miles.

13 We can restore salmon. We can restore our
14 economy. We can retain jobs. And we can benefit
15 people.

16 Let's bypass the dams because those dams
17 don't make sense for fish and they don't make sense
18 for people.

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

21 Richard Jones, followed by Jim Cook,
22 followed by Reed Burkholder.

23 MR. RICHARD JONES: I am Richard
24 Jones. I'm the Idaho State Council of Trout
25 Unlimited's treasurer.

1 I would like to pull back from the tactical
2 issues and look at this from the big picture
3 perspective.

4 The United States of America is the only
5 remaining super power in the world. The major factor
6 that got us there is the American way of doing
7 business.

8 As an ex-military man, I understand that
9 our military has seen us through the dark hours.

10 But it's the American way of doing business
11 that paid the wages of the soldier and built the
12 proverbial sword that they used to accomplish their
13 task.

14 How has American business been so
15 successful to get us there? They learned to identify
16 the cancers that grow within their system and operate
17 to remove those cancers before they end up in
18 bankruptcy.

19 As citizens we understand that when those
20 corporations take those steps, that hundreds, if not
21 thousands, and in some cases tens of thousands of
22 people are laid off. As citizens we understand that
23 process, and we support the programs to help those
24 people during that transition process. Unemployment
25 Compensation, COBRA protection insurance programs, and

1 money for job retraining programs.

2 As we turn to this issue before us tonight,
3 there's only one major study out there that says --
4 I'm sorry, there's only one major study out there that
5 withstands the riggers of independent analysis on
6 removing the dams, and that study says that those four
7 dams are a cancer to the lifeblood of the salmon and
8 the steelhead.

9 The secondary issues out there when you
10 look at all of them in big picture's perspective, that
11 benefits clearly outweigh the cost of removing the
12 dams.

13 There is really only one question that is
14 left to be answered on this issue. And that question
15 is, will you as guardians of the system pick up the
16 proverbial scalpel and remove the cancer from the
17 river system in time to save the patient's life.

18 Thank you.

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

21 Jim Cook, followed by Reed Burkholder,
22 followed by Becky Nebelsick.

23 MR. JIM COOK: My name is Jim Cook.
24 I live in Boise and I am with the Boise chapter of
25 Trout Unlimited, a conservation organization.

1 I am in favor of Alternative 4, which is
2 removal of the four Lower Snake River dams, but I want
3 to tell you why that is. And I guess it's really a
4 personal reason, because it's my family has a direct
5 impact, or will have a direct impact on your decision
6 on whether or not to remove the dams.

7 My great, great, great grandfather came to
8 Idaho, what was then a territory, in the 1860's,
9 following the civil war. He moved into what is now
10 Idaho County, which the Salmon River runs right
11 through, a major salmon river in this state.

12 My family was involved in logging and
13 mining, and everything else that people did in those
14 days to make a living.

15 As the economy has changed, so has their
16 livelihoods.

17 I have a relative who recently sold a white
18 water rafting business and my father now supplements
19 his income by guiding steelhead fishing trips on the
20 Salmon River outside of Riggins.

21 I think the reality of the situation here,
22 politics aside, is both the salmon and the steelhead
23 are going to be extinct if we don't remove the four
24 lower dams, and if we don't do that, we are going to
25 punish the small towns in Idaho that are dependent

1 upon the steelhead fishing industries. That's towns
2 like Riggins, Challis, Salmon.

3 There's a number of others as well. And
4 those economies are already recovering from the loss
5 of traditional types of industries, like logging and
6 mining and other types of extraction industries.

7 So I think the reality is we are going to
8 punish those towns further if we don't get the
9 political will to do what's necessary, and that is to
10 remove those dams.

11 The other side of my family came into Idaho
12 in the magic valley, in Southern Idaho, around 1910.
13 They have been involved in agriculture ever since.
14 They sell agricultural implements, they sell farm
15 land, and they are farmers.

16 And I think the reality here, too, is that
17 if we don't take these dams out, we are going to end
18 up flushing more water down the rivers, and I don't
19 think the flow augmentation is going to work. I'm not
20 a scientist, but based upon what I have seen, it
21 doesn't seem to work.

22 So I think the only way really to protect
23 Southern Idaho's irrigators and to protect those small
24 towns that are dependent on steelhead, is to go ahead
25 and get the political will and to remove those four

1 Lower Snake River dams.

2 I have lived in north Idaho for six years
3 and I do understand the need for mitigation for places
4 like Lewiston. But I think overall it's better for
5 Idaho to remove the four Lower Snake River dams.

6 Thank you.

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

9 Reed Burkholder, followed by Becky
10 Nebelsick, followed by Edwina Allen.

11 MR. REED BURKHOLDER: My name is Reed
12 Burkholder. I am from Boise, Idaho.

13 I remember the salmon when I was a kid.
14 Now I have three kids. I would like them to remember
15 the salmon, as well.

16 I want to state primarily that the dams are
17 irrelevant to the prosperity of our region.

18 Now, if you don't know that, you really
19 ought to start thinking about it. I mean, no flood
20 control, in spite of what Butch Otter said today in
21 the John Wayne show. 13 farms pumping out of the Ice
22 Harbor pool. That's equivalent to half of 1 percent
23 of Washington's cropland.

24 How do we get our stuff? In our homes, on
25 our bodies, in our bellies? It comes to us on a

1 truck. Trucks, trucks, trucks, maybe a little bit on
2 rail cars.

3 The waterway is irrelevant to the majority
4 of the people in this region. Perhaps 99.9 percent.
5 I understand there are 25 individuals who may have
6 double transportation costs in the Lewiston region.

7 Come on, folks. We are looking for a
8 solution for the common good, you know, not for the
9 little tiny minority who might be personally affected.

10 Now let's move to electricity. I did want
11 to share something with you.

12 There are new developments in electricity I
13 want to talk about for my remaining minute. And if
14 you are not aware of these, I recommend that you
15 become aware of these.

16 In 1992 Congress deregulated electricity at
17 the wholesale level. We now have free markets in this
18 country, where we can buy and sell electricity at
19 will. I asked, how could a rural electric co-op in
20 Southern Idaho like Raft River Co-op be supplied with
21 electricity? They are traditionally a BPA customer.

22 The economist I talked to said, oh, there
23 are hundreds of suppliers.

24 What's he talking about? I want to show
25 you what showed up in the Wall Street Journal today.

1 Every day in the Wall Street Journal they publish the
2 Dow Jones electricity price indices, which tells us
3 what electricity is doing across the country. In
4 Chicago, February 18, which is the last date they
5 report, the price of electricity was 2.4 cents. In
6 Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, it was 2.8
7 cents. And in Portland for the Mid-Columbia market,
8 it was 3.1 cent.

9 The hydropower was actually more expensive
10 than the coal or the natural gas.

11 I recommend that you investigate this topic
12 with your best economist.

13 I've asked numerous economists, what
14 happens to our electricity prices if we breach the
15 four Lower Snake River dams? They are in consensus.
16 Nothing happens.

17 The electricity is cheap. And it's easy to
18 get.

19 Of course I support breaching the dams,
20 because the dams are irrelevant to our prosperity,
21 they are central to salmon recovery.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very
24 much.

25 Becky Nebelsick, followed by Edwina Allen,

1 and followed by Harley Brown.

2 And please, again, on that clapping. I
3 know it's tough. Thank you.

4 MR. BECKY NEBELSICK: Good evening.
5 My name is Becky Nebelsick and I am a citizen of
6 Idaho, as well as a mother of two children that I have
7 raised here in beautiful Idaho.

8 I am very glad to finally have an
9 opportunity to speak in support of Snake River --
10 recovery of Snake River salmon. It's been a long time
11 coming. There's been some delays in this process.

12 I recognize how complex of an issue this
13 is. There are many things that have been spoken about
14 all today as well as in the other hearings, and they
15 will still be spoken of in the weeks to come.

16 But tonight I'm going to confine my
17 comments as follows.

18 I feel strongly that we must act now for
19 the recovery of the Snake River salmon. The science
20 is not only in, it's clear, concise and direct.

21 The report I'm basing my testimony on is
22 the plan for analyzing and testing hypotheses, or
23 Path. The Path group, as you remember, is comprised
24 of about 30 federal, state, tribal, university and
25 independent scientists.

1 In my mind this comprises a lot of the
2 issues that need to be addressed. A lot of the
3 representative people are there on this panel. They
4 were convened to study, A, what caused sharp declines
5 in Snake and Columbia salmon over the past 30 years
6 and, two, to analyze and predict what measures were
7 most likely to restore these salmon in their natural
8 habitat.

9 The Path group concluded that partial
10 removal of the lower Snake dams offers the best and
11 likely only chance for restoring Snake River salmon to
12 sustainable levels. That is, levels close to that of
13 the 1960s.

14 I feel we will be willing to accept
15 extinction of salmon in the Snake River if we do not
16 adhere to their findings. There is no need to
17 continue spending exorbitant amounts of money on
18 further studies or on practices of the past that have
19 not solved the problem.

20 The fact that salmon stocks downstream of
21 the Snake, for example, Hanford Reach of the Columbia
22 in Washington State have held their own indicates that
23 to restore salmon in the Snake River requires
24 breaching of the four lower dams.

25 Prior to these the runs were healthy. At

1 that time in the early '60s these fish had only four
2 dams to traverse, and now they have an additional
3 four. So a total of eight dams that they have to
4 traverse.

5 The Path group was charged with predicting
6 measures most likely to restore Snake River salmon. A
7 delay in this process has already occurred. Let's act
8 now to affect the recovery of Snake River salmon. The
9 dams must be breached.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
12 Becky.

13 Edwina Allen, followed by Harley Brown,
14 followed by Dallas Guddell.

15 MS. EDWINA ALLEN: My name is Edwina
16 Allen. 2114 Ridge Crest Drive in Boise. I am a
17 veteran testifier at salmon hearings held by the
18 Marine Fisheries Service, the Army Corps of Engineers
19 and various other government entities whom I will
20 address this evening.

21 I can claim with justification that salmon
22 testifying is a hobby for me. But I prefer to be out
23 in the great Idaho outdoors.

24 First we must save our salmon. Scanning my
25 13 inch thick stack of salmon documents, I found that

1 in 1985 I opposed channelization of the Salmon River
2 by the Army Corps of Engineers.

3 In August of 1991 before the National
4 Marine Fisheries Service I stated there is
5 overwhelming evidence that the most significant loss
6 of our fish is as a result of dams.

7 In 1993 I testified before the National
8 Fisheries Service that barging would not restore
9 salmon.

10 In May of 1993 I stood before the Corps
11 Environmental Impact Statement and scoping hearing for
12 the biological test of the Snake River drawdown
13 alternatives, saying that there was no timeline for
14 the proposed biological test and time for the fish was
15 running out.

16 In May of 1994 I spoke before the Northwest
17 Power Planning Council saying that for thousands of
18 years the fish swam in a mighty river, migrating
19 hundreds of miles to the sea, precipitous journey that
20 took a week. Spring runoffs sped them to their
21 journey. The adults returned by the millions.

22 Now with the river turning to miles of
23 continuous slack water reservoirs, the journey takes
24 as much as two months and many of the fish are
25 classified as endangered species.

1 Nature proved beyond any doubt that fish
2 survive better if they get to the sea faster. Just
3 run the clock backwards and subtract the dams one by
4 one and see how the fish numbers increase.

5 In October of 1994 the Northwest Power
6 Planning Council proposed amendments for the strategy
7 for salmon, I testified that the fish need to stay in
8 the river and move quickly to the sea.

9 The talks goes on and on. It's not that I
10 don't like seeing you all now and then, but I have
11 been testifying at these hearings for years. You have
12 been studying the fish. And all the while salmon get
13 closer to extinction.

14 Scientific and economic evidence has been
15 gathered and presented. It is clear to hundreds of us
16 here today that these dams don't make sense for people
17 or for salmon.

18 We are spending more money to kill the fish
19 than it would cost to save them. You are privileged
20 to be decision makers at a moment when your action
21 could truly change history.

22 I ask you today to bypass the four lower
23 Snake dams, do what needs to be done to mitigate
24 economic impacts from those few people in businesses
25 that will be adversely affected, and let us again

1 enjoy the benefits of abundant runs of wild salmon and
2 steelhead.

3 Thank you.

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

6 Harley Brown, followed by Dallas, and I
7 can't read your last name, followed by Chris Doyle.

8 MR. HARLEY BROWN: Good evening. I
9 am Harley Brown. I am a registered candidate for the
10 first Congressional seat in Idaho, and the future
11 President of the United States.

12 Tomorrow I have to appear on KPOI, they are
13 having me back as their guest for an hour interview,
14 and they are going to have people call me up, and to
15 me there is a hell of a lot of more important things
16 to talk about than a bunch of little fish and dams,
17 but, you know, like gun control, keeping the feds.
18 off our guns and the skirge of abortion.

19 But, hey, I figure I have to get prepared
20 and have a policy on this, so I spent all afternoon
21 listening to you fine folks, and I went home and
22 thought about it all, and don't get me wrong, I'm not
23 an environmentalist, my motto is burn up all of the
24 gas, that's the American way, big engines, low gears,
25 and high octane.

1 But also I am using the age old axim, you
2 live in amorous affairs, when in doubt, whip it out.

3 I'm coming down on the side of the
4 environmentalists and the hippies and the Indians,
5 outfitters and the fishermen, and I say, knock out
6 those dams, forget taking out the concrete, just take
7 out the backfilled earth there, give it ten years, see
8 what the hell happens, and it might work, you know.

9 And my oh, let's check it out and see what
10 happens, and God bless America, and Hell's Angels
11 forever.

12 Thank you.

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

15 Dallas, followed by Chris Doyle, followed
16 by Andrew Denes. And if I could as ask everyone to
17 please hold it down for the sake of the court
18 reporter.

19 MR. DALLAS GUDDELL: My name is
20 Dallas Guddell with the Idaho Conservation League. I
21 think I would have rather followed Sedivy.

22 For the first brief portion of my comments
23 I am going to be talking for the Idaho Conservation
24 League. I am going to be speaking in favor the
25 maximum protection alternative, including breaching of

1 the dams.

2 We have a moral obligation to save Idaho
3 salmon today and for generations in the future.
4 Science and biologists support the breaching
5 alternative in two ways. It's economically cheaper
6 one, or two, the maximum percentage of salmon
7 restored.

8 You have heard all of that, so I am going
9 to take off my Idaho Conservation League hat, and
10 speak to you on a couple of other issues.

11 There's been some talk at some of these
12 hearings, and I can kind of consider it rhetoric about
13 tribal harvest being one of the problems. Tribal
14 harvests are not one of the problems. It's the dams
15 that are the problems. Harvests in general are not
16 the problems. There's been reductions in harvests,
17 commercial harvests, ocean harvest, commercial
18 harvests in the Columbia, Tribal commercial harvests
19 have been reduced, ceremonial harvests are
20 insignificant.

21 So in conclusion, the National Marine
22 Fisheries Service has done a number of, quite a bit of
23 work on that, to show that tribal harvests are not the
24 problem, and it's an insignificant piece of the
25 puzzle. So that's one thing I just kind wanted to

1 kind of bring up. Which brings up another issue,
2 which is the treaties.

3 Now, I'm a member of the Fork Peck
4 Consenoboy and Sue tribes out of Montana. I am not a
5 member of any Idaho tribe. I have worked for my tribe
6 as an environmental scientist, I have worked for the
7 State of Idaho as an atmospheric scientific in the
8 division of environmental quality, and I currently
9 work doing conservation science for the Idaho
10 Conservation League.

11 I think I can speak with some qualification
12 about treaties. The United States holds the dubious
13 world record worldwide of breaking and not ratifying
14 the most treaties.

15 So, in conclusion, this is with my last 60
16 seconds, to not choose the maximum protection option
17 to not restore the salmon is going to be yet another
18 series of treaties that have been broken. There have
19 been treaties broken up and down the Columbia, with
20 the Tribes up and down the Columbia, and up and down
21 the Snake already. We don't need to do that again.

22 My last point, and it is a sad point for
23 me, is that racism has entered this debate. And it is
24 a sad piece. As sad as treaty breaking is, it is
25 sadder.

1 It puts all of you in an awkward position.

2 It puts all of us in an awkward position.

3 Racism does not belong in this debate. It
4 would be my recommendation to you that any comments
5 you receive in these hearings that have a racist
6 overtone, be eliminated from consideration.

7 Thank you.

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

10 Chris Doyle, followed by Andrew Denes,
11 followed by Lee Mercer.

12 MR. CHRIS DOYLE: I am Chris Doyle.
13 I am a fisherman, and have been an outdoors person.

14 If you build it, they will come. Does that
15 strike a chord in your memory, a movie with Kevin
16 Cosner, so-called crazy man, living on a farm in Iowa,
17 about to lose his farm because he wasn't wanting to
18 farm the full acreage for corn, he had this idea, a
19 voice came to him about building something. Well, he
20 built a major league baseball field, and they came.

21 Who came? Well, past major league baseball
22 players, i.e., salmon, steelhead, in major league
23 numbers. And they came subsequently. Those that
24 criticized him that said you will lose your farm
25 because of economic impact, were totally wrong.

1 Because hundreds and thousands of people came to
2 follow.

3 The previous people that came are the
4 wildlife that came, the salmon and steelhead. I can
5 draw that parallel. I hope you can see some collolary
6 there.

7 This is the only way to save our salmon and
8 steelhead.

9 You can't mess with mother nature. All the
10 techno-fixes in the world cannot replace what Mother
11 Nature gave us for free. It's right there, for
12 hundreds of thousands of years. We've had millions of
13 salmon and steelhead in the upper Columbia Basin.

14 Even as short as 30 or 40 years ago, prior
15 to these four Snake River dams, we had hundreds of
16 thousands of salmon and steelhead. We don't have to
17 build it. We just have to bypass. That's all we have
18 to do.

19 Now, I must admit, I'm a little bit
20 troubled about some of the content of this booklet,
21 this salmon passage booklet that the Corps comes out
22 with, just some random comments.

23 Page 24 about dam breaches. Alternate for
24 the, am breaches. The only comment compared to the
25 other alternatives, during low flows slower moving

1 shallow river may warm up the water during summer
2 days, water temperatures would be like before the dams
3 went in.

4 It doesn't operate that way, folks. The
5 natural river brings the fish to the ocean in a rapid
6 amount of time. The water does not warm up.
7 Reservoirs warm up the water. And that is an enigma
8 to the salmon and the steelhead.

9 This is a mischaracterization. It's false.

10 Page number 26. There's a reference to dam
11 breaching, Alternate Number 4. And it is mentioned
12 that there is 14,000 acres of new land now under the
13 reservoirs that would be drained and exposed.

14 That sounds like a wonderful benefit to me.
15 And I thought, gosh, what would that be worth to
16 expose that land again? It must be tremendously
17 valuable land.

18 I turned to page number 36, and I look for
19 the benefits for that land. And I don't see a dollar
20 represented here for the 14,000 acres that would
21 automatically be the result of bringing back the land
22 that was drown as a result of these boondoggle dams.

23 I will ask you to take a look at this
24 representative sample of the Alternatives of 1, 2 or
25 3, the economic flow, and it just doesn't match at

1 all.

2 There are too many discrepancies, and it
3 just seems to me just not to be a genuine
4 representation of the economic comparisons.

5 Thank you.

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

8 Andrew Denes, followed by Lee Mercer,
9 followed by Madelena Cannamela.

10 MR. ANDREW DENES: I am Andy Denes,
11 an Eagle Scout and a senior the Centennial High
12 School.

13 We have all heard the stories and the
14 numbers and the facts, and I feel no reason to
15 reiterate them now.

16 I am not standing here with any hope of
17 changing someone's mind. I stand here only hoping to
18 help you understand another reason why the dams must
19 go.

20 The earth is one living thing. Each member
21 of the fragile system carries out its single function.
22 The trees and algae breathe like lungs maintaining a
23 careful balance of precious oxygen. The rivers and
24 oceans and clouds, pump life giving water blood to a
25 parched earth and returns it again.

1 Each animal is a single cell. Each
2 ecosystem above and below, wet or dry, is an organ
3 that beats life into living planet earth. We who were
4 once in harmony with earth push out the others now,
5 consuming for ourselves the nutrients in the blood,
6 one shared amongst equals. We have clogged the veins
7 and arteries, driven out the other inhabitants,
8 poisoned those who could not move and destroyed those
9 who refused to.

10 Look within yourself now. Just as we were
11 part of the earth, the earth is a part of us. These
12 hands are our paws, these legs on which I stand are
13 the trees, our eyes are the sun, our blood and veins
14 are the rivers of life.

15 And do not think I'm not aware of the
16 bigger picture. I can see the family farmer, I can
17 see the economy, I understand the harvest, I know
18 there could be losses. But I'm certain that there
19 will be winners. The fish, the river.

20 Perhaps the one who doubt giving the rivers
21 a much needed angioplasty are the ones who do not see
22 the biggest picture, beyond our economy, beyond our
23 state, to the planet, for balance, and for life.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,

1 Andy.

2 Lee Mercer, followed by Madelena Cannamela
3 and then we shall take a break. That will put us on
4 number 20, take a break?

5 COL. STROCK: Yes.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. So Les
7 Mercer, Madelena Cannamela, and I will tell you who
8 will be after the break.

9 MR. LES MERCER: I have heard so much
10 talk about recovery I thought I was at an AA meeting,
11 so I have designed 12 steps for salmon recovery.

12 Step one. We admitted we were powerless
13 over our ignorance, hysteria and greed.

14 Step two. We came to believe that a power
15 better financed than ourselves had robbed us of our
16 salmon and insanity.

17 Step three. Made a decision to turn our
18 will and lives and the salmon over to the care of God
19 as we understood her.

20 Step four. Made a searching and fearless
21 inventory of the coffers of Potlatch and the PAC money
22 paid to Senator Larry Cray to keep dams in place.

23 Step five. Admitted to God, ourselves and
24 many other human beings the exact nature of our
25 wrongs.

1 Step six. We are entirely ready to have
2 God remove these dams.

3 Step seven. Humbly asked her to remove
4 them.

5 Step eight. Made a list of all the
6 sovereign Indian nations we had harmed and became
7 willing to make amends to them all.

8 Step nine. Made direct amends to these
9 people whenever possible, allowing them access to the
10 river to fish whenever they choose, returning their
11 freedom of religion we so wrongfully expropriated.

12 Step ten. Continue to take personal
13 inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted
14 it.

15 Step 11. Sought through prayer and
16 mediation to improve our conscious contact with God as
17 we understood her, to hear her cry, breach, breach.
18 And the power to carry that out.

19 Step 12. Having had a spiritual awakening
20 as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this
21 message to other consumers and to practice these
22 principals in all our affairs.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you
25 very much, Lee.

1 Madelena Cannamela.

2 MS. MADELENA CANNAMELA: My name is
3 Madelena Cannamela.

4 It is very important for the decision
5 makers to keep future generations in mind. Because
6 what they decide today will affect us in the years to
7 come. Perhaps your children or grandchildren like to
8 fish, or just enjoy the fish being in the rivers.

9 If you make a wrong decision, my generation
10 will have to work much harder to solve the salmon
11 problem.

12 In conclusion, I would like to say that we
13 should try very hard to save Idaho's special fish, not
14 to mention the resource. If we lose the fish it would
15 be an embarrassment not only to everyone in Idaho but
16 also to most of the United States.

17 If you remove the dams, it will have a
18 positive effect on all species.

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

21 All right. We will take a break and we
22 will reconvene at five after nine, and after the break
23 we will begin with Jeff Barney, followed by Dave
24 Brown, followed by John Allen and Kurt Wuld.

25 So, Madelena was number 20. So if you saw

1 what number you were, you want to come check the list
2 where you are, please come on up, and please feel free
3 to go next door and testify to the tape if you would
4 like to get out of here earlier.

5 Thank you.

6 (Short recess).

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Let's move on
8 with number 21, Jeff Barney, followed by John Allen.

9 Jeff? Are you Jeff? Are you here?

10 MR. JEFF BARNEY: My name is Jeff
11 Barney. I reside here in Boise, and I am representing
12 myself tonight.

13 I have lived and fished in Idaho for over
14 27 years. I live here by choice because of the
15 outdoor recreational opportunities it affords me.
16 Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead mean opportunity to
17 me. Opportunity that cannot be replaced or mitigated
18 away.

19 The void that will be left for all Idaho
20 fishermen if we lose these great fish will be forever.
21 I hate to think what generations of anglers yet unborn
22 will say if we fail them by choosing extinction of
23 their salmon.

24 Of the four Draft EIS alternatives, only
25 one truly addresses both the economic and biological

1 needs of people and fish. The alternative, breaching
2 these four dams, is the only chance these fish have to
3 avoid extinction and recover from historic lows.

4 Economically, breaching is also the most
5 viable alternative for the taxpayers and our friends
6 in the communities of north Idaho.

7 As you have seen here tonight, our elected
8 officials do not represent the majority opinion of
9 Idahoans on this critical issue. They tend to hold to
10 an outdated belief that these dams are not detrimental
11 to our wild salmon.

12 In reality, the dams have outlived their
13 uselessness. Thank you, Dave. They are fish killers
14 whose economic value is suspect at best.

15 If we choose wisely now, we will correct
16 this dam mistake and preserve our rural economies,
17 protect Idaho's water, and keep our wild salmon and
18 steelhead around for many generations of fishermen yet
19 to come.

20 Thank you.

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

23 Okay. So we have got here Dave Brown,
24 followed by John Allen, followed by Kurt Wuld.

25 MR. DAVE BROWN: Ladies and

1 gentlemen, I am Dave Brown. I am an Idaho native. I
2 am a board member of the Ted Trueblood Chapter of
3 Trout Unlimited. We are over 500 members strong here
4 in the Boise area.

5 I am testifying on behalf of the chapter in
6 favor of breaching the four dams on the Lower Snake
7 River. At the time Ted Trueblood Chapter and the
8 Boise Valley Fly Fishermen along with the Boy Scouts
9 and Forest Service worked for nine years to restore
10 the riparian area in Bear Valley Watershed. This is
11 the headwaters of the middle fork of the Salmon River.

12 The habitat is restored. Where are the
13 fish?

14 Okay. This area completed, we now have
15 turned our efforts to the headquarters of the Little
16 Salmon. Most of the rest of the habitat for the
17 salmon spawning in Idaho are in the wilderness area
18 and need very little restoration work.

19 The hatcheries, part of your other H
20 series, have produced as many young salmon as the
21 naturals can cohabit with.

22 More hatchery fish will only harm the
23 native's chances to survive. Therefore, the
24 hatcheries are not an issue in this study.

25 Harvest. Okay. Harvest is at an all time

1 low. Treaty rights are not even an issue even to be
2 considered in this study.

3 Therefore, hydroelectric is the only viable
4 option on the table. Increasing water flows from
5 Idaho through the dams only punishes Idaho's
6 agriculture business and does little to restore or
7 return the salmon populations to acceptable numbers.

8 Removal of the four Lower Snake River dams
9 is the only option to consider.

10 All social and economic issues related to
11 the dam removal can and should be mitigated with the
12 dam removal.

13 Therefore, out of the 4-Hs, we feel that
14 the hydroelectric dams can go and we can restore the
15 salmon back to their natural runs again.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
18 Dave.

19 John Allen, followed by Kirt Wuld, followed
20 by Tim Butler.

21 MR. JOHN ALLEN: My name is John
22 Allen. I live in Boise, Idaho. I am representing
23 myself.

24 My comments apply to both the All-H paper
25 and the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon EIS.

1 of all, I'd like to mention that the testimony offered
2 earlier this evening by Senator Jim Hirsch I feel was
3 unfair because he was asked to speak earlier in the
4 evening as an elected official, was tardy in his
5 appearance, and was subsequently allowed to speak in
6 amongst the public comments, and I move that his
7 testimony should be stricken.

8 In addition to that, I have reviewed the
9 Army Corps reports, and I feel there's one thing
10 that's immediately clear, is that the salmon are in
11 need of immediate action. And immediate action is the
12 only way we are going to see a successful recovery
13 plan with the salmon.

14 In addition, Idaho and the Northwest along
15 with the Army Corps as a unique opportunity right now
16 to implement environmental remediation in conjunction
17 with effective alternatives for those who operate in
18 the current status quo.

19 I think now is an excellent opportunity for
20 Idaho and the Northwest along with the Army Corps to
21 move into a new millennium of implementing
22 environmental change while hand in hand working
23 together with those that are existing in the
24 environment.

25 In addition to breaching the dams, I

1 believe the Corps needs to pursue aggressive, as you
2 called it earlier, antibreach solutions on the dams
3 that are existing in the system currently.

4 In addition to that, I think the Corps
5 should strengthen their preferred alternative report
6 in the following area.

7 One, having other agencies shoulder the
8 burden in investigating the delayed mortality rate of
9 the smolts as they return to the sea.

10 Secondly, have hard science that quantifies
11 some of the issues surrounding the sediment and
12 sediment in the system currently.

13 And propose solutions on how they are going
14 to do deal with that.

15 And in addition to that I think it's
16 important that they take a serious look at the Native
17 American population and what they have to offer,
18 because the economic solution of solving their problem
19 after-the-fact is going to be far more expensive than
20 a solution now.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you
23 very much, Kurt.

24 Tim Butler, followed by Norm Anderson,
25 followed by Oliver Gregerson.

1 MR. TIM BUTLER: Good evening. My
2 name is Tim Butler. I am a sheet metal worker here in
3 Boise. I have lived in Idaho most of my life. In
4 fact all my life, except for my military service.

5 I caught my first steelhead when I was nine
6 years old. Both of my sons have caught their first
7 steelhead when they are five years old. My sons love
8 to fish for steelhead and salmon every year.

9 It is sad to think that by the year 2017
10 the salmon will be extinct in Idaho.

11 That's the predictions for the future here
12 in Idaho. The Snake River fall Chinook are gone. The
13 Weiser River, Payette River, Boise River, and Malheur
14 River, just to name a few, all the steelhead runs are
15 gone, extinct.

16 These are gone because of Hells Canyon Dam,
17 Oxbow and Brownlee Dam. These three dams were built
18 with no fish ladders on them whatsoever.

19 The question I would like to be answered is
20 why, on that.

21 The great Sockeye runs up at Stanley are
22 all but gone forever.

23 I need to mention Oregon's Governor, and
24 how it's great to see that at least some politicians
25 have seen through the heavy smoke screens and lies.

1 I have no faith in Idaho's political
2 leaders, none whatsoever. In the face of overwhelming
3 evidence to breach, they just wither in the wind. No
4 strobe lights, fish friendly turbines, fish carrying
5 barges or any other techno-fixes are going to bring
6 Idaho's great anadromous fish back.

7 There is only one way, and we all know what
8 that way is, and it's to breach the dams.

9 Let's take charge of this dismal situation
10 and do the right thing. Let's do what's best for our
11 fish and for generations of kids that also love to
12 catch these magnificent creatures.

13 One last thing. From the words of Helen
14 Chenoweth, I Helen, am not going to Albertson's for my
15 salmon. My kids and myself are going to Idaho's
16 rivers and streams and we're going to catch fresh
17 salmon, not canned.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
20 Tim.

21 Next will be Norm Anderson, followed by
22 Oliver Gregerson, followed by Don Taylor.

23 MR. NORM ANDERSON: I am Norm
24 Anderson, Boise. I'm here tonight to voice my support
25 for breaching the four Lower Snake River dams, as one

1 of the best ways to help keep our fish.

2 I have heard and read a lot of the science
3 and understand the difficult problem we have helped
4 create.

5 From all of this I have boiled it down to
6 one pretty simple fact. It will be best to put the
7 river back to natural free-flowing state. Both for
8 people and fish.

9 Politicians, take notice. I am directing
10 my remarks to both state and national politicians.
11 Kepthorne, Craig, Crapo, Simpson, and Chenoweth.
12 Provide leadership now and quit studying, delaying, or
13 you will go the way the fish are presently going.

14 And, Butch, I just heard your pitch on the
15 radio today. All delaying tactics. And, Butch, I
16 agree, all measures need to be taken to help save the
17 fish, and science says breaching the dams gives the
18 fish the best chance of recovery.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Oliver
21 Gregerson, followed by Don Taylor, followed by Scott
22 Larsen.

23 MR. OLIVER GREGERSON: General,
24 members of the commission, and ladies and gentlemen.
25 I am Oliver Gregerson. I am retired. I have a

1 background in engineering and law and geology. And
2 I'm 75 years old. And so I'm here to give you a
3 history lesson in the demise of the salmon on the
4 Snake River.

5 And I probably have the distinction of
6 having caught the last salmon in the Boise River, and
7 that was right below the Veteran'S Parkway Bridge, and
8 it was the largest salmon I ever caught. And also I
9 caught one of the largest catches of steelhead I ever
10 caught in my life right there on the Boise River.

11 And then I have witnessed salmon trying to
12 jump over Barber Dam.

13 But what I want to tell you about, I'm
14 going to take you back to 1946. Idaho Power had
15 acquired the Swan Falls Dam, and I went down there to
16 visit the dam, and the fall Chinook salmon run was on.
17 And I went out on the dam, the ladder was absolutely
18 full of salmon, the river was full of salmon, but they
19 couldn't get over the ladder.

20 Idaho Power had deliberately raised the
21 weir so the water went under the weir instead of over
22 it, and the salmon had to jump over it, and so they
23 couldn't get up, across that fish ladder.

24 So then, and I'm going to make this as
25 brief as I can, I traveled down the river and clear

1 down to the Murphy railroad bridge, that's eight
2 miles, that river was absolutely packed like sardines
3 with salmon, for eight miles. Can you imagine? This
4 would be like a billion fish.

5 If any of you gentlemen would have seen
6 that, there would be no question about breaching the
7 dams.

8 And quickly I'm going to tell you another
9 scene, was when had Idaho Power got the permit to
10 build Brownlee Dam. They just was building the Coffer
11 Dams, they had another run of salmon, and they had two
12 inspectors coming from Washington, D.C., in Boise.
13 They held them overnight, they had M-K go in there
14 with their big front end loaders, their big dump
15 trucks, and they scooped up all these salmon, and they
16 took them up on top of the rim and buried them.

17 And that's the kind of treatment we had
18 here. It was fraud committed against the citizens of
19 Idaho. And on that, why Idaho Power didn't want the
20 salmon above Swan Falls Dam was because they were
21 applying for the permit for C J Strike Dam, and on
22 their permit application they said, we don't have to
23 build a fish ladder because there is no salmon going
24 above Swan Falls.

25 So it's really a sad story, what happened

1 to the Snake River salmon.

2 I thank you.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you
4 very much.

5 Don Taylor, followed by Scott Larsen,
6 followed by Bob Caldwell.

7 MR. DON RAYLOR: Good evening. My
8 name is Don Taylor, and I am a third generation
9 Idahoan. I'm also the proud father of three fourth
10 generation Idahoan, Kristen, Shawn and Shannon Taylor.

11 My three children and the concern I have
12 about their future is the big reason that I am here
13 tonight. I'm here to tell you that I strongly support
14 the efforts to prevent Idaho salmon, steelhead from
15 disappearing forever from Idaho's water.

16 State, tribal, federal and independent
17 scientists say breaching the four federal dams on the
18 Lower Snake River is the best and probably the only
19 option for restoring Idaho's fish.

20 I support breaching the four federal dams
21 in the lower Snake. I strongly support mitigating the
22 costs occurred by individuals, communities, businesses
23 that might be affected by breaching.

24 Just as saving the fish is the right thing
25 to do, so is mitigating the costs incurred. The time

1 to act is now. The time to act to save the fish is
2 now, and the time for study is over.

3 The facts are on the table. The truth is
4 known, and has been for a long time.

5 I want to share with you an article my son
6 brought home from his fourth grade class. Here in
7 Idaho the fourth grade is when children learn about
8 Idaho history. I just want to read a few paragraphs
9 from this magazine.

10 This is the Idaho Wildlife Review. It's
11 dated 1967. July 15th was to have been the opening
12 date of salmon fishing season on the south fork of the
13 Salmon River with close to a thousand fishermen along
14 a 30 mile stretch of the stream.

15 On this day in 1965, however, the area was
16 nearly deserted. The campgrounds unused. And few
17 cars.

18 For the first time in Idaho history there
19 was no fishing permitted for salmon. Residents as
20 well as visitors from other states experienced
21 disappointment at being unable to fish for the large
22 Chinook salmon. Research has been under way for a
23 number of years to learn the effects dams have had on
24 anadromous fish and find ways to counteract adverse
25 affects.

1 Don.

2 Scott Larsen, followed by Bob Caldwell,
3 followed by Walt Bekker, and if I can remind you to
4 hold the applause, please, thank you.

5 Scott.

6 MR. SCOTT LARSEN: Thank you. Scott
7 Larsen from Boise, Idaho.

8 The salmon of Idaho thrived in our waters
9 for thousands of centuries, and face extinction in one
10 generation by our hand.

11 The sad thing is the salmon will go extinct
12 in Idaho so that the residents in Washington and Idaho
13 won't have to pay \$1.00 more in electricity cost, so
14 that a few hundred people in Lewiston can keep their
15 current jobs as longshoreman.

16 The Potlatch Corporation also doesn't mind
17 the high water. It helps hide their illegal warm
18 water sludge discharge into our river.

19 These dams don't make sense for people or
20 for fish. They have cost us three billion dollars so
21 far, with the promise of staggering burdens in the
22 future.

23 Let's not be bamboozled by the Farm Bureau
24 or timber interests or believe the politicians when
25 they scream imperialism.

1 If we keep the dams, we will pay dearly.
2 Ten billion in reparation payments to the tribes
3 guaranteed by treaty, the end of Pacific salmon
4 fishing, drying up 680,000 acres of Idaho farm land,
5 and the social costs that will -- that that would
6 bring to farming communities. In extinction of five
7 species of fish and all it depends on.

8 Further polluting of our river. Further
9 restricts on logging, road building and mining. With
10 the removal of the dams, a once thriving fishing
11 industry will return with the fish. It means 170
12 million dollars a year to the hard pressed river
13 communities of Orofino, Stanley, Riggins, and Salmon.

14 With the return of the fish we will see the
15 return of a fishing culture in Idaho which is now only
16 a memory. Who here wouldn't like to pull a 20 pounder
17 from the Salmon on a summer weekend. Who wouldn't
18 like to teach their kids how to do the same.

19 Some will say the farmers will suffer from
20 the lack of water. That's not true. With no slack
21 water, less water will be needed from upstream sources
22 to flush the flooded backwaters of the reservoirs
23 every year.

24 The irrigators in Washington need only draw
25 water from a free-flowing river, rather than a

1 reservoir.

2 Nobody will lose any farm land or
3 irrigation rights. Nobody here has any desire to end
4 farming along the Snake, period.

5 So I ask you, why do we need these dams?
6 We don't. We need salmon.

7 Thank you.

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

10 Bob Caldwell, Walt Bekker and Josh Royse.
11 Any of you here? Walt Bekker?

12 MR. WALT BEKKER: Yep.

13 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Then
14 Josh Royse, then Rick Rysnak.

15 MR. WALT BEKKER: I have come here
16 for my three month old daughter and her children's
17 children.

18 I firmly believe in breaching the dams. We
19 need to take action, saving the Columbia River salmon.

20 I have lived in Idaho for over 20 years and
21 fished for hatchery raised Chinook salmon and seen
22 Sockeye salmon so thick in the river of Fall Creek on
23 Anderson Ranch Dam, it was from bank to bank, you
24 could walk over all of them.

25 Salmon are more important to Idaho than

1 Oregon and Washington. The salmon, the river of no
2 return, is the life blood of our wilderness area,
3 which Idaho has the largest wilderness area in all the
4 48 states except Alaska.

5 If you have ever hooked or fought a mighty
6 salmon on the Salmon River, you would not hesitate for
7 one minute to save the salmon. I as a consumer would
8 gladly pay 20 or \$50 extra a month on electricity to
9 help offset the breaching of the dams.

10 Loss of power generated by dam breaching
11 could be offset by revenue generated by sustainable
12 sport fisheries after returning salmon increase year
13 by year on an open river.

14 For example, in 1998 the last salmon
15 hatchery harvest in Riggins generated over one million
16 dollars and the run was only open for two weeks.

17 Imagine if we had sustainable salmon runs.
18 Recreation, tourism, sport fishing would help offset
19 economic hardships.

20 Also with the increase of technologies as
21 stated before, solar power, coal fusion, natural gas
22 will have -- will help alternative power sources to
23 offset this power loss.

24 Economically, about the pulp and paper
25 workers, grain farmers who ship their grain downriver,

1 workers at the Port of Lewiston who complain they
2 might lose their jobs, I say, get a new job, become a
3 fish guide.

4 The grain farmers can use existing rail and
5 truck transportation lines just like the grain farmers
6 in the Midwest. If someone would come to me tomorrow
7 and say I would have to lose my job to save the salmon
8 from becoming extinct, I would quit right now and
9 start working at McDonald's.

10 There is also job retraining for all those
11 who lose their jobs.

12 It is the end of salmon if we do not act
13 now.

14 The other thing is, the agriculture and
15 farmers who are against the dam breaching don't
16 realize that if the dams aren't breached, then the
17 federal government will go back to barging and flow
18 augmentation, which means the federal government will
19 take more than one million acre-feet of water from
20 Idaho reservoirs.

21 What happens in drought years in Idaho?
22 Then the farmers will lose irrigated lands, the
23 farmers will really bitch then.

24 Farmers should realize this and get on our
25 side.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,
3 Walt.

4 Josh Royse, followed by Rich Rysnak,
5 followed by Wayne Delamotte.

6 MR. JOSH ROYSE: Hello. My name is
7 Josh Royse.

8 A lot of people are here talking to us
9 about whether or not we should save the salmon. We
10 even had a Congressman, or candidate for Congress in
11 the earlier session, state that, and I quote, saving
12 the salmon is no longer the issue.

13 This isn't a meeting of whether or not to
14 save the salmon. It's a meeting of the best means to
15 save them. The Endangered Species Act states that we
16 have to save the salmon.

17 I'd like to give my opinion on how I think
18 we ought to do that.

19 Many people claim that a recent and sudden
20 decline in our Idaho salmon stocks is due to
21 overharvesting. The salmon are caught in gill nets of
22 the commercial fishing industry by the thousands.
23 People would like to see a discontinuation of all wild
24 salmon harvesting and allow for only minimal Tribal
25 and religious harvest for a period of five years. Or

1 permanently.

2 The salmon also run the gauntlet of sport
3 fishers and gill nets. All told, thousands upon
4 thousands of fish are killed just due to harvesting.

5 However, there is a flaw in the principle
6 that overharvesting is the cause of our declining
7 salmon runs. That flaw is that only Idaho stocks have
8 experienced such a dramatic decline.

9 If that were true, if it were true that
10 overharvesting was the cause, then we would see a
11 decline in all salmon stocks across the board.

12 The John Day, Lower Columbia and even the
13 Alaskan stock should show a similar decline in the
14 same time frame.

15 It is unrealistic for us to assume that the
16 nets and predators are selective to only Idaho fish.

17 Yet that is exactly what this theory
18 intends to prove.

19 There is one more problem with this theory.
20 The fact that during pre-1960s, before the dams,
21 harvesting was at an all time high of up to 50 percent
22 of all fish taken -- or all fish were taken.
23 Strangely, the salmon numbers were also extremely
24 high. Numbers were in the thousands.

25 Now harvesting has been cut back to 7.2

1 percent. Last year one Sockeye returned.

2 Given the evidence this option is clearly
3 implausible.

4 To address habitat destruction. In Idaho
5 we have a variety of qualities of spawning habitat
6 from pristine and wilderness areas to degraded in
7 other areas -- degraded in other areas. Yet we
8 experienced the same amount of decline in all these
9 across the board.

10 The economics of this issue are
11 astronomical. What kind of effect will this have on
12 our Idaho economy? What kind of effect will this have
13 on the Port of Lewiston, Idaho only's sea port?

14 These questions are not easily answered.
15 Lewiston's number one employer is Potlatch. That's
16 one of the largest paper mills in the Northwest. They
17 also depend heavily on barging of goods up and down
18 the river. It is much cheaper than railway shipping,
19 which would obviously be impossible without the dams.
20 They would have to switch over to the nearby and
21 readily accessible rails which are more than capable
22 handle the new workload.

23 The public is outraged at the thought of
24 people losing jobs over a fish. The people are
25 generally even more outraged that they are the ones

1 paying for Potlatch's cheap shipping. The dams and
2 barging systems are heavily subsidized by the
3 taxpayers hard earned dollar.

4 People pay for the dams that create the
5 cheap shipping and the thought of Potlatch paying
6 their own shipments on the railroad suddenly seems
7 like a lot better idea.

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

10 Rich Rysnak, followed by Wayne Delamotte,
11 followed by Don Soyke. Soyke?

12 Rich, are you here? No Rich. Wayne
13 Delamotte?

14 And just for everybody else's information,
15 Wayne is number 35. We've got 61 people on the list.
16 And between here and there, there are about six or
17 seven people that scratched off over the break. So
18 just so you know where we are at. Wayne's number 35.
19 And I'm going to pass this to my colleague, Jackie
20 Able. Thank you.

21 MR. WAYNE DELAMOTTE: Ladies and
22 gentlemen, I want to thank you for staying here
23 tonight, staying awake this long, and my name is Wayne
24 Delamotte. And I represent the Idaho Breach Boys.
25 Perhaps you know their names. Coho, Sockeye, Chinook

1 and steelhead.

2 Tonight I want to talk about the great
3 trade that the people of Idaho made 25 years ago. We
4 traded hundred dollar salmon and steelhead to catch
5 \$3.00 squaw fish.

6 It works like this. The squaw fish prey on
7 young salmon and steelhead. Bonneville Power pays
8 anglers a bounty of three to five dollars a fish to
9 catch squaw fish. The BPA then turns the squaw fish
10 into food pellets which are then fed to hatchery
11 salmon and steelhead.

12 Now, follow this. The young salmon and
13 steelhead are then returned to the river to feed the
14 squaw fish.

15 This is the trade we made 25 years ago. We
16 pay anglers to catch trash fish in exchange for the
17 extinction of trophy fish that anglers would pay
18 millions of dollars to catch.

19 Now, when you leave here tonight, when you
20 go back to Oregon and Washington, I hope you will
21 remember this one thing. For Idaho salmon and
22 steelhead, life's a breach.

23 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you,
24 Wayne.

25 My name is Jacqueline Able, and I just

1 wanted to let you know, we are going to give Donna a
2 break since she has been here since one this
3 afternoon.

4 I am also a professional mediator,
5 facilitator, and not on staff of any of the government
6 agencies here.

7 I want to thank folks that have waited this
8 long. We are going to try to quickly move through the
9 rest of the comments.

10 Again, reminding you, when you hear your
11 name, maybe move up to one of these three microphones
12 so we don't have a lot of time, and of course the
13 taping option and written option is available
14 throughout the day.

15 So let's hear from Don Soyke. And after
16 Don will be Spencer Wood, and after Spencer will be
17 Bob Minten.

18 MR. DON SOYKE: My name is Don Soyke,
19 and I am with the Ada Farm Bureau.

20 We oppose breaching these dams because
21 there are not enough hard facts to support such a
22 radical proposal.

23 Basing such a drastic move on emotions and
24 speculation is just not going to cut it. It seems
25 everything we do these days is based on percentages.

1 And now we are trying to make a judgment on destroying
2 four dams on percentages. But destroy the dams
3 advocates, and make no mistakes, say removing the
4 earthen portion does not alter the fact that these
5 dams will be destroyed, they are saying that by
6 destroying them these salmon will have a much better
7 percent chance of recovery in the next 50 years than
8 any other strategy.

9 The breaching advocates also tried to
10 minimize the effect on people by saying that these
11 dams only provide 5 percent of the power of the
12 Northwest and provide water for irrigation for over
13 35,000 acres of land.

14 Hydropower is indisputable the cleanest,
15 most efficient source of energy available to man at
16 this time and in the foreseeable future. And in 50
17 years it's also indisputable that there will be more
18 people needing this valuable source of energy.

19 Secondly, this country is the most
20 efficient bread basket in the world. Our climate,
21 soils, political stability and productivity of our
22 farmers make us, whether we like it or not, a vital
23 source of food and fiber for the world market.

24 This critical land, farm land, is
25 disappearing at an alarming rate to development. And

1 to minimize the loss of this land depending on water
2 from these dams is disturbing, if not down right an
3 outrage.

4 We are losing over 5 percent of our
5 farmland every year due to development. We can
6 ill-afford to lose more of this productive land to
7 very controversial claims that breaching will increase
8 the chances of salmon recovery by a very disputable
9 percent.

10 Realistically the time frame for breaching
11 these dams the eight to 15 years if all goes well, and
12 we know that this probably wouldn't happen. So we
13 need to do something now, and it isn't realistic to do
14 this. We need to search for other options that we can
15 put into place in the immediate future.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

18 Next we will hear from Spencer Wood, then
19 Bob Minten, and then Pablo Yaquinah.

20 Go ahead.

21 MR. SPENCER WOOD: My name is Spencer
22 Wood. I am a citizen of Idaho and I speak here for
23 myself.

24 I am in favor of dam breaching and a
25 free-flowing Snake River and I am certainly willing to

1 pay my proportionate share of the cost.

2 I am in favor of all measures that will
3 improve the recovery of wild fish stocks.

4 Another series of drought years such as we
5 have just had will produce low flow, high water
6 temperatures, something, reservoirs, and may run and
7 bring our fragile Idaho anadromous fish runs to
8 extinction.

9 The droughts are unpredictable, and they
10 could happen, and it's almost certain that they will.

11 I'm a professional hydrologist and a
12 geologist and have read the science, the fishery
13 science is very clear. Juvenile wild fish need a
14 flowing river to migrate to the sea. They swim
15 upstream and they need water to carry them down.

16 Much of the other data and science as
17 requested here is just exploiting a lot of scientific
18 uncertainties for political ends.

19 We can drag it out with rhetoric but we
20 just don't have time for that.

21 And I am in favor of the extreme solution,
22 which is breaching the dams and taking all other
23 measures.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Bob Minten,

1 then Pablo Yaquinah, and then Wayne Berry.

2 MR. BOB MINTER: My name is Bob
3 Minter, M-i-n-t-e-r. I am President of the Ada County
4 Fish and Game League, a sportsman's club here in the
5 Treasure Valley that was formed in the 1920s. We are
6 salmon fishermen. Those of us that are still around
7 that can remember catching salmon in a legal
8 situation.

9 Our mission is to work with the public and
10 other individuals to preserve our wildlife. And so we
11 can benefit all citizens in that resource.

12 Let me say at the outset of my comments
13 that our Governor is not speaking for the league, nor
14 has any other official here tonight that I have
15 noticed.

16 Oregon's Governor speaks our language. He
17 is a visionary and must be a sport fisherman.

18 Idaho's salmon are a state and national
19 treasure. They have been around for thousands of
20 years, surviving many of nature's tests.

21 So need wild salmon in Idaho to make our
22 lives whole again. Their presence helps assure us we
23 have a healthy environment.

24 One of the four alternatives, Number 4,
25 under your studies, gives us hope and opportunity to

1 correct our past mistakes and make the right decision
2 to give our fish the fighting chance at recovery.

3 There is no chance for further delay.

4 Many of our members have been salmon
5 fishermen. We think that these fish can return, if
6 not for us in our lifetimes, then our children and our
7 grandchildren.

8 As a youngster I was raised in the shadow
9 of Grand Coulee Dam. My father worked on that
10 facility. I was there where I was first introduced to
11 salmon fishing in a big river environment.

12 From that I think that set the stage for me
13 to a fish biologist. The upper Columbia was a
14 tremendous fishery prior to Grand Coulee's
15 installation. We paid dearly for that loss. We
16 should not allow the same mistake with Idaho salmon.

17 Today we are not asking for Grand Coulee
18 removal or any middle Snake dam removal. We want four
19 low head hydro facilities that generate 4 percent of
20 the power Bonneville generates removed to save our
21 salmon.

22 In more recent years we have witnessed the
23 drawdown of several Idaho reservoirs for the purpose
24 of moving our young fish through those reservoirs.

25 This should not continue. We don't want

1 our water taken out of Idaho for that purpose. It
2 does no good.

3 We feel the science and the economics and
4 results are in. Only dam removal has the largest
5 potential to restore the fish. Recovery option
6 presented that will fit the governing laws and long
7 term needs of our fish. Make us and our grandkids
8 salmon fishermen in Idaho again.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you,
11 Bob. Sorry about your name. It is getting harder to
12 read them later at night.

13 The next one, Pablo Yaquinah. I may not
14 have that right either. Is Pablo here?

15 If not, Wayne Berry, and then Paul I
16 believe Martin, and then Stephen Barr.

17 MR. WAYNE BERRY: Good evening.
18 Again, thank you for staying so late to listen to all
19 of us here tonight. I too am in favor of breaching
20 the four Lower Snake River dams. I'm not a native
21 Idahoan. I was born and raised in Pendleton, Oregon,
22 which is close to the Columbia.

23 Growing up my friends and playmates were
24 Umatilla, Cayuse, and Nez Perce. Growing up I learned
25 through those experiences with those Tribes the

1 importance of preserving and protecting our
2 environment.

3 Not only did I learn those lessons from
4 those individuals who I grew up with but my family,
5 fourth generation farmers in Eastern Oregon, ranchers,
6 loggers, all taught me the ways of the wild, to
7 appreciate wild things.

8 I think it's a tragedy what has happened to
9 the fish, the salmon, in our drainages through the
10 Columbia, Clearwater and Snake Rivers.

11 There is time to save these fish. Tough
12 decisions need to be made. It's obvious to a lot of
13 us in this room tonight that our elected officials are
14 not carrying that torch. They don't speak for most of
15 us here.

16 I think it would be very important
17 throughout your studies, I doubt if this will happen,
18 but I think a vote of the people of this region of the
19 Northwest would answer a lot of questions out there.

20 Like I say, I don't know, we've got one
21 Governor in the State of Oregon who has led over the
22 past 20, 30 years in my lifetime numerous causes at
23 recycling and so forth. Oregon has always been in the
24 forefront of important and changing, sweeping changes
25 across this country.

1 Governor Kitzhaber, I have of the utmost
2 respect for him. He should be running for President.
3 We need politicians in this country that can stand,
4 and make hard decisions.

5 These are not easy. There are sacrifices
6 to be made by everybody. Loggers, farmers, fishermen.
7 Everybody needs to make sacrifices.

8 As a fisherman, as an environmentalist, as
9 a born and raised in this region, I'm ready to make
10 those sacrifices.

11 I would like to see our politicians do the
12 same.

13 Other than that, I guess that's it.

14 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

15 Next we will hear from Paul Martin, and
16 Stephen Barr, and Leland Lay, and again let me remind
17 people to hold your applause, if you can.

18 Paul Martin here?

19 Okay. How about Stephen Barr?

20 MR. STEPHEN BARR: Hello. My name
21 is Stephen Barr, and it has been a pretty long haul
22 here so far. I am a resident of Ada County. And I
23 would like to give you my full name. Stephen Laurence
24 Milhouse Barr.

25 I would like to thank you first very much

1 for hearing us on these matters. I would like to say
2 first of all, I believe our American taxpayers are
3 losing money on this issue, that dam removal is not
4 realistic.

5 And I oppose dam removal. And no flow
6 augmentation for fish.

7 I would like to, if we could, make a long
8 stretch on this, talking about some long rivers here,
9 and someone noted earlier about fish runs further on
10 down the Columbia River drainage not being affected,
11 and we're being affected.

12 And I would just like to make a point of
13 the lengthiness of the matter we are discussing.
14 Compared to Europe, the Ulb River and the Rhine River,
15 say, the Rhine River, 30,000 years ago when our
16 European ancestors were there eking out a living, and
17 among other things, drawing chalk and charcoal on
18 caves which have recently been found in 1994 near
19 Marcea, France, and they were probably fishing these
20 rivers, not knowing, not having any limitations or any
21 law to govern how they were acting on the fish runs on
22 these rivers, which in fact one time there was a huge
23 amount of salmon run.

24 Consequently, eventually, it did away with
25 their salmon runs in those rivers.

1 The Rhine River has been cleaned up a lot
2 here in the last 10 to 20 years, yet there are no fish
3 there in that river in the form of salmon.

4 I would like to point out Russian fir
5 traders up and down our coast here from the 1700's,
6 from central California up into Alaska, and how much
7 effect that their trade in the harvesting of
8 predacious ocean mammals on the salmon population, how
9 that affected the salmon population in the Columbia
10 River system from, say, about 1890 up until 1940, due
11 to the fact of the predacious sea going mammals
12 taking, being gone because of the fir trading factor,
13 and that allowed a natural increase of the population
14 of salmon in the Columbia River system, say, from 1930
15 onward. It was an unnatural increase in the salmon
16 run due to that fact.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.
19 Next we have Ralph, I think it's Hatch actually. Greg
20 Sali, and then Jim Nicholson.

21 Go ahead.

22 MR. LELAND LAY: My name is Lee Lay.
23 I am a construction worker. I have no expertise. I
24 have no position.

25 I would like everyone left in this room to

1 put away their emotions for a minute and think about
2 this proposal.

3 I've kind of got a little cure-all for it
4 all, I'm hoping.

5 I helped build a small dam south of
6 Bruneau, ecologically friendly.

7 It occurred to me a good way to get the
8 fish around the dam and have no effect on the
9 reservoir, I actually woke up in the middle of the
10 night and was struck with this thing.

11 Basically, I had this idea, went over the
12 Internet, and it was already patented. So, my dreams
13 of fame and richness are gone.

14 But, anyway, if everyone would please write
15 this down, the patent number is 4629361. It's call
16 the integrated tubal bypass fishway.

17 The basic premise of the idea is to screen
18 fish, or to take fish through a pipeline, or an
19 artificial river, from the free-flowing headwaters of
20 a reservoir, where there is still a good flow, take
21 the fish through natural currents, through the
22 pipeline, underneath, around or through the dam, and
23 keep the flow rates as much natural condition within
24 the pipeline as possible, to facilitate their
25 migration downstream.

1 Basically, you would have an artificial
2 river underneath the reservoir.

3 I talked to the biologist next door, Greg
4 Graham. He said that the biologists are not in favor
5 of pipelines per se.

6 I'm talking about a very large pipeline,
7 something with capacity to carry any size fish, even
8 where sturgeon could swim back and forth through the
9 dam.

10 Oh, let me think. The advantages of this
11 would be 100 percent survival of all smolts which
12 entered through it. There would be air and light
13 inside through artificial lighting. Low cost, lower
14 than barging.

15 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: You need to
16 finish up.

17 MR. LELAND LAY: Yeah. I'm done.

18 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Is Ralph Hatch
19 here.

20 MR. RALPH HATCH: Thank you. My name
21 is Ralph Hatch. I'm fourth generation Idahoan. That
22 makes my grandkids sixth generation Idahoans.

23 My family started farming in Idaho in the
24 1890s. I have a son who is still involved in the
25 agricultural area. The loss, or potential loss of

1 600,000 acres of farm land in Idaho is totally
2 unacceptable. The loss of our salmon is totally
3 unacceptable.

4 I'm also a salmon fisherman, but
5 unfortunately I have to go to the Hanford Reach, the
6 Oregon coast, or Alaska.

7 We've heard talk about ocean conditions.
8 They have an impact. And I'm sure they do. But
9 unfortunately I think the ocean conditions are a smoke
10 screen. To the best of my knowledge we as human
11 beings have very little control over the ocean
12 conditions. We do have some control over river
13 conditions. And it behooves us to put our best
14 efforts forward to deal with those things which we can
15 control and handle.

16 We talk about the estuary, and immediate
17 fixes. If we breach the dams, it's going to be a long
18 period of time. Eight years.

19 I can't understand, as was mentioned
20 earlier, Rice Island, some of the problems in the
21 Lower Columbia. I don't know if many of us here in
22 Southern Idaho are aware that there is a proposal to
23 increase the depth of the shipping channel, from
24 Portland to Astoria and to the estuary.

25 Where is that dredge spoil going to go? It

1 is going to create another Rice Island which has the
2 largest caspian tern colony in the world.

3 There go our smolts. How can NMFS possibly
4 say that there's no biological impact from additional
5 dredging of the Lower Columbia in the estuary?

6 It will be a political decision. You folks
7 understand that. The General alluded to it. You deal
8 with the politics all the time, even though you are
9 not politicians. I know how you have to survive in
10 that.

11 Have guts enough to say if breaching isn't
12 done, that it's a political decision, and don't say
13 that the science isn't there. The science is there to
14 breach dams.

15 I heard a comment today that there's a lot
16 of junk science out there. I thought about that. Do
17 you know what junk science is? It's any science that
18 doesn't come to the conclusion that I want.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Next is Gregory
21 Sali, then Jim Nicholson, and then Jack Streeter.

22 MR. GREGORY SALI: Ladies and
23 gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to speak on
24 this subject.

25 We believe that you do not have enough

1 science to make the decision that you're talking about
2 breaching the dams.

3 My name is Gregory Sali, and I'm the
4 chairman of Buy a Salmon, Save a Species Foundation.

5 Our goals are to return the salmon to at
6 least 20 million spawners each year. And we want to
7 do that in a program by buying live fish from all the
8 takers that we now have on our ecosystem.

9 We can't save the species if we don't save
10 the eggs. We believe that the science that's
11 necessary to understand the Snake River ecosystem
12 overlapping into the Columbia Basin ecosystem,
13 overlapping into the Pacific Ocean ecosystem, North
14 America continent, even the Euro Asian continent,
15 because they are all takers of the fish that we like
16 to think our salmon go out and eat and come back.

17 We don't understand that science. As a
18 farmer, I know what it is to clean out the head ditch
19 and the tail ditch and the canals from the silt.

20 I think you've got a much bigger problem
21 with the silt in the dams. You've got millions of
22 tons that are going to flow down. And it's not going
23 to flow away when you breach those dams. It's going
24 to be there, and in your estimates, 10, 15, maybe 20
25 years.

1 We ask everybody to join with us to help us
2 solve this problem. Buy a salmon, save the eggs, and
3 with science, we can restore everything and save all
4 the jobs. The biggest problem that you have to face
5 is that in the hundred years that you are predicating
6 your science on to recover the species, there will be
7 triple the population in the North American continent
8 in the world.

9 What are you going to do about that? How
10 many salmon are going to be needed for those people?

11 We have a bigger problem creating the jobs.
12 One of our goals would be to create the jobs for the
13 future and do it with the assets that we have. We are
14 going to propose a program using the CRAY computer at
15 INEL and other places.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.
18 Next is Jim Nicholson, then Jack Streeter, and next on
19 deck is Tom McGrath.

20 Go ahead.

21 MR. JIM NICHOLSON: I am Jim
22 Nicholson. I have lived in Idaho for 16 years. I
23 would like to speak for my family. First for my dad
24 who lived in the Midwest and only dreamed of salmon
25 fishing, but took the time to teach me to appreciate

1 nature and to appreciate the importance of preserving
2 habitat.

3 For my son, who has spent hundreds of hours
4 with me, fly fishing all over Idaho, and the
5 Northwest, while learning the same lessons about the
6 environment, who hiked with me to Big Creek about ten
7 years ago, in central Idaho, and watched three
8 spawning salmon, where there used to be thousands.

9 The experience was at the same time
10 aspiring and terribly sad.

11 Last summer we floated 90 miles of a remote
12 Alaskan river, and we finally saw together what wild
13 salmon without dams were all about.

14 And I would like to speak for my grandson
15 who was born in November. I think he deserves a
16 chance to see the wonders of wild salmon.

17 I'm a scientist, but I appreciate what Yogi
18 Bera once said, I wouldn't have seen it if I can't
19 believed it. There are widely varying opinions, and I
20 would be first to admit that I analyzed the data, and
21 I have looked at a lot of it through very biased eyes.

22 Even so, common sense leaves no doubt for
23 me, if we want to save the wild salmon for future
24 generations, breaching the dams on the lower Snake
25 becomes one critical piece of a complex puzzle. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Next is Jack
3 Streeter, then Tom McGrath, and Erik Nystrom.

4 MR. JACK STREETER: Ladies and
5 gentlemen, thank you for giving us the time to speak
6 to you.

7 That gentleman that mentioned the patented
8 process is well worth your investigation. They would
9 have little motels along the way for the fish to rest
10 and then go back out.

11 But I think we have here something we have
12 to have call common sense. I would like to ask, how
13 many of you are in favor of coal fired plants and
14 atomic plants for generating power? Nobody?

15 Well, the cheapest power ever produced is
16 falling water. And the gentleman that said it was so
17 cheap and everything is only because we have a net
18 power that we can transfer all over the United States.
19 And if we subsidize that, why, sure, it is cheap, but
20 somebody has to pay.

21 Now, we need to save Idaho's seaport. We
22 need to get our products to market. Let's face it.
23 We're a basic resource operation in Idaho.

24 Farming, ranching, mining, timbering, and
25 we can't afford to lock up those natural resources,

1 and I think we should consider all the different
2 methods of breaching dams in a manner that we do not
3 destroy our agriculture and all our other jobs.
4 Because without jobs, we have nothing. And you should
5 bring these things to the market.

6 Now, the gentleman that spoke about Idaho
7 Power, what we're trying to say here, is when Idaho
8 Power goes in for a license, they should be required,
9 and I think they are, to build fish ladders that work.

10 And if they have shortchanged us in the
11 past, I think we can legislate so that we could change
12 that.

13 But we've got to get our natural resources
14 to the market or we do not survive in Idaho. We can't
15 lock up 12 million acres, wilderness, no farming, no
16 ranching, no mining. We can't do that, ladies and
17 gentlemen, because we have to have jobs for our
18 posterity.

19 And if we don't have jobs for our
20 posterity, and if we don't use our natural resources,
21 of which water is the greatest, there will be no
22 posterity, there will be no prosperity for our
23 posterity, and I thank you for the time.

24 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

25 Next is Tom McGrath, then Erik Nystrom,

1 then Larry Newman.

2 MR. TOM McGRATH: My name is Tom
3 McGrath, and I live in Boise, Idaho.

4 As before, I am here tonight to plead the
5 case of the fish. This time I address my comments to
6 both the Army Corps of Engineers and to the Federal
7 Caucus.

8 When the four dams in question were built,
9 they were built on the assumption and promise that the
10 salmon and steelhead runs would not be severely
11 impacted.

12 Now these fish are nearing extinction.

13 In short, you have failed to keep your
14 promise. Now while the beneficiaries of the federal
15 are just and politicians scramble to avoid the truth,
16 I urge you to make good on your promise and do
17 whatever is necessary to restore the fish runs, no
18 matter how much it costs.

19 The best scientific evidence overwhelmingly
20 indicates that bypassing the dams is the best and
21 probably only way to accomplish that goal.

22 Yes, it's expensive, but if cost is so
23 important, then the dams should never have been built
24 in the first place. After all, during the
25 authorization and appropriations process, you were

1 warned about the environmental risks.

2 That does not mean that we should turn our
3 backs on the citizens who now depend on these dams.
4 Economic mitigation in the form of new and improved
5 transportation for structures is appropriate and
6 probably the most economical thing to do in the long
7 run.

8 What happens if we ignore the overwhelming
9 evidence and tolerate the status quo or indulge in
10 indecision and allow additional delays? Imagine an
11 Idaho robbed of this most important symbol of its
12 Northwest natural and cultural heritage.

13 A salmonless river gives the river of no
14 return a new and tragic meaning.

15 The loss of these genetically unique fish
16 stocks would cast a staggering blow to our biological
17 diversity and strip away another layer of our cultural
18 identity.

19 How will we excuse this travesty to our
20 children? Extinction is an ugly word that must be
21 relegated to describing dialectic catastrophes, not
22 the results of human commerce.

23 You cannot allow economic interests to
24 thwart our quest to preserve these magnificent
25 creatures.

1 Extinction is forever, and is simply not an
2 acceptable option.

3 Prompt, decisive, effective action stands
4 between successful restoration of these valuable fish
5 stocks and the shame of knowing that you could have
6 done more.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you, Tom.
9 Next is Erik Nystrom. Then Larry Newman, and then
10 next will be Scott Ashford.

11 Erik Nystrom? How about Larry Newman?

12 MR. LARRY NEWMAN: My name is Larry
13 Newman. I'm a resident of Boise, Idaho. I'm a native
14 of Idaho, and my family's been here for nearly as long
15 as the state's been here.

16 My wife's great grandmother died at the age
17 of 101 a few weeks ago in Salmon, and she was born
18 near the confluence of the Lemhance and Salmon
19 Rivers.

20 My great grandfather died at age 98, 31
21 years ago, and he was also born within the borders
22 what are now the borders of Idaho.

23 For so many years we had so many salmon in
24 our rivers that as a family we took that for granted.
25 We didn't believe there was anything that could kill

1 all of them.

2 Because of that, we failed to be active
3 when these dams were being put in place. And sure
4 enough, our apathy at the time has shown there is
5 something that can kill all of the hundreds of
6 thousands and millions of Idaho salmon.

7 I'm here tonight because I want my salmon
8 back. I want my fish back. I'm tired of my elected
9 leaders taking money from those few individuals that
10 profit from the dams and buying the decision-making
11 process. I'm tired of paying taxes to support the
12 operation of the dams, the operation of the barges,
13 the operation of the locks.

14 I don't see any benefit from those dams.
15 The only thing they do for me is they kill the salmon.
16 I think our politicians, if they would get wise, they
17 would recognize that the tide is swinging, the
18 populous is more intelligent than they used to be,
19 they are more informed than they used to be, and they
20 aren't going to vote for those who are selling the
21 decision-making process, they aren't going to vote
22 because a lobbyist like the Farm Bureau, which many of
23 my family members are a member of, and used to be
24 members of.

25 We want our fish back. We had a great time

1 when they were here. We have a hundred years of
2 record showing that. And when it's as cheap as it is
3 to breach the dams, given the other alternatives, I
4 see no reason why we shouldn't proceed.

5 And I would like my elected officials to
6 know that, that I will not be in support of those who
7 are selling out the decision-making process to the
8 highest campaign contributor.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.
11 Let's go on next to Scott Ashford. Then Justin
12 Vitley, then Greg Nelson.

13 MR. SCOTT ASHFORD: Thank you very
14 much. I don't have a diplomatic or eloquent speech to
15 give you or anything like that. I will just try to do
16 this the best I can.

17 The sad thing is the salmon can't speak to
18 us. We're the ones that have to basically voice our
19 opinions. And what would they say if they could? How
20 many more dams better are you going to throw in our
21 direction?

22 We have got people fishing out in the
23 ocean. They are taking more than they should, people
24 on the land doing the same, you have birds and all the
25 normal predators that they have to endure, we have got

1 four dams originally, what are all those fish that
2 spawned before the last four say to those fish? Well,
3 look what you guys have to endure now.

4 I think it's pretty sad to say that the
5 fish are meant to suffer because of government control
6 politics that are fueled simply by money, and/or the
7 threat of someone losing their job for speaking out.

8 The effects of siltation, three to five
9 years of the river to level out or more are just mere
10 smoke screens to try and sway opinion, but it's not
11 working too well.

12 I'm a dedicated fly fisherman and a
13 conservationist, but more than that, I am a by the
14 people and for the people type of person, whose voice
15 is no less important than any Senator, representative
16 or Governor.

17 You can't correct everything, but let's do
18 the best thing available, and bring back a true
19 free-flowing lower Snake that will drastically help
20 the migrating fish.

21 Thanks a lot.

22 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you. Is
23 Justin Vitley here?

24 MR. JUSTIN VITLEY: Hi. My name is
25 Justin Vitley, and I appreciate you giving me the time

1 to speak to you tonight.

2 I hope everybody's not yawning and nodding
3 off, because I have been here since 5 a.m., so I made
4 sure I had an opportunity to speak. I sat through
5 every single testimony, and I have taken it all in,
6 and I just have a few things that come to mind for me.

7 First off, I work at The Idaho Angler. It
8 is the largest fly fishing shop in the state of Idaho.
9 What that job offers me is not only a way of life but
10 I get to meet a lot of interesting and meaningful
11 people.

12 Amongst some of these are people that are
13 high ranking officials with the BLM, Bureau of Rec.,
14 very well acquainted with the scientist that's been
15 hired by the BPA and also I personally know one of the
16 State Senators, and many others that I won't go on or
17 name special names.

18 But anyway, throughout the last several
19 years that we have been really heated up on this issue
20 I have had the opportunity to speak with several of
21 these people, but the common, the main point that I
22 hear from all of them is the exact same thing, the
23 science is in, we know that these dams need to be
24 breached, but you know what, I'm afraid I'm going to
25 lose my job if I speak out and actually tell the

1 truth. Okay?

2 I'm hearing that from not just one person,
3 I'm hearing it from at least five or six people. And
4 I'm not going to say names because obviously I want to
5 protect their jobs. But when someone says, hey, I'm
6 afraid I'm going to lose my job, is that ironic or
7 what? Because we are talking about a few people
8 losing the jobs on the lower Snake dams if we take
9 them out.

10 Think about people on this whole issue that
11 are afraid to speak out and tell the truth. How many
12 half truths are we hearing. We see all the graphs on
13 the economics. How much of that is half truths and
14 how much is true? Do we really know? Does anybody
15 really know?

16 Okay. What I want people to realize is
17 the science is in, I think the scientists actually
18 know what is really going on.

19 I would implore everyone in the commission
20 to look each other in the eye every night, look at
21 each other right now and say, are all the people in my
22 command, are you, the people working for you, are they
23 telling me the truth and giving me the correct
24 information, or am I hearing half truths, so we can
25 put this issue aside and nobody loses their job?

1 Again, that's all that I ask, is everybody
2 make sure that they have the correct information, none
3 of these half truths, because we are not going to get
4 anywhere with that.

5 And I appreciate the time that you have
6 given me tonight.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

9 Next is Greg Nelson, then John I believe
10 Clement, and then Russ Thurow.

11 DR. GREG NELSON: General, and
12 members of the panel, I am Dr. Greg Nelson. I am
13 representing the 50,000 member Idaho Farm Bureau
14 Federation tonight.

15 We believe firmly that the solution to
16 salmon recovery lies in continuing what we are already
17 doing, improving the immigration -- or the migration
18 corridor of smolts, better accommodate the natural
19 tendencies of the salmonid species.

20 We are not supporting anything as risky or
21 radical or irreversible as dam destruction, and feel
22 we can make full recovery without destroying the Lower
23 Snake River dams or any other major dams in the
24 Northwest.

25 Incidentally, Governor Kepthorne does speak

1 for us.

2 The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is
3 sensitive to the wants and desires of the Tribes and
4 sports fishermen and is certainly concerned regarding
5 the welfare of commercial fishermen, and the canneries
6 that employ and support the many good hard working
7 families depending upon a good catch of salmon.

8 We are sensitive to the Alaskan salmon
9 fishermen who feel the decline of the Snake River
10 salmon has seriously affected the Alaskan run.
11 Although we suggest that this is more a result of
12 overfishing and poor ocean conditions. But according
13 to those who predict weather it appears la nino' with
14 colder ocean temperatures is settling in for a 30 year
15 stay.

16 If this is so, then the oceans conditions
17 will return for a nurturing state of the ocean.

18 Tell our downriver friends and neighbors we
19 propose that we adopt a strategy that Ernie Brandon
20 developed which is a rapid -- it's a corridor bypass
21 system that can be run on 500 cfs of Idaho water. It
22 will -- it solves the solution -- or makes the
23 solution for those species that have to rapidly
24 migrate, but it also builds into the migration
25 corridor, those places that fish can stop and rest and

1 browse, like the Chinook salmon are required to do.

2 We think that his solution, regardless of
3 cost, is the thing that we should do. This bypass
4 will save water, there will be no need to call further
5 water tried Idaho's farmers or from Southern Idaho.

6 We feel that if in fact the water going
7 down the river were made available to the state of
8 Washington farmers, I think they'd help dig the canal
9 around the dams. Because we could convert a whole lot
10 more to agriculture.

11 We must not forget the salmon species are
12 endangered. However, we allow the species to be
13 caught and eaten by the world's population. If we
14 expect to keep commercial fishing, tribal claims and
15 sports fisheries alive and well, we must be innovative
16 and scientific in our approach.

17 We feel that the Ernie Brandon approach can
18 recover the species and keep the dams in place.

19 Rather than veer off into uncharted waters
20 and nonsensical proposals, let's work together to
21 develop a strategy that saves the fish, and most
22 importantly, the human family.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

25 John Clement. How about Russ Thurow. And

1 after Russ will be Ben Moclowitz, I believe it is, our
2 last person signed up.

3 MR. RUSS THUROW: My name is Russ
4 Thurow. And I am here representing myself and my
5 daughter.

6 A lot of the points that I was going to
7 cover has already been stated pretty eloquently
8 tonight. I would like to touch on just a few points.

9 First of all, I want to remind everyone
10 that salmon in particular, and steelhead also, are a
11 keystone species. What that means is that they play a
12 major role in the productivity of ecosystems, both
13 from the aquatic sense and the terrestrial sense.

14 In other words, the nutrients that salmon
15 and steelhead bring back to these systems are tied up
16 in the plants and the animals, both in the water and
17 in the land.

18 So if we lose these species, we lose a lot
19 more than just a single species. We lose the
20 productivity, and the potential of the entire
21 ecosystem.

22 Secondly, while there are a lot of factors
23 that contribute to the status of salmon and steelhead,
24 particularly in the upper river areas, like here in
25 Idaho, I would argue that the solutions are not

1 complex.

2 It bothers me when I hear people say it is
3 so complex, what can we do about it. If we truly are
4 going to do a triage approach, like the gentleman from
5 the Corps spoke about, then we are going to look at
6 the problems, look at the issues, decide where we get
7 the most bang for our buck, and I think the solutions
8 are very clear.

9 The analogy would be, I've never known of a
10 medic to come on the scene of an injured person and
11 say, it's so complex I can't deal with it. They are
12 going to do a triage, they are going to decide what
13 they are going to gain the most by taking certain
14 actions, and they are going to do that.

15 The third point is, the comments by the
16 National Marine Fisheries Service person about the CRI
17 were very troubling to me. It seemed like there's a
18 basic biological principle that's being
19 misinterpreted. A species that produces 5,000 eggs is
20 going to have high egg to fry mortality.

21 And I would ask you, what do you propose to
22 do in the pristine spawning areas that we have in
23 Idaho to change that? That's a natural adapted
24 situation. You are not going to influence it.

25 So we need to look at what the real issue

1 here is, and the real issue is the passage corridor.

2 So, finally, I would say listen to the
3 science, look at the economics of the issue, take the
4 actions to be legal mandates, and finally, my
5 three-year old daughter likes happy endings. I want
6 to take my daughter into Loon Creek, into Falcon
7 Perry, and show her 30 pounds salmon spawning, I want
8 to show her 20 pound steelheads spawning on Poverty
9 Flat.

10 Breach the dams, make the solution, fix the
11 problem.

12 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you.

13 Ben Moclowitz. Is Ben Moclowitz here?

14 That's the end of the number of people that
15 have signed up. We had a few people who have taken
16 their names off the list because of the lateness of
17 the day.

18 I have also been told by the meeting
19 coordinator that a couple of people have asked to make
20 a statement if we still have time. So I think we can
21 take one or two more comments.

22 So if you have requested that, come on up
23 now to the microphone. I don't have your names.

24 Do we have anybody else that are in that
25 category?

1 MR. RICHARD DOOLEY: I am Richard
2 Dooley from Boise, Idaho. Excuse me. I apologize for
3 not signing up. I just got off of work.

4 I'm a Boise native, was born and raised
5 here.

6 I've never met anybody from Idaho anywhere
7 that thought anything of breaching the dams. I am old
8 enough, at 53, in the early '50s, went up and saw the
9 salmon runs, and they are beautiful, and I would love
10 to have the salmon back, and if there's things that we
11 can do that are economical and reasonable, then I
12 think those things should be done.

13 One thing that I do want to say, I don't
14 have any biological expertise or anything like that,
15 but just reading this, about these fishery biologists,
16 I think they all ought to be canned and thrown away.

17 This is ridiculous to be advocating getting
18 rid of the dams. Even if the science was there, it's
19 not economically feasible. And I think that's in the
20 species law, that it has to be economically feasible
21 to return the species.

22 But the science isn't there.

23 The main thing that bothers me is that the
24 ocean fisheries are being depleted right now, and this
25 is happening all over the world, with all the ocean

1 fish.

2 Now, how we expect the salmon, I don't care
3 how many zillions of salmon we can store back in the
4 ocean, those salmon eventually are going to be
5 destroyed if all the other fish in the ocean are being
6 destroyed in the same way. I don't know if it's
7 overfishing, whatever it is. But it's unreasonable to
8 try to solve, until we solve the ocean problem with
9 all the fish that's going down, declining, trying to
10 get, to increase the salmon here in Boise, or on the
11 Snake River and our drainage isn't there.

12 The other thing is, there was a program on
13 public TV the other day from Oregon outdoors or
14 whatever it was, and they had a study from three
15 rivers that are on the coast of Oregon, none of which
16 have dams on them, two of which have great salmon
17 runs, and one that didn't, and they were studying why.

18 And what it had was nothing to do with
19 dams.

20 So I think the science is ridiculous, it's
21 not there. I don't think there's an iota of science,
22 scintilla, et cetera, et cetera, of scientific fact to
23 breach the dams.

24 The people in Idaho do depend on the dams,
25 depend on it for the lights, for the power, etc.,

1 etc., etc.

2 It's true that breaking a few of them, this
3 thing, well, we will just break a few of them now. We
4 will watch what happens when that doesn't work? If
5 you were really going to do it, you would have to
6 break all the dams, get rid of all the flood control.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you for
9 your comments.

10 Do we have one last comment? Come forward,
11 please.

12 MR. DAN McDOUGALL: I am Dan
13 McDougall, member of TREE Team Ecosystem.

14 In mid October we took a trip to Lewiston,
15 Lower Granite Dam, to learn about the issue of salmon.
16 We talked to biologists, we talked to the Army Corps
17 of Engineers. We talked to a lot of people. The
18 final conclusion that TREE came out with, not our
19 teacher, the students, the teens and such, is that we
20 need to breach these dams.

21 I don't see how anybody can say the science
22 is not there. This is the most researched species on
23 our planet.

24 In the worst case scenario that's going to
25 happen, we breach these four Lower Granite dams, the

1 fish don't come back. Breaching the dams isn't
2 permanent. We're just taking out the earthen part.
3 We can put the earthen part back there, restore the
4 power.

5 And I haven't heard one thing that I
6 couldn't give a good rebuttal to tonight.

7 That's just all I have to say.

8 MS. JACQUELINE ABLE: Thank you. We
9 have come to the end of the public comment part of the
10 evening.

11 At this point I would like to turn it back
12 to the General and the panelists to see if anybody has
13 any final comments or closing they would like to make.

14 COL. STROCK: Just on behalf of the
15 panel, I really would like to thank everyone who has
16 participated in this.

17 I see some of our agency representatives
18 have been up here and have been to a number of these
19 meetings. We appreciate your continued support and
20 endurance.

21 But more to the citizens of this area, we
22 really do sincerely appreciate your commitment to
23 helping us and guiding us as we make some tough
24 decisions here.

25 I assure you we have been listening very

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 138 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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William J. Bridges
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Certificate No. 91-0244
My certificate expires: 10-31-02

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