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From: Marty Rosback [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2002 1:12 PM
To: comments@nwppc.org
Subject: Second Stand For Salmon

For Mark Walker:

Northwest Power Planning Council Public Hearing
December 10, 2002

By Capt. Marty Rosback

Hello, my name is Marty Rosback and I am the president of the Portland Chapter of the North West Rafters Association, an organization of over 200 self-outfitted whitewater boaters. Tonight I am representing myself and support the plan of recovery outlined by the Save Our Salmon coalition in speaking against the implementation of the Draft Mainstream Amendments.

I do not pretend to have a total knowledge of, or belittle the complex factors that make up the Northwest Power Planning Council's decision-making process in matters such as determining the most effective method of wildlife preservation when pitted against the mighty forces of industrial needs.

However, as an individual who spends a considerable amount of time on rivers, I do know the difference between a river that is alive and free flowing and one that is dead and backed up behind a dam.

I have asked myself, "Why take the time to say anything? Why be a part of what can only be considered a "small drop of water in the ocean" against the tide of the "status quo"? Because I am afraid that the current thinking will cause the extinction of more species, the loss of more of the precious fabric of our already incredibly strained ecosystems.

I was awakened by an article a few years back in the Oregonian newspaper that depicted the fate of one particular run of Columbia River summer Chinook salmon who grew so massive in order to be fit for the long haul inland were known as the "June Hogs". The largest salmon recorded in the Columbia was an 87-pound June Hog caught in 1914. These magnificent wild fish lost access to their spawning grounds in the upper Columbia River when Grand Coulee Dam was built in 1941- without ladders. Over the next few years millions of fish slammed into the massive concrete structure that blocked the path to their very survival.

The sense of loss I felt after reading this story was real.

I do not speak from a position of special interest. The points I emphasize will do nothing to put money in my pocket. Imagine that. I do this consciously with a high regard for the preservation of what wildlife still remains.

Though I lament the loss of the June Hogs, there is nothing I can do to bring them back. I urge you to do everything in your power not to repeat the mistakes of the past and save what was not ours to begin with.

Thank you for listening.

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