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From: Barbara Kesel [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2002 1:22 PM

To: comments@nwppc.org

Subject: Draft Mainstem Amendments

To the Northwest Power Planning Council,

I wish to express my distress and concern over the contents of the Draft Mainstem Amendments document. I expect the Council to take seriously their charge to protect and enhance fish and wildlife in the Columbia and Snake River Basin. What you propose in the amendments document makes a mockery of that responsibility.

Salmon need a steady flow of water in the river to survive and reproduce. Stronger flows help move your salmon on their journey to the oceans despite their largest obstacle: hydroelectric dams. Water flow also helps to keep the temperature of the rivers lower. And a healthy river temperature is a mandate of the Clean Water Act. Flow and spill are proven aids in the salmon life-cycle. In addition, the federal Salmon Plan calls for increases in flow and spill. Do not disrupt or short-change the future by reducing flow or spill.

Barging salmon while grain floats down the river simply offends my common sense. The expense of barging fish that belong in the river is ridiculous. Increase the flow of the river so that the salmonids can maintain their natural life-cycle. I'd rather see the barging cease or slow. Increasing this ineffective measure makes no sense.

I also encourage you to take the input offered by the State of Oregon in their plan for the BPA to increase water flows and spill. That makes common sense to me.

Remember that hydro is not the only source for energy. There are many alternative energy sources and we have the abilities and technology to take advantage of these sources. What we lack is leadership and political will and a vision for a healthy environment that sustains us in the future. The Council could take a leadership role by encouraging these alternative sources and keeping hydro production at current levels for now with decreases planned as alternative sources make up the difference. I am greatly encouraged by the wind farm energy that we currently utilize.

Let's face it, dams are the most significant block in the salmon life-cycle. The Council could take a leadership role by recommending the full or partial removal of the four lower Snake River dams. The RAND report recently showed that taking such a step will not hurt the economy or cut into our energy supply. It seems a clear and logical decision to remove the four lower Snake River dams.

I hope the Northwest Power Planning Council sees fit to fulfill its charge to me and the citizens of the Northwest by withdrawing the Draft Mainstem Amendments. Instead take a leadership role and act for salmon recovery. Our economy and our spirits depend on it!

Sincerely,  
Barbara Kesel

  
Portland, OR 