

**From:** Olin & Shelley Gardner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2002 9:18 AM  
**To:** comments@nwppc.org  
**Subject:** Doc. # 2002-16--Draft Mainstem Amendments

Dear Mark Walker,  
Thank you for the opportunity to express our comments.

In regards to water flows for fish below American Falls and Millner Dams. It is important to remember the irrigators on the Snake River Plain own all of the water in the Snake River above Twin Falls. The public (you & I) does not have a legal right to any water in the river above Milliner Dam, for any reason what so ever. Ever since IB Perrine went upstream looking over 100 years ago for a place to divert water out of the river, it has been this way.

The limited fish water releases has provide a way of getting a little water (less than 5% of what is available usually) in the river for.....fish & wildlife, rafting/kayaking/canoeing, water to go over Shoshone Falls. And some water to keep the river cleaned up and to keep the Snake a real River, which is is really not from Milliner Dam to Hagerman at this point. So when you and others indicate that the only good that water releases do is to maybe help Salmon get to the Ocean, we are overlooking one on the main benefits to Magic Valley Citizens. That is having some water in the River here, if only for a couple of months a year. And they are important months for us in this area, May,June July, August when historical there are lots of visitors traveling through the area. Water in the River can help diversify our local economy and provide additional jobs without harming the agriculture industry. It's time to think about moving towards the future, what worked and was right 100 years ago is not necessarily what we should do today. We think there should be some water in the River for other things also. Why should one economic interest group get to own and control ALL OF THE WATER IN THE SNAKE RIVER. It is not fair that our business goes dry cause of no water in the river and the other group gets it all.

Why don't you require the irrigators to put a min. in stream flow in the river at all times? Why do you help propagate the whole river being used for irrigation? What happened to multiple use?

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