

-----Original Message-----

From: Ray G [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, December 08, 2002 9:03 AM
To: comments@nwppc.org
Subject: Draft Mainstream Amendments

INCREASING SALMON NUMBERS, WATER, AND THE NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING
COUNCIL

A Council Proposal Turns Back the Clock on Salmon Recovery

Background:

Congress created the Northwest Power Planning Council (Council) in 1980 to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in the Columbia and Snake River Basin, while seeking to balance environmental and energy needs. A recently released proposal by the Council, however, attempts to tip that balance further away from fish and wildlife by recommending significant reductions in the water available for Salmon, water that salmon need.

The Council's "Draft Mainstream Amendments" is an attempt to modify part of their overall Fish and Wildlife Plan so that Columbia and Snake River dams are operated in a way that: 1) reduces water flow for Salmon in the crucial spring and summer migration months, and 2) questions the validity and Effectiveness of "spill" - a method of helping young salmon get past dams by avoiding deadly turbines. Spill means literally spilling water - and young salmon along with it - over the dams. Scientists concur that spill is the safest way to get smolts downstream.

The Council instead recommends that more salmon and steelhead be siphoned from the river and transported around the dams in barges and trucks, a strategy that has failed for over 25 years.

NSIA feels that salmon should stay in the river, while wheat should go in trucks, not the other way around!

The "Mainstream Amendments" are a wrong turn for the Council and disregard its salmon obligations. This draft proposal to slash the already-small amount of water Columbia and Snake River salmon get is scientifically unsound, illegal, fiscally wasteful, and contrary to the repeatedly expressed wisdom and wish of the people of the Northwest. Salmon need water.

OUR BUSINESSES NEED SALMON.

Please save our SALMON many jobs do depend on them.

Thanks

Ray A. Guengerich Jr.

[p:\jk\ww\comments\2002-16\comments\ray_guengerich_jr.doc](#)