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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"

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2000

Tape Transcribed By: Michael R. King, CSR

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ROBERT DURREAU:

-- with ISSU. I'm an avid salmon and steelhead fisherman and I think we've studied these dams long enough. They need to come out of there and we need the salmon. And the salmon brings in far more money than the -- and the steelhead bring in far more money than barging a little bit of wheat. And I don't care if I never see a ship in Lewiston. I don't believe there should be one there. That's not a seaport.

And I guess I don't have much more to say except get them dams out of there.

JOHN BACON:

I live at 3510 South Jefferson Drive in Spokane, Washington, and my phone number is 509.624.0682.

My comments are the following: On entering the building, I noticed the big inflated fish outside that talks about "We need salmon. The dams don't make sense." The dams may or may not make sense.

What struck me odd about that sign is that people all around the world actually do exist without salmon. We may want salmon; we may like salmon; we may enjoy seeing them. We may have a whole host of good reasons why we want the to save salmon, but it's a real stretch to say we need salmon.

1 What we do need is jobs. What we do need is to have
2 the City of Lewiston and the big manufacturing, that plant
3 down there be able to compete globally. We do need to be
4 rational about the real implications and the impact on the
5 global environment. If we get serious about taking out dams,
6 you know, where does the electricity come from? Where does
7 the paper goods come from? And what will be the global
8 impact on pollution as we say, "Well, let somebody else deal
9 with those issues," by producing energy from less
10 environmentally friendly sources or producing paper products
11 in countries that don't have the same environmental
12 regulations that we have.

13 So I guess I'm making a pitch for some common sense
14 here. Let's find other means of enhancing the salmon runs
15 and be real rational when we talk about what we need as
16 opposed to what we want.

17 CRAIG BROUGHER:

18 My name is Craig Brougher. I am from Wilbur,
19 Washington. I am making comments on the All-H paper as well
20 as the federal EIS salmon recovery efforts.

21 One of the first comments is are the salmon really
22 endangered? The use of the evolutionary significant units
23 seems to be political more than scientific. Separating fish
24 into regions or basins where they're separated by natural
25 barriers does not constitute a new or different species.

1 Grizzly bears in Yellowstone are the same as grizzly
2 bears in Alaska; just separated populations isolated by
3 space. And our river salmon are the same as Wenatchee River
4 salmon, just separated by mountains.

5 I also challenge the notion that hatchery and wild
6 fish are genetically different enough to classify them as two
7 separate species. Years of unabated cross breeding between
8 them has eliminated any genetic differences, while the
9 behavioral and survival differences may be due to upbringing,
10 hatchery versus wild environments.

11 I also challenge the notion that the hatcheries are
12 destroying runs. Captive breeding programs are used in other
13 endangered species programs for species recovery. A good
14 example are the California condors. Behavioral modifications
15 can be made at the hatcheries to make for a smarter, more
16 survivable fish.

17 I also challenge the notion of incidental takings.
18 This is not part of the Endangered Species Act. It's a
19 policy set by the Secretary of Interior. It circumvents the
20 intent of Congress and the ESA by allowing endangered species
21 to be killed and sold for profit. Bald eagles and owls are
22 not allowed to have takings. They carry heavy fines and
23 imprisonment. If salmon are really endangered, treat them as
24 such: No. 1, stop all fishing. No. 2, stop all habitat
25 encroachment, including building, development, point and

1 nonpoint pollution, timber harvest, mining, recreation,
2 boating, swimming and predation; also, improve captive
3 breeding programs within the hatcheries to help recover their
4 numbers.

5 My recommendations are to change the hatchery
6 facilities to match in-stream conditions such as gravel
7 bottoms, irregular shapes, water velocities, hiding places
8 from natural -- made from natural materials, as well as
9 substrate feeding or feeding the fish off the bottom instead
10 of off the top; removing the barriers to exotic fish in
11 upstream habitats, count all the salmon. If a fish makes it
12 up the river, rejoice, let him spawn in peace.

13 The 4-D rules that are being proposed are too broad.
14 They go way beyond the intent of the ESA. The law clearly
15 separates threatened and endangered.

16 Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact
17 statement: I make a recommendation for Alternative No. 3.
18 Keep improving the system we have. The wells/dam system is a
19 very good example to follow and I see that we have been doing
20 that on some of the dams. Let's keep working with that.

21 I'd also like to see the study results that are
22 coming out later this year to be added as a supplement to the
23 draft DEIs. I oppose the breaching option because of the
24 increased sediment loads, loss of habitat and wildlife. The
25 increase in number and size of islands for the colonial birds

1 will increase predation.

2 The exposure of sensitive and sacred native American
3 sites is also unacceptable.

4 There is also an assumption that the water and fish
5 travel times are the same. This may not be true. Under some
6 conditions, travel times for fish could decrease, especially
7 in low flow years, high sedimentation or slump occurrences.

8 In conclusion, I would also like to say that I don't
9 think it's going to create 140 miles of habitat. It's only
10 going to create about 5 percent of that or less than a mile
11 and a half of real habitat the fish can use.

12 Thank you.

13 DAN COULSON:

14 My name is Dan Coulson. I'm from Mattawa,
15 Washington, and I would like to give my opinion on the
16 proposed dam breaching.

17 I believe hydropower is the only 100 percent clean,
18 pure and nonpolluting, totally renewable source of energy
19 that we know of. It is the cheapest method of power
20 production that exists.

21 The effects of capping turbines on downstream smolts
22 is greatly exaggerated. That impact is less than 5 percent
23 as per the Norman Doe studies. A female salmon which lays
24 3100 eggs needs to have a .06 return rate to maintain a
25 healthy run. I don't think the dams, even at 5 percent each,

1 could come anywhere near that problem -- near that number.

2 The water utilized by the farmers has made the
3 Columbia Basin one of the richest food producing areas in the
4 world. I think that the science that has been done by Norman
5 Doe Associates, National Marine Fisheries and all the studies
6 that all of the utilities have put out should be publicized
7 to explain to people exactly what does kill fish and the
8 impacts of the dams.

9 I strongly oppose breaching of any kind. I think it
10 would be taking a giant step backward.

11 BRIDGET JOIREMAN:

12 I am Bridget Joireman, J-o-i-r-e-m-a-n.

13 I'm concerned about the dam breaching and losing the
14 hydropower. Nuclear power is not popular and the replacement
15 alternatives are coal or natural gas.

16 I'm also concerned about the shipping issues.
17 Barging is cheaper than using trucks and rails and also helps
18 conserve the limited fossil fuels that we have.

19 Thank you.

20 MARLENE RENWYCK:

21 My name is Marlene Renwyck.

22 Partial dam removal is a no-brainer. If we all hope
23 to avoid the impending extinction of salmon and steelhead
24 runs, we must provide better habitat. These fish need
25 colder, fast-moving water, free from impenetrable concrete

1 slabs in order to survive.

2 In addition, we need to establish buffer zones along
3 streams which prohibit logging, grazing and road
4 construction. Without intact spawning beds, we fail to
5 provide for full recovery. Along with that, free-flowing
6 river stretches such as the Hanford Reach should be
7 permanently protected to provide some of the only remaining
8 native river habitat.

9 Hatchery fish and barging young salmon have failed
10 to sustain dwindling salmon populations. Not only have these
11 projects denied salmon a real and honest chance at recovery,
12 but they've wasted millions of dollars and decades of time
13 that all could have been better spent.

14 How much longer will we cave in to pressures from
15 industrialized politicians and federally subsidized
16 commercial interests? Salmon are long overdue that which has
17 been theirs since the beginning of time: The inherent right
18 to exist. Removing four dams is, after all, the very least
19 that we can do.

20 NORM McCLURE:

21 I'm Norm McClure, representing the Washington
22 Association of Conservation Districts and the Washington
23 Rangelands Committee. Both of these entities support a
24 concept of coordinated resource management which is highly
25 recognized for achieving habitat enhancement at the local

1 level. This approach has a great record for engaging and
2 empowering local landowners and for developing site-specific
3 solutions to local problems and community-based efforts at
4 the subwatershed level.

5 Please look forward to our vision paper, which will
6 be mailed to the participants leading the discussions of this
7 forum today.

8 I was concerned -- one more comment -- the 4-H paper
9 that I received yesterday, executive summary, talks about an
10 Alternative C, the coordinated regional approach, which is
11 for improving habitat with local efforts. However, at the
12 presentation and slide overhead today, it mentioned only that
13 effort as achieving ending further degradation. I believe it
14 should -- the paper that I have shows the potential for
15 enhancement rather than only preventing degradation is much
16 more appropriate. And the presentation this morning seemed
17 to undercut the full potential of Alternative C for resolving
18 the problems that we have before us.

19 Thank you.

20 KEN JACOBSON:

21 This is Ken Jacobson. I farm and ranch in eastern
22 Washington. Much of my pastureland is along nonfish-bearing
23 streams and also along intermittent or seasonal runoff
24 streams that dry up in early June.

25 My concern is the proposed 200-foot buffer zone rule

1 on all waterways. National Marine Fisheries Service rules
2 seek to control private property and put an unequal burden on
3 agricultural landowners without any financial compensation.

4 The rules are focused too much on restoring habitat
5 at landowner expense while allowing the predators such as
6 seals, sea lions and terns along the coast to flourish
7 unchecked. These predators probably destroy more salmon than
8 all the stream habitat in eastern Washington affects salmon
9 runs.

10 Also, stopping harvest of salmon and poor ocean
11 conditions should be analyzed and dealt with before this
12 massive expansion of federal authority in the form of lost
13 property rights is enacted.

14 I am not against salmon. I am against rules that go
15 too far and infringe on my rights, rules that threaten my
16 livelihood and rules made by an agency that threatens me with
17 fines and jail time.

18 In closing, I would encourage adaptation of
19 biological-based standards for all of the salmon life stages.
20 Please avoid drastic action based on panic or politics. Seek
21 a reasonable course based on sound nonprejudiced science.

22 Thank you.

23 JIM CRONIN:

24 My name is Jim Cronin of Spokane, Washington.

25 And I would like to make a comment regarding the

1 salmon and the breaching of the dams. And I want to say that
2 I support breaching the four Lower Snake River dams because I
3 think it's, in the end, the common sense thing to do is to
4 put the salmon on the best prospective to recover. And I
5 think all the techno-fixes and all the studying them to death
6 and all that kind of thing is getting us mostly nowhere.

7 So I want to say that I support the dam breaching
8 and I support helping the communities down there with some of
9 the money you would spend in all of the other things and to
10 keep it simple and recover the salmon and put them the first
11 priority and do everything you can to help them recover.

12 Okay. Thank you.

13 ROGER K. WESSELMAN:

14 I am a Mansfield, Washington, farmer. I would like
15 to make comments on the breaching of the Lower Snake River
16 dams.

17 I am very disheartend with what they're -- the
18 potential that this would be to the economy of our area. If
19 you look at this as just not in our state, it is in Idaho,
20 Oregon, Montana, and other states included with the freight
21 that goes down the river. I really believe that this would
22 hurt our economy. What would we do with the people that are
23 just -- or their jobs taken away because of this? You are
24 stepping on private property rights because you have no way
25 to irrigate your ground.

1 You would be taking away water that would
2 essentially be keeping ground from blowing in a lot of areas.
3 There is an awful lot of other things that are potential to
4 agriculture. You talk of cost of production going up.

5 Our freight would go higher for our commodities
6 going downstream or down to Portland to put over 700,000
7 trucks on the road, which I am sure has been mentioned
8 before. Our rail system would be overloaded. Our highways
9 would be demolished from that many trucks. We have the rail
10 up and down the Columbia to the port right now to cover what
11 we have hardly.

12 The other thing is that I think that it's ridiculous
13 that we think that salmon that are coming out of the nurse --
14 or fish hatcheries are not the same. I think we need to
15 realize that evolution does come.

16 Yes, we do have to keep the salmon. I will not say
17 that. It is a good sport. It is a good way of -- means of
18 food for all of us. I believe that we need to really
19 consider what we're doing on harvesting out on the seas, what
20 the seals are doing at the mouth of the Columbia.

21 And also, when one -- the story I have heard is that
22 when one salmon went up the wrong tributary of the Methow,
23 that it was killed because it was supposed to be going up the
24 Okanogan. I don't understand why in the world a fish
25 biologist, if a fish was going to spawn, that you would take

1 one, if it was a native or not, going up the wrong tributary.
2 It is just beyond my comprehension why this was done and why
3 in the world do you think that if people think that this need
4 to have a native salmon just going up the wrong tributary,
5 that they think should be there. That's the way it is. But
6 I really disagree with a lot of the other things that are
7 going on that you think that needs to be done and the realism
8 of what really should be done and that is save the dams.

9 Thank you.

10 VICTOR CASTLEBERRY:

11 This is Victor Castleberry. I'm a retired
12 physician. I live in Spokane, Washington.

13 And I have a great deal of interest in recreational
14 activities including boating, horseback riding. I'm with the
15 Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club and also with the Backcountry
16 Horsemen, the Inland Empire Chapter. We have approximately
17 200 members. I'm not speaking for either of these
18 organizations. I am speaking for myself, but I'm sure that a
19 number of individuals would agree with me in these
20 organizations.

21 I look on the current salmon problem as greatly
22 endangered because of inadequate egress into their spawning
23 areas, and I think that dam removal would be a very good
24 option, from what I know of the status and information that
25 has been presented in public forums to this point.

1 I am hopeful that the decisions will be made on good
2 scientific bases, that there will be due consideration for
3 the economic impacts and that the overall philosophy of
4 preserving salmon the considered a paramount importance.

5 This certainly has to be the -- it has to be taken
6 into consideration that the economic survival of Lewiston and
7 other communities, as well as the farming industry, be
8 considered. But I think alternate means of transportation
9 and recreational influx certainly will overcome some of the
10 presumed economic costs of breaching dams. To put it more in
11 a more summary fashion, I would say that I think I would be
12 in favor of seeing these dams breached in order to have
13 proper flow of the rivers, proper spawning and a more
14 naturalistic environment for the fish themselves.

15 Thank you very much for this opportunity.

16 ED WESSELMAN:

17 Okay. I'm Ed Wesselman and I am a retired farmer in
18 Douglas County. I've farmed there for 40 years.

19 And I'm old enough to remember the devastation of
20 the flood of 1948, when the Columbia River and the Snake
21 River went on its rampage. And everything from -- the only
22 dam that was on the river, as I remember, was Grand Coulee
23 Dam, and everything downriver clear to Portland was almost
24 devastated. And the City of Portland or Vantage was
25 completely washed out and Portland was near at flood stage.

1 And I believe, with the removal of these dams, there
2 is -- that has been proposed, we will see, in time, another
3 situation like that, and it can be disastrous. Besides all
4 of the other ramifications that can come from this, from loss
5 of electricity and irrigation water.

6 And that is most of what I would like to get across
7 right at this moment.

8 Thank you.

9 JON BINNINGER:

10 My name is Jon Binninger.

11 It's time we got serious about saving our remaining
12 runs of salmon and steelhead. My mom, as a little girl, used
13 to catch steelhead with her parents on the North Fork of the
14 Clearwater. These were huge wild fish weighing up to 30
15 pounds. They were blocked from their ancient spawning
16 grounds by Dorshack and are now extinct.

17 It's the same story across the entire Snake River
18 Basin. The salmon and steelhead runs on the Boise, the
19 Payette, the Weiser, the Upper Snake itself, and several
20 other rivers and streams are now extinct because of dams now
21 blocking their way.

22 Fortunately, we still have several hundred miles of
23 pristine spawning habitat in the Potlatch and Salmon and
24 Grande Ronde Rivers. These remaining runs have proven to be
25 extremely resilient, negotiating every obstacle we put in

1 front of them. It amazes me that any make it back at all.
2 But with the last series of dams on the Lower Snake, they've
3 definitely met their match.

4 These dams were designed to allow fish to pass up
5 and down the river and they have failed. We must bypass our
6 dams and preserve our fish -- our fish runs for generations
7 to come.

8 Thanks.

9 JAMES GROSS:

10 James Gross. I'm a farmer from Marlin, Washington,
11 in Grant County.

12 We do most of our business in farming and we believe
13 we do need dams to get our product to market and to the
14 ocean. I'm not saying that it does not matter, that salmon
15 don't matter. I believe we do need to save the salmon if
16 there is a problem.

17 But is there a problem? Is it just the people that
18 are the problem or are the salmon really a problem? How many
19 are we fishing, the harvesting on the ocean? Don't we -- we
20 probably ought to cut back there a little bit.

21 And we do need the rivers and the salmon and the
22 dams need to stay, but our salmon also need to stay around.
23 And what I am hoping for is the people that study and the
24 people that do most of this, that are involved, that they
25 take this thing into real consideration, that we do need the

1 dams and they have to stick around but the salmon need to be
2 saved, too.

3 Thank you.

4 DAVID GROSS:

5 A comment on the salmon. If they're supposed to be
6 extinct or an endangered species, why are they still being
7 harvested in the ocean and in the mouth of the Columbia? To
8 spell it out as an endangered species and you can't harvest
9 it anymore, but the salmon, they're on the endangered species
10 list and they're still harvesting like nothing changed.

11 So I'm just making a comment on that that I don't
12 think that it's a salmon problem. I think it's a people
13 problem.

14 And that's all I got.

15 Thanks.

16 GRACE TAYLOR:

17 My name is Grace Taylor and I live in Washington
18 state and we own a 100-acre ranch in Chewelah, Washington.
19 I have lived here for approximately 30 years, my husband and
20 my family.

21 I am in favor of breaching the dams because I think
22 we're getting to a point of no return. And it may not be the
23 only solution we need to saving the species of the salmon,
24 but I think it does have to be done.

25 I think also the federal government ought to make it

1 right for the people who are actually impacted, the farmers
2 that might lose out, should that occur. The government needs
3 to make it right with those people, just as they need to make
4 it right for what they've already done previously. There is
5 a lot of revised thinking on what the Corps of Engineers
6 originally did. We need to move with the times. We need to
7 preserve our world. We need to try to make things right.

8 And it was really good to hear other people speak.
9 There are lots of different points of view that are valid.

10 I do want to say I took time off from work to come
11 down here. I may be an environmentalist, but believe me, I
12 am here just because I personally am interested in this issue
13 and I do work. And I took time off from my work and I really
14 appreciate that you are listening to the various points of
15 view.

16 I just think we need to breach the dams. It's hard
17 on the people. Also, I do not think the places like Cenex
18 and all the chemical producers and the other issues that are
19 involved in the farming industry should be necessarily helped
20 out by the federal government. I am talking about reparation
21 for the individuals that are hurt.

22 Thank you.

23 ROSE FANGER:

24 I am Rose Fanger from Spokane, Washington, and I
25 would like to go on record as pro salmon.

1 I would like to see the dams breached. I want -- I
2 am tired of being the species that destroys everything. I
3 want to see our salmon come back. It will enhance our area
4 in many ways. It will provide a lot of jobs if the salmon
5 come back.

6 We've already tried busing -- I mean, what is it? --
7 barging the salmon and it hasn't worked. Let's get off that
8 track of failure and breach these dams, which aren't
9 necessary anyway, and get the salmon back.

10 Thank you.

11 ROSE SPIDELL:

12 Salmon are an important part of our culture and
13 economic life here in Washington state and in the Pacific
14 Northwest. All evidence seems to support the fact that
15 partial removal of the dams on the Snake River would benefit
16 not only salmon recovery, but also would benefit the economy
17 in the long run and there would be obvious results --
18 positive results for our cultural heritage with the salmon.

19 I hope that the people will make the right decision
20 and we will see the partial removal of these dams in a very
21 short period of time.

22 Thank you.

23 JOHN ANDERSON:

24 My name is John Anderson. I'm general manager/CEO
25 of Central Washington Grain Growers, Incorporated, a

1 cooperative with over 1500 producer/landlord members.

2 We oppose dam breaching. It is not the answer to
3 the issue of better conserving our fish resource but is an
4 example of an extreme measure, the result of which will be
5 much higher costs to specific industries and the public in
6 general, without an equal and offsetting benefit to
7 conservancy of fish.

8 Farmers are pro environment. I contend that no
9 group of people is better at being conservationists than
10 farmers due to their multi-generational tie to and respect
11 for their land and the recognized benefit to themselves and
12 their heirs of being good stewards of the land on which they
13 produce their crops.

14 Commerce on the rivers is critical to farmers
15 getting their crops to market. Rail line abandonments in
16 recent years have made barge traffic even more critical to a
17 greater number of farmers as the only viable means of
18 transporting their crops to the export market facility.

19 Breaching would result in a significant increase in
20 truck traffic from areas that currently depend on the Lower
21 Snake River for moving grain by barge. This increase in
22 truck traffic will result in significant increases in the
23 cost to the public both in terms of road maintenance and
24 safety issues.

25 Currently, the supply of equipment and the rates for

1 the modes used for grain movement -- truck, barge and rail --
2 are well balanced and are based on historical usage and
3 competitive rates. Breaching would result in a significant
4 and immediate imbalance in the infrastructure of grain
5 transportation. The result of cost increases, while
6 initially borne by the shipper, would all be passed on to the
7 farmer through higher transportation, handling and storage
8 charges.

9 Federal responsibility for mitigation of breaching
10 impacts to infrastructure is limited to damage directly
11 caused by drawdown. So, in effect, all of the extra costs
12 would be placed on the shoulders of producers who have been,
13 are now and likely will be in the foreseeable future under an
14 extreme financial burden due to the depressed economy in
15 agriculture.

16 There are better answers to conserving salmon than
17 the extreme measure of dam breaching. Let us proceed in our
18 conservancy efforts by other means, ones that don't come at
19 such a high cost without an offsetting benefit to the public
20 good .

21 GREG RUPERT:

22 Greg Rupert, and I am from Spokane County.

23 I have some comments about the Snake River dams to
24 reduce this debate to its base elements and this is a moral
25 issue. This is a test of our collective character and our

1 culture. Do we possess the courage and the vision to right a
2 wrong?

3 Elite interests claim that these dams are integral
4 to our economy. Their arguments simply do not stand up to
5 analysis.

6 I predict that 20 years from when these dams are
7 breached, the economics of the healthy river system will
8 prove that their current arguments to retain these dams are
9 without merit.

10 I refuse to use the statistics. The scientists have
11 studied this for 30 years. If you oppose breaching, make no
12 mistake, you are advocating extinction for fish and native
13 culture. Follow your heart. Who among you will help me
14 explain to our children why there are no fish in the Salmon
15 River? Restore the spirit of the Snake River. Breach the
16 dams.

17 VERN CLEMENSON:

18 My name is Vern Clemenson.

19 And I appreciate the opportunity to be with you
20 tonight to discuss the important issue of the salmon and the
21 dams. The dams were built with a lot of foresight and the
22 fish ladders were built and are very efficient. The problem
23 is the fingerlings as they go downstream.

24 It's my understanding that -- picture with me for
25 just a minute, if you would, the fingerlings as they used to

1 be before the dams were built: One-inch long, getting ready
2 to make a journey from the Idaho wilderness to the Pacific
3 Ocean. They filled their little bladders with air and
4 floated down the river as if they were rafting, taking about
5 seven to 14 days.

6 Now picture the fingerlings today as they attempt to
7 make the same journey. They get going and they're rolling
8 along real nicely and then all of a sudden they come to the
9 first dam and the slack water behind it. A few of them make
10 it through. And they are rolling along and then they come to
11 another dam. After eight times, the fingerling population is
12 greatly diminished.

13 Now, we need the dams for their electricity and for
14 their irrigation. We must preserve the salmon. God gave us
15 the power of thought and we must co-exist with nature.

16 My suggestion is that when the dams were built,
17 there was wrong thinking which took place in that there was
18 no provision made for the fingerlings going downstream. Now
19 you have the opportunity, because of all of the public outcry
20 and because Congress is interested, to receive the money to
21 build these dams the way they should have been built in the
22 first place, providing a stream around the dams and around
23 the slack water so that when the fingerlings are going
24 downstream, the dams can be shut off, the water diverted into
25 the streams and allow the fingerlings to go downstream,

1 perhaps one month a year. After that process is over, the
2 dams can go back into operation.

3 I don't know how to do it, whether you dig a trench
4 around the slack water or build platoon -- stream
5 replacement, a temporary outfit, or various ways. Or perhaps
6 have a tube that you would bury under the ground. But there
7 is a way to do it. It's going to cost money. It must be
8 done and it must be done in a way that the dams can be
9 preserved and that the salmon can be preserved, as well.

10 I thank you for the opportunity.

11 CARRIE COLLETTE:

12 I am from Spokane, Washington.

13 And I just want to say that I do not want to stand
14 by and watch the salmon leave as I grow up in this country.
15 I believe the salmon are very, very important to our -- to us
16 as a whole, as our community. The salmon have been here for
17 so long and now we are just going to sit by and watch the
18 salmon leave one by one as they become extinct.

19 Really, all I can say is that I think we need to
20 take the dams down. And I just want to leave you with a word
21 of advice. And I want you to think about this -- think about
22 -- don't think about -- I can't say it -- sorry. Think --
23 don't think about what the fish can do for you, but think
24 about what the fish -- what you can do for the fish, because
25 that's really the question we're asking.

1 LADD G. MITCHELL:

2 Hi. This is Ladd Mitchell from Ephrata.

3 I would like to share a few comments with you. And
4 I will try to make this quick without a lot of details. But
5 anyway, I think the salmon are underestimated or underrated.
6 In fact, the fact that salmon do adapt has not been discussed
7 in this dam breaching proposal. With 5,000 eggs laid by each
8 female salmon, one would expect a wide genetic ability to
9 change rather quickly. We know that the ocean environments
10 and river environments are constantly changed and salmon have
11 had to adjust over the centuries.

12 Measuring genetic and population changes due to
13 specific environmental changes is very difficult with the life
14 cycle or generation length of three to six years for Snake
15 River salmon. Studies with a given environment must be
16 constant, at least a six-year period, to result in some
17 degree of competence. With nature at work, maintaining a
18 constant environment is not really possible, so it is
19 impossible to really get a true picture of man's changes.

20 Salmon numbers were low in the 1870s. Fish
21 hatcheries were established in 1878, and with 10 to 20
22 percent of the salmon straying, we had local mixing. Plus
23 the agencies were mixing salmon from hatcheries with runs to
24 bolster them, of course, mongrelized the salmon.

25 Two observations lead us to some general

1 conclusions. A number of generations have passed since the
2 dams in question were put in, so our present salmon have
3 largely adapted to them, or at least they have got a real
4 good start towards that.

5 Of course, an action to help the present-day salmon
6 adapt and survive needs to be focused on the minimum of man's
7 environmental effects and by stopping large impact
8 experiments like the flow augmentation removal of dams.
9 Small changes should be in favor of both man and salmon
10 needs. Improve salmon areas at the headwaters or spawning
11 streams, use hatcheries where needed. Do more work to
12 continue improving salmon transportation system around dams.
13 Reduce predation. Stop or reduce the Indian net fishing and
14 commercial fishing to a level that will allow for the
15 steelhead and salmon to recover. Reduce the impact of Indian
16 net fishing for trade. Work out something with 'em anyway to
17 help provide food, because that was the basis for those
18 environment -- I mean the basis for those agreements under
19 commercial fishing, the ability to catch salmon. Put in fish
20 hatcheries in the Lower Salmon for commercials.

21 Man needs to get out of the way and let these fish
22 evolve and survive as nature -- survival of the fittest
23 rules. In some cases, it may not be in society or nature's
24 best interests to have all salmon runs survive. There is a
25 limit to our ability to go against nature and try not to let

1 nature's survival of the fittest rule prevail.

2 Thank you. This has been Ladd Mitchell.

3 ELEANOR LaROCCA:

4 Eleanor LaRocca. I live in Spokane.

5 I just wanted to say I want to try to save the
6 salmon and try to have the people take down the dams so the
7 salmon can get through so they can lay their eggs. And I
8 wanted to see -- I wanted to --

9 I think I am done. I think I am done.

10 JEFF HEDGE:

11 I live in Spokane. I am current chapter president
12 of Physicians for Social Responsibility in Spokane.

13 The science is clear. Salmon didn't evolve in a
14 series of lakes. We need a free-flowing river to restore the
15 salmon population.

16 I think it's really arrogant of us to think that we
17 really understand what would happen to the ecosystem with the
18 extinction of salmon. We are just beginning to learn about
19 nutrient cycling from the ocean to the forests of Idaho and
20 what the meaning of that is.

21 I think there have been a lot of numbers shown that
22 I have seen tonight, numbers that I haven't seen about the
23 existence value of the fish.

24 In today's society where we pay -- a work of art may
25 be worth 50 to a hundred million dollars, the complex

1 behavior of salmon is something that is -- compared to that
2 is something that is priceless.

3 We have not talked about the religious and cultural
4 meaning of the fish. These fish are sacred. I recommend we
5 move swiftly and take decisive action to remove the dams to
6 restore the fish population.

7 Thank you.

8 CHARLES BATES:

9 Charles Bates.

10 And I am here today just to say one very simple
11 thing. I think salmon are very important and I think that
12 those dams don't make sense. You know, it's kind of a cliché
13 all over everywhere. But I am just a person. I don't hunt.
14 I don't fish. I am a person that enjoys living and I think
15 that every creature also enjoys living. And they deserve the
16 right to live. And so do the only option that makes any
17 sense and breach the dams.

18 Thank you.

19 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.)

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