

Attachment I—Comments and Responses

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held in Grants Pass, Oregon, on February 16, 1995, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. The hearing record was held open until February 27, 1995, to accept written testimony from those who could not attend the hearing or wished to add to their oral remarks. A Transcript of Public Testimony is available for examination at local libraries, the GPID office in Grants Pass, Oregon, and the Bureau of Reclamation Regional Office in Boise, Idaho. Reclamation thanks all who participated in this public hearing.

The following individuals presented oral testimony at the hearing. Agency or organization affiliation are shown where indicated by the individual in the hearing record.

Gordon S. Anderson, Mayor of Grants Pass, Grants Pass OR  
Dennis Becklin, Grants Pass OR  
Burton Blackwell, Grants Pass OR  
Billy Boyce, Curry Guides Association, Grants Pass OR  
Forest Bradfield, Grants Pass OR  
Paul Brandon, Grants Pass OR  
Gerald Briggs, Oregon Guides and Packers Assn., Grants Pass OR  
E. Kendall Clarke, Ashland OR  
Royal Deland, Mayor of Rogue River, Rogue River OR  
Robert W. Dolson, Grants Pass OR  
Walter Doucett Sr., Rogue River OR  
Myra Erwin, Ashland OR  
Ruth Feirich, Grants Pass OR  
Mary C. Galwas, Grants Pass OR  
Ron Garst, USFWS, Portland OR  
Lloyd Gilbert, Grants Pass OR  
Don Greenwood, Grants Pass OR  
Robert Gross, Grants Pass OR  
Harold Haugen, Josephine County Commissioner, Grants Pass OR  
Elvin E. Hawkins, Rogue River OR  
Claire Heil, Grants Pass OR  
Randy Hinke, Grants Pass OR  
Frank Hirst, Ashland OR  
Don Huberty, Grants Pass OR  
Bob Hunter, WaterWatch, Portland OR  
Mike Jewett, OWRC, Ashland OR  
Bob Jones, Merlin OR  
L.H. Kirtley, Grants Pass OR  
Vivian Kirtley, Grants Pass OR  
John MacDiarmid, Medford OR  
Douglas M. McGahey, Medford OR

Tom McMurray, GPID, Grants Pass OR  
Homer D. Meeds, Jacksonville OR  
Bernard S. Moore, Medford OR  
Geneva Oran, Grants Pass OR  
Gene Reedy, Grants Pass OR  
Hank Rogers, Ashland OR  
Emerson Roller, Grants Pass OR  
Jean Shaffer, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter, Monmouth OR  
John J. Shaw, Grants Pass OR  
Iris Shores, Grants Pass OR  
Gloria D. Smith, Portland OR  
Dale M. Smith, Grants Pass OR  
Eric Smith, Jacksonville OR  
Bob Staal, Ashland OR  
Eric Staal, Ashland OR  
Willis Stichl, Rogue River OR  
Mark Swisher, Ashland OR  
John Testeller, Grants Pass OR  
Irv Uri, Medford OR  
Diane Valentine, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Portland OR  
Bob Watts, Grants Pass OR  
Kathleen Whisonant, Grants Pass OR  
Lyle Woodcock, Josephine County Farm Bureau, Grants Pass OR

Thirteen of the speakers supplemented their oral comments with written statements. Twenty-eight additional letters of comment were received from the following:

Esther Bristol, Grants Pass OR  
Michael-Marie Chaldu, Grants Pass OR  
Jack and Bonnie Cromer, Grants Pass OR  
Donald K. Denman, Medford OR  
Phil Friesen, Grants Pass OR  
Louise Ramsey Fuller, Grants Pass OR  
Ken and Krystal Garrison, Grants Pass OR  
Larry Griffin, Gold Hill OR  
Mr and Mrs. Vernon Kirkbride, Cave Junction OR  
Lillian F. Law, plus 17 signatories, Grants Pass OR  
Arnold C. Law, Grants Pass OR  
Alice Mangil , Unknown  
Sandy Millard, Grants Pass OR  
James F. Moore Jr., Ashland OR  
Dorris Newman, Grants Pass OR  
Jean Nightingale, Grants Pass OR  
Annette Olson, Grants Pass OR  
Andy Olson, Grants Pass OR  
Bruce W. Peddicord, Grants Pass OR  
Bob Rafalovich, Rouge River Wilderness, Inc., Grants Pass OR

Gene Reedy, Grants Pass OR  
Jack D. and Clarabell D. Russell, Grants Pass OR  
Hal Schmoll, Grants Pass OR  
Charles Stevens, Grants Pass OR  
Robert Taylor, Grants Pass OR  
Pella Taylor, Grants Pass OR  
Dick Twogood, Grants Pass OR  
Don and Nancy Vogel, Grants Pass OR  
Larry and Repita Webb, Williams OR

## Hearing Comments and Responses

More than 150 people attended the public hearing and 54 made oral statements. Twenty-three speakers expressed support for the Preferred Alternative, and 31 speakers expressed support for retaining the dam, but not necessarily the Dam Retention Alternative. During the period open for written comment, February 16 until March 17, a total of 65 individuals provided written statements; several statements were coauthored by 2 people and one letter of comment includes statements by 18 individuals. Only seven of those individuals who provided written comments supported the Preferred Alternative. About one-third of the written statements were provided by speakers at the hearing.

Much of the oral and written testimony centered on the current status of the anadromous fishery. Those who supported the Preferred Alternative believe that it is a viable alternative that would permit agriculture to continue while correcting fish passage problems and would mesh with other restoration efforts in the upper Rogue River Basin. They generally accepted the data presented in the PR/DES and expressed no concerns except for the need to improve the salmon population.

Those who support retaining the dam generally disputed the validity of studies and the accuracy of the data on loss of fish and the cause of fish declines that are presented in the PR/DES. Some indicated a disbelief that there has been a decline in anadromous fish populations or that there are fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam. Many indicated a belief that factors other than Savage Rapids Dam have a greater impact on the anadromous fishery and should be addressed first. Some were concerned that removal of the dam would result in a loss of irrigation in the valley and a change in the way of life.

Some of those who support retaining the dam indicated a belief that the economic data presented in the PR/DES are incorrect and that the operating costs of the Preferred Alternative are so high that there would be severe economic impacts. They also believe that fish passage improvements at the existing dam could be done for much less than the cost presented in the PR/DES.

Although most of the public comments were primarily expressions of support or opposition, some of the comment required a response of clarification or a change in the PF/FES. These comments and responses are itemized below. In many cases, the reader is referred to the letters of comment where the same question is more fully developed and Reclamation's response covers the subject in more detail.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Randy Hinke:   |   |
| Concern:       | The gravel bar at the head of the lake will move downstream and scour the river.  |
| Response:      | See American Fisheries letter and response.   |
| Concern:       | The river bank in the temporary pool area will erode and vegetation will change if the dam is removed.  |
| Response:      | See American Fisheries letter and response and Randy Hinke letter and response.   |
| Royal Deland:  |   |
| Statement:     | Coyote Evans and Fleming Park are within the lake area, not above the lake as stated in the report.   |
| Response:      | The text has been revised to indicate that the two parks are located at the upper end of the seasonal lake.   |
| Statement:     | Rainbow trout are released weekly into the lake, in contrast to the draft report statement that fish are not released into the lake.  |
| Response:      | The ODFW responds that between 1989 and 1993, there were 21,000 to 28,000 catchable-size trout planted in the reach from Gold Ray Dam to Coyote Evans Park. Plantings were made weekly from Memorial Day to Labor Day in a manner that spread fish evenly over the reach. To avoid conflicts with wild fish, ODFW stopped the plantings in 1994. The report has been revised to clarify this point. |
| Lyle Woodcock: |   |
| Question:      | Please provide information on drought, seals, high-tech ocean fishing, and other factors that affect fishing.   |
| Response:      | The objective of this study is to identify and evaluate acceptable means of improving fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam. Evaluation of other factors that may contribute to the decline in the Rogue River salmon and steelhead populations is beyond the scope of this study.  |
| Question:      | What is the effect of loss of the lake on migratory birds?  |
| Response:      | The effects of the alternatives on wildlife are discussed in chapter VI.  |
| Harold Haugen: |   |
| Statement:     | The issue of Savage Rapids Dam eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places has not been addressed.  |
| Response:      | Savage Rapids Dam is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as discussed under "Cultural Resources" in chapter VI. We have added attachment H that includes a copy of the 1990 letter that indicates the State Historic Preservation Officer concurs in this assessment.  |

Statement: Reclamation has not conferred with the Josephine Board of County Commissioners and requests that a meeting be held.

Response: Reclamation initiated the current study in response to a request from Josephine County and the GPID. During most of the study Reclamation worked with the Commission through the County staff and the Commission member who was a member of the Permit Oversight Committee. Reclamation is certainly willing to meet at the invitation of the County Commissioners.

Statement: Wetland issues are not addressed.

Response: There is a brief statement under "Executive Order 11990" of the "Regulatory Compliance" section in chapter VII that states there are no permanent wetlands and none of the alternatives would have a measurable effect on wetlands. We have added a statement in Chapter VI under "Vegetation" that there are no permanent wetlands and the Preferred Alternative would have no effect on wetlands.

**Geneva Oran**

Statement: The U.S. Corps of Engineers will not let land owners do anything in floodplain or floodway area when the dam is removed.

Response: Construction and land management activities within floodways and elsewhere are subject to local, county, and State ordinances. Federal regulations in this area are generally limited to those associated with flood insurance.

**Louise Ramsey Fuller**

Question: Who prefers the Preferred Plan?

Response: The Pumping Alternative is the Federal Preferred Alternative as discussed under the "Preferred Alternative" section of the Summary. Under Federal regulations, Reclamation must pick the alternative that maximizes net national economic benefits.

## **Written Comments on the PR/DES**

The period open for comment on the PR/DES extended from December 15, 1994, to March 20, 1995. Reclamation thanks all of those who provided comments.

Letters of comment received as a result of the review of the PR/DES and Reclamation's response to specific comments are included in this section. The first part of this section includes those letters which included comments that required a response from Reclamation, and the second part includes letters that did not require a response under the NEPA. Newspaper clippings and other attachments to letters of comment are not included in the reproductions on the following pages.

## **Letters Requiring a Response**

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| <b>Federal Agencies:</b>   |             |
| National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland OR .....   | I-9         |
| National Park Service, Seattle WA .....  | I-13        |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland OR .....  | I-14        |
| <b>State Agencies:</b>   |             |
| Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland OR .....  | I-18        |
| <b>Organizations:</b>  |             |
| American Fisheries Society, Oregon Chapter, Corvallis OR .....   | I-24        |
| Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Portland OR .....  | I-27        |
| Oregon Natural Resources Council, Portland .....   | I-31        |
| Three Rivers Watershed Council, Inc., Rogue River OR .....   | I-32        |
| <b>Individuals:</b>  |             |
| James W. Ayling, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-33        |
| Dennis M. Becklin, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-34        |
| William H. Brecount, Rogue River OR .....  | I-38        |
| Signe M. Carlson, Grants Pass OR .....   | I-41        |
| John Frewing, Portland OR .....  | I-42        |
| Donald R. Greenwood, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-44        |
| David M. Handley, Grants Pass OR .....   | I-47        |
| Eric W. Hartmann, Portland OR .....  | I-48        |
| Randy Hinke, Grants Pass OR (2) .....  | I-50        |
| Jerry Kl--- (could not decypher name), No address<br>(letter identical to Charles Weaver letter) ..... | I-56        |
| Elaine Lake, Rogue River OR (letter identical to Charles Weaver letter) .....                          | I-57        |
| James Lamp, Jr., Central Point OR .....  | I-58        |
| Geneva Oran, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-59        |
| Juanita Pickett, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-60        |
| Mark H. Smith, Tigard OR .....   | I-63        |
| Hank Vann, Grants Pass OR .....  | I-65        |
| Charles Weaver, Grants Pass OR .....   | I-67        |

## **Letters not Requiring a Response**

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| Federal:   |             |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle WA .....                   | I-68        |
| State:   |             |
| Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Salem OR .....                   | I-69        |
| Oregon Water Resources Department, Salem OR .....                        | I-70        |
| Organizations:   |             |
| American Rivers, Washington DC (2 letters) .....                         | I-70        |
| Center for International Environmental Law, Washington DC .....          | I-72        |
| International Rivers Network, Berkeley CA .....                          | I-73        |
| Izaak Walton League of America, Inc., Oregon Division, Portland OR ..... | I-74        |
| Kalmiopsis Audubon Society of Curry County, Port Orford OR .....         | I-75        |
| Morrison's Rogue River Lodge, Merlin OR .....                            | I-76        |
| Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gladstone OR .....           | I-77        |
| Cosigners of this letter include the following:                          |             |
| Curry Anadromous Fishermen, Gold Beach OR                                |             |
| Curry Guides Association, Gold Beach OR                                  |             |
| Fisheries Committee, Port of Brookings Harbor, Brookings OR              |             |
| Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat, Shaw Island WA                     |             |
| Nautilus Northwest Charters, Portland OR                                 |             |
| Northwest Commercial Fishermen's Wives Association, Astoria OR           |             |
| Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, Oregon City OR              |             |
| Oregon Fisheries Congress, Newport OR                                    |             |
| Oregon Fishing Club, Oregon Anglers, Albany OR                           |             |
| Oregon Guides and Packers, Gold Beach OR                                 |             |
| Oregon Outdoors Association, Eugene OR                                   |             |
| Oregon South Coast Fishermen, Inc., Harbor OR                            |             |
| Pacific Coast Commercial Fishermen's Wives Association, Clatskanie OR    |             |
| Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Sausalito CA       |             |
| Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Eugene OR          |             |
| River Trips Unlimited Inc., Medford OR                                   |             |
| Salmon For All, Astoria OR   |             |
| Tom Posey Co., Beaverton OR  |             |
| Trout Unlimited of Oregon, Portland OR                                   |             |
| Umpqua Commercial Fishermen's Wives Association, Winchester Bay OR       |             |
| White Water Warehouse, Corvallis OR                                      |             |
| Piazza & Piazza, Medford OR .....  | I-79        |
| Randy Nelson's Lower Rogue Canyon Outfitters, Central Point OR .....     | I-79        |
| River Trips Unlimited, Medford OR .....                                  | I-80        |
| Rogue Flyfishers, Medford OR .....                                       | I-80        |

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| Rogue River Guides Association, Inc., Medford OR ..... | I-81 |
| WaterWatch, Portland OR .....                          | I-81 |

Individuals:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Lucy Bennett, Grants Pass OR .....            | I-84 |
| Lynn and Della Berntson, Rogue River OR ..... | I-84 |
| Helen E. Brown, Medford OR .....              | I-85 |
| Clint Brumitt, Central Point OR .....         | I-86 |
| Robin B. Carey, Gold Beach OR .....           | I-86 |
| Sandrya Danehy, Medford OR .....              | I-87 |
| David Dedrick, Medford OR .....               | I-87 |
| Dennis Dedrick, Medford OR .....              | I-88 |
| Glenn M. Gray, Gold Hill OR .....             | I-88 |
| Stephen G. Haskell, Ashland OR .....          | I-89 |
| Mary Hepler, Merlin OR .....                  | I-89 |
| Perry A. Higgins, Medford OR .....            | I-90 |
| Robert McElroy, Grants Pass OR .....          | I-90 |
| Douglas M. McGeary, Medford OR .....          | I-91 |
| Ronald Marrington, Gold Hill OR .....         | I-92 |
| T.E. Mechem, Medford OR .....                 | I-93 |
| Edith Newby, Grants Pass OR (2 letters) ..... | I-93 |
| Chris Orsinger, Eugene OR .....               | I-94 |
| Stephen K. Parsons, Dallas OR .....           | I-95 |
| Jon Pearson, Talent OR .....                  | I-95 |
| Kathy Peckham, Grants Pass OR .....           | I-96 |
| Alice L. Petty, Grants Pass OR .....          | I-96 |
| Steven Tichenor, Grants Pass OR .....         | I-97 |
| Kelley Webb, Portland OR .....                | I-98 |
| Sarah M. Willson, Wolf Creek OR .....         | I-98 |

Response (National Marine Fisheries Service Letter)



April 11, 1995

| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION<br>OFFICIAL FILE COPY |      |       |
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| APR 14 1995                                    |      |       |
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| 6510   | De   | 4/17  |
| 6519   | De   | 5/1   |
| 6309   | RJ   | 9 May |
|  |      | FILE  |

Mr. John W. Keys, III  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Keys:

Enclosed are comments on the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Fish Passage Improvements at Savage Rapids Dam. We hope our comments will assist you. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to review the document.

Sincerely,

(cc) Donna S. Wieting  
Acting Director  
Ecology and Conservation Office

Enclosure



## Response (National Marine Fisheries Service Letter)



F/NWQ3

Mr. John W. Keys, III  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: PN-6309  
1250 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Comments on the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement for Fish Passage Improvements at Savage Rapids Dam (DEIS).

Dear Mr. Keys:

This responds to your December 13, 1994, request for comments on the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement for Fish Passage Improvements at Savage Rapids Dam (DEIS). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) supports the Bureau of Reclamation's selection of dam removal as the preferred alternative for the most cost-effective method of achieving acceptable fish passage at this site. NMFS supports the findings of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's (ODFW) analyses of the impacts of Savage Rapids Dam (SRD) on salmon and steelhead populations in the Rogue River (ODFW 1994, 1995). NMFS concurs with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act Report for SRD (Attachment C of DEIS) and with the USFWS's comments on the DEIS. The best economic and ecological solution to resolving fish passage problems at SRD is clearly dam removal.

On March 16, 1995, NMFS proposed the "Klamath Mountains Province Steelhead" (fall steelhead stocks between Cape Blanco, OR, and Cape Mendocino, CA) for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (60 FR 14253-14261). This proposal to list includes all steelhead runs in the Rogue River. Federal agencies are required to confer with the appropriate regulatory agency (NMFS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) on any action proposed species or result in the destruction or alteration modification of proposed critical habitat. The conferring may be done like a formal consultation, and an opinion issued at the conclusion of the conferring may be conditionally adopted as the biological opinion when the species is listed or critical habitat is designated (50 CFR 402.10). We encourage you to initiate conferring with us on your proposed action at SRD.

1. Through discussions with Mr. Lance Smith on 5/25/95, it was determined that conferring would not be necessary for any alternative because both action alternatives would improve anadromous fish passage.



2

Conferencing can be initiated by sending us a letter and referring to the preferred alternative in the DEIS (as the proposed action) that you have already provided us.

Questions concerning our comments should be directed to Lance Smith, of my staff, at (503) 231-2107.

Sincerely,

  
Jacqueline V. Wyland  
Division Chief

cc: USFWS - Ron Garst  
ODFW - Stephanie Burchfield  
GPID - Dan Shephard  
Donald R. Greenwood

References

- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, 1994. Estimation of Rogue River salmon and steelhead population increases for the Savage Rapids "dam removal" option. ODFW, 2501 SW First Ave., Portland, OR. 97207.
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, 1995. Estimation of Rogue River salmon and steelhead population increases for the Savage Rapids "dam retention and improvement" option. ODFW, 2501 SW First Ave., Portland, OR. 97207.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Pacific Northwest Region  
309 First Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

IN REPLY REFER TO  
L7619 (PNR-RE)  
DES 94/51

Memorandum

|   |      |             |
|---|------|-------------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION<br>OFFICIAL FILE COPY |      | MAIL BY     |
|   |      | MAR 16 1995 |
| TO  | FROM | DATE        |
| 6209  | QD   | Seattle     |
| PAGE 1                                      |      |             |

To: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: PR-6309  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

From: Associate Regional Director, Recreation Resources and Professional Services, Pacific Northwest Region

Subject: Review and comment on Planning Report/draft Environmental Impact Statement (PR/DES) of Fish Passage Improvement - Savage Rapids Dam

We have reviewed the subject document and our comments follow for your consideration.

On page VII-36, and again on page VII-6 it is mentioned that the SHPO has concurred that the Savage Rapids Dam is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We recommend that a copy of that letter be included in the final report as proof of consultation. The reference on page VII-6 incorrectly refers to the National "Record", which of course should be the National "Register".

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report.

*Richard L. Winters*  
Richard L. Winters  
*for*

1. The determination by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer that Savage Rapids Dam is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places has been added as attachment H.
2. The correction has been made.

## Response (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Letter)

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION<br>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE | APR 11 1995 |
| Portland Field Office                              |             |
| 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100                   |             |
| Portland, Oregon 97266                             |             |
| (503) 231-6179 Fax: (503) 231-6195                 |             |
| APR 6 1995   |             |
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**United States Department of the Interior**  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
**Portland Field Office**  
**2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100**  
**Portland, Oregon 97266**  
**(503) 231-6179 Fax: (503) 231-6195**

To: Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,  
Boise, Idaho  
(Attn: PN-6309)

From: State Supervisor/Deputy State Supervisor, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon

Subject: Draft Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/DEIS)  
Fish Passage Improvements - Savage Rapids Dam

The Oregon State Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the subject PR/DEIS for Savage Rapids Dam fish passage improvements and is pleased to provide our comments. These comments are in addition to the general comments for the record that were provided at the public hearing in Grants Pass, Oregon on February 16, 1995; and in correspondence dated January 26, 1995 to the Regional Environmental Officer regarding informal consultation under the Endangered Species Act (reference I-7-95-I-105).

The Service's involvement in fish passage issues at Savage Rapids Dam (SRD) go back at least 30 years. Between 1964 and 1968, both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Service reported on continuing problems with the fish screens at the hydraulic turbines, for two vertical travelling screens installed in 1958 (previously these intakes had been unscreened). A special joint report between the Service and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)(March, 1974) identified continuing, overall concerns for fish passage conditions at SRD and resulted in Congressional authorization for construction of interim fish passage improvements. Some interim improvements in the late 70's and early 80's were completed but concern continued for the fish passage conditions at SRD and the need for a complete fix.

More recently, the Service has provided input to the Reclamation's Josephine County Water Management Improvement Study initiated in the late 80's, and participated in an oversight committee formed by the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) as part of its temporary water permit issued by the Water Resources Commission. Throughout this period, the Service has provided input on issues related to fish passage at SRD, including a Planning Aid Memorandum (April, 1990) and the draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (May, 1994). A final

Coordination Act Report is being completed for the final EIS. The information the Service has provided to date on fish passage is the biological basis of the PR/DEIS.

The Service concurs with the PR/DEIS selected plan and the report's conclusions. The recommended plan provides the GPID with provisions for a dependable, measurable water supply and the best option for dealing with the ongoing, long-standing fish passage problems that have existed at SRD (dam removal). Importantly, this plan is also the best economic plan of the alternatives studied that address the full study needs. The PR/DEIS does a good job in describing existing fish and wildlife resources in the study area and incorporating information from the Coordination Act Report on the effects of SRD on anadromous fish. Because the Service will be providing updated information in the Final Coordination Act Report, and the continued close coordination with the Reclamation on this project, our comments on the PR/DEIS are limited.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species

On March 16, 1995, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed that steelhead in the Rogue River Basin be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal is the result of a petition for the Illinois River (lower tributary to the Rogue) winter steelhead filed in May of 1992, but the NMFS finding for that population was that it was not a distinct life history pattern (evolutionary significant unit [ESU]). Subsequently, Klamath Mountain Province steelhead were found to constitute an ESU, including all runs of steelhead (summer, fall and winter) in the Rogue River, and some other coastal streams in Southern Oregon and Northern California. The proposal to list this distinct population of steelhead means that NMFS will solicit and analyze additional scientific data, ongoing and proposed conservation measures, and comments from the public before any listing decision is finalized within the next year. Part of this input should be a conferencing between NMFS and Reclamation to determine the affects of the proposed action on the population. The final EIS should describe the updated status of these steelhead, their presence in the Rogue River Basin and at SRD, and the potential of the project plans to support recovery and conservation efforts for this population. The final Coordination Act Report will also discuss some of this information.

#### Updated Analysis of Fish Benefits with Passage Improvements

The ODFW has recently completed a separate analysis of potential fish benefits associated with the two alternatives for fish passage evaluated in the PR/DEIS. These reports (October, 1994 and March, 1995) update the earlier work by NMFS and the Service on estimating fish losses that occur at SRD and how benefits would occur with passage improvements. It is anticipated that ODFW will recommend that this analysis also be incorporated in the Final Coordination Act Report.

This recent work by ODFW has several advantages over the earlier work because: 1) it updates all information and assumptions using the most recent information available for the Rogue Basin

1. The appropriate sections of the "Summary" and "Need for Action" chapter have been updated.

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fisheries; 2) it references each assumption or data point used in the methodology; 3) it provides a range of benefits assuming either a low, moderate or high level of benefits; and 4) it provides a more detailed analysis of the dam retention alternative versus the simplifying assumption that benefits of that alternative are a function (percentage) of the benefits with the dam removal alternative. These factors mean the overall methodology is repeatable, verifiable based on the references, easy to update by using the latest information at any data entry point, and acknowledges the variability in conditions that affect fish passage.

Results of the ODFW work show that the earlier analysis and benefits displayed in the draft Coordination Act Report fall within the range of benefits as developed by this updated work. However, because of the advantages of this updated analysis it is anticipated that the final Coordination Act Report will be modified to reflect the findings of the ODFW reports. This is particularly true of the information on catch/escapement ratios and sport and commercial harvest, as they relate to the economic analysis. The Service recommends that the final PR/DEIS also incorporate the results of the ODFW fish benefits analysis.

The following specific comments are also provided:

**Summary Pg. 4 & Chapter III, Pg. 7 Construction Schedule** It is unclear why the overall construction schedule will take 5 years, including a 2-year preconstruction period and a 3-year construction time frame. Would it be possible to shorten the overlap between preconstruction and construction time frames for the separate actions (pumping plant and dam removal) and then complete each item in one year's time? It will be important to minimize the disturbance of construction activities to both fish use of the river and people living nearby and traveling in the area. We recommend the final EIS present and evaluate a scenario where construction activities are completed as soon as is possible.

#### Chapter VI, Pg. 32. Public Facilities

This section includes a discussion regarding Savage Rapids Park and public facilities just upstream of the dam, and acknowledges there is about 5 acres of land that is undeveloped and belongs to GPID, with future development and operation uncertain. Because some fish viewing opportunity would be lost with dam removal, the nearby park offers the opportunity to replace this with an information education, interpretive display, and possible fish viewing opportunities (fall chinook spawning) as part of the park facilities. This could be coordinated with the ODFW, GPID, NMFS, Service, and whomever is managing the park. The final EIS should mention this as a possible opportunity to address local public recreation and use of facilities for the public's interest in fish and fish issues in the Rogue River and at SRD.

3. Reclamation would endeavor to keep the construction period as short as possible. Until site-specific geology and other studies are completed as part of preconstruction activities, it will not be possible to make a more accurate estimate of the construction period. See also response 7 to the ODFW letter of comment.
2. The new ODFW data is incorporated into the report.
4. The future of Savage Rapids Park is uncertain at this time. Potential development would be reviewed during preconstruction; however, a cost-share partner would need to be identified.

4

**Chapter VI, Pg. 34 Effect on Recreation**

This section acknowledges there may be some new use of jet boat tours (commercial operations), presently operating upstream or downstream of the Savage Rapids reach, through this new section to scenic areas as part of new tours. The final EIS should discuss how this use could effect resources in the Savage Rapids reach, and how management could be used to avoid problems (i.e., jet boat tours in shallow water disturbing spawning fall chinook).

In summary, the Service is pleased to provide our comments and support for completion of the PR/EIS, and hopes to continue to work closely with Reclamation as we seek ways to implement the project. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Ron Garet at (503) 231-6179.

RLG/ae

5. The "Effects of the Alternatives on Recreation" section in chapter VI has been modified to indicate that some control over jet boat use in the reach above Savage Rapids may be necessary to protect fish spawning. We would expect the Oregon State Marine Board to regulate usage according to recommendations of fish and wildlife agencies.



# Oregon

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| BUREAU OF<br>FISH AND WILDLIFE    | ACTION MADE |
| Office of Water Quality           | 87          |
| MAR 31 1995                       |             |
| DEPARTMENT OF                     |             |
| FISH AND                          |             |
| WILDLIFE                          |             |
| RECEIVED                          |             |
| FBI - PORTLAND                    |             |
| MARCH 31 1995                     |             |
| 6510 6666<br>6519 6646<br>6309 84 |             |

March 27, 1995

Mr. John W. Keys, III, Regional Director  
 Bureau of Reclamation, Attn.: PN-6309  
 1150 N. Curtis Road  
 Boise, ID 83706-1234

Subject: Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement (Draft ES) of Fish Passage Improvement -- Savage Rapids Dam

Dear Mr. Keys:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has reviewed the subject draft report and concurs with the report's conclusions. Although both alternatives will result in significant improvements in fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam, the preferred alternative, dam removal, provides greater assurance of long term improvements than the dam retention alternative, which requires an intensive operation and maintenance program in order to ensure safe fish passage over the years.

ODFW has closely participated in identification of fish passage issues at Savage Rapids Dam for several decades. Most recently ODFW provided information to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the 1980's when the Josephine County Water Management Improvement Study was initiated. In 1990, as a condition of a temporary water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Commission, Grants Pass Irrigation District formed the Permit Oversight Committee, on which ODFW served as a member. ODFW also participated in development and review of a Planning Aid Memorandum (April 1990) and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (draft, 1994; final expected early 1995) prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Finally, ODFW has conducted an independent analysis of expected anadromous fish benefits resulting from both the dam removal and dam retention alternatives. This analysis is attached (December 1994 and March 1995).

The Draft ES accurately describes existing fish and wildlife resources of the Rogue River and identifies present effects of Savage Rapids Dam on anadromous fish. It assesses environmental benefits and impacts of both alternatives. Because ODFW



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John W. Keys, III  
March 27, 1995  
Page Two

participated closely with BOR in the development of the Draft ES, our comments are few and aimed primarily at updating the Draft ES to incorporate recently completed analyses and information.

#### ODFW Analysis of Fish Passage Improvements

Attached to this letter are two reports prepared by ODFW staff (December 1994 and March 1995) which present results of a model analysis of anadromous salmon and steelhead population increases expected with either of the two alternatives considered in the Draft ES. This analysis incorporates recent information regarding fish hatchery releases and sport and commercial harvest. While this new analysis confirms that both alternatives will result in significant fish population increases, ODFW does not believe it is necessary for BOR to revise its estimates of fish benefits in the Draft ES. However, the Draft ES should reference this analysis and acknowledge that the range of population increases estimated from this analysis encompasses the point estimates identified in the Draft ES.

Operation and Maintenance: ODFW's analysis is based on field and laboratory studies of fish survival at dams in the Pacific Northwest, including passage through or around fish ladders, screens, and spillways. For the dam retention alternative, relatively high fish survival was assumed, based on study results at state-of-the-art fish passage facilities installed at other locations. It is important to note that these field studies were conducted soon after installation of new facilities and careful attention was paid to ensuring that the facilities were in peak operating condition. The Draft ES correctly includes long term operation and maintenance costs of state-of-the-art fish passage facilities in its economic evaluation of the dam retention alternative. Chapter VI of the Draft ES, however, should specifically state that fish benefits estimated for the dam retention alternative assume fish passage facilities are operated and maintained in peak condition throughout the life of the project. It should also be noted that this assumption increases the risk that the dam retention alternative fish benefits may not be as high as estimated.

Range of Benefits versus Point Estimates: ODFW's analysis provides a range of estimated fish benefits expected from each alternative. This approach recognizes the inherent variability in benefits expected when fish populations and harvest levels vary significantly between years and when fish passage survival at screens, ladders and spillways varies within and between years. Although it is easier to compare the two alternatives using point estimates of costs and benefits, ODFW suggests that BOR consider identifying ranges of estimated benefits, which present a more realistic picture than point estimates.

**3**

1. The ODFW analysis has been added to attachment D and is referenced or summarized in appropriate sections of the report.
2. The discussion under "Effects of the Alternatives on Fish" has been revised to indicate that fishery benefits are based on maintaining facilities in peak conditions and that the chance of decreased benefits due to poor maintenance is much greater with the Dam Retention Alternative.
3. The range of changes in fish populations has been included. A range of monetary benefits would be illuminating in the benefit-cost analysis but would be unlikely to result in any decision changes. We concur with your earlier statement in this letter of comment that a revision of fishery benefits is not necessary.

John W. Keys, II  
 March 27, 1995  
 Page Three

**Benefits to Sensitive Fish Populations:** Similar to earlier analyses by USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), ODFW's analysis shows that those populations which are largest will accrue the greatest benefits from improvements at Savage Rapids Dam. BOR's economic analysis of fish benefits applies this same concept: dollar benefits are higher as numbers of fish increase. Unfortunately, this type of analysis, while straightforward and simple to understand, fails to acknowledge the greater value to society of protecting sensitive fish populations from further declines. For some populations, this may mean stemming a gradual decline and preventing the population from being listed under state or federal Endangered Species Acts. The savings that accrue to society by not having to list a species have probably not been calculated, although there is ample evidence that species listing and recovery efforts incur substantial costs to both public and private sectors. If any of the salmon or steelhead populations that pass Savage Rapids Dam are eventually listed as either threatened or endangered, the value of fish passage improvements in terms of species recovery should also be considered. Clearly, the value of increasing a listed species population by, for instance, 100 or 1000 fish per year, should be as high or higher than increasing a robust population at a proportionally equivalent rate.

**Non-use values:** In addition to benefits resulting from increased populations of sensitive or listed species, the economic analysis in the Draft ES does not discuss other values, such as non-consumptive uses (viewing spawning fish), existence and passive use values resulting from increases in all species affected by the dam. Although ODFW does not believe it necessary for BOR to derive economic benefits for these types of values, we recommend that the Draft ES acknowledge the other, non-economic benefits of increased fish populations in the Rogue River.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species

Since the Draft ES was released, NMFS has proposed to list Klamath Mountain Province steelhead under the federal Endangered Species Act. The wild summer and winter steelhead of the Rogue River are considered by NMFS to be a part of this population. In the next year, NMFS will solicit and analyze comments and additional scientific data to decide whether or not to list this population. ODFW recommends that the Draft ES clearly describe NMFS' most recent action, proposed process for further review, and how the proposed fish passage improvements at Savage Rapids Dam could aid in recovery efforts. ODFW is especially concerned that the proposed listing not be used as reason to delay implementation of the preferred alternative. Whether or not Rogue River steelhead are listed, fish passage improvements at Savage Rapids Dam will benefit these and other fish populations.

4. Reclamation is unaware of any current methodologies for evaluating monetary benefits for enhancement of an ESA listed species.
5. Monetary benefits for non-consumptive use are difficult to identify, would be minor, and are unnecessary for a decision among alternatives. The report has been revised to more clearly indicate that each of the action alternatives would also produce non-consumptive use benefits that have not been identified.
6. Appropriate sections of the "Summary" and the "Need for Action" chapter have been expanded to document recent actions of NMFS.

John W. Keys, III  
March 27, 1995  
Page Four

#### Dam Removal Alternative

Chapter III of the Draft ES describes this alternative. BOR assumes a construction period of 5 years, including 2 years preconstruction activities and 3 years of actual construction. ODFW agrees with the BOR's plan to schedule construction to avoid peak fish migration periods and to ensure that construction activity will not entirely block migration. However, ODFW questions the need for this protracted construction schedule. Is it not possible to complete preconstruction activities for the pumping plants in one year, and in the second year, complete preconstruction activities for dam removal at the same time that pumping plant construction takes place? Additionally, why should it take two years to remove the dam? Although ODFW recognizes that the Draft ES is not the appropriate forum for completing detailed construction scheduling, this report should acknowledge that a less conservative schedule is indeed feasible.

#### Dam Retention Alternative

In describing this alternative in Chapter IV, the Draft ES indicates that conceptual designs of fish passage facilities are based on drawings and design criteria provided by USFWS and NMFS. BOR estimated facility costs based on experience designing and constructing similar facilities in the Yakima and Umatilla river basins. The Draft ES should be revised to acknowledge that NMFS design criteria have been recently modified for fry-sized fish. Final design should incorporate these new, stricter criteria, which are based on recent studies. The resultant costs of fish passage facilities would thus be higher than those estimated in the Draft ES.

#### Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Effects of the Alternatives on Fish: Preferred Alternative: Chapter VI describes environmental resources that could potentially be affected by the two alternatives for improving fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam. The Draft ES states on page VI-23 that dam removal will result in only minor improvements to aquatic habitat in the existing reservoir area. ODFW disagrees with this conclusion. With restoration of this reach to a riverine environment and flushing of silt and fine sediments as water velocities are increased, spawning habitat will become available for fall chinook salmon. In our October 1994 analysis of fish benefits expected with the dam removal alternative, ODFW predicted 3,063 additional adult fall chinook would be available for spawning and harvest if spawning habitat were made available in the reservoir reach. We recommend that the Draft ES be revised to include this additional benefit of the dam removal alternative.

7. The construction period estimate is a best analysis. Preconstruction includes many activities such as site geology, final designs, specifications, and construction bids. Preconstruction activities for the pumping plant are likely to be more lengthy than the preconstruction activities for removal of the dam. However, shortening the preconstruction and construction periods to some extent may be possible.
8. Final designs will be done in cooperation with NMFS, USFWS, and ODFW to the standards that are current at that time. Cost would not be expected to change appreciably.
9. Appropriate sections of the report have been revised to reflect this comment.

## Response (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife letter)

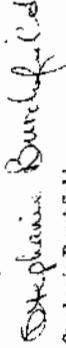
John W. Keys, III  
March 27, 1995  
Page Five

- This section also fails to recognize expected benefits of both alternatives on resident fish.
- 10 Resident fish move within river systems to meet many of their needs, such as spawning in specific habitats (e.g., cool springs or tributaries), moving out of high velocity water during peak flow events, and seeking seasonally available habitats that provide food and cover. Both upstream and downstream fish passage at obstructions is important to ensure resident fish are able to reach specific habitats during specific life stages and seasons. Additionally, human-made barriers can split populations, potentially resulting in populations that are no longer sustainable. Although little information is available on the specific habitat and migrational requirements of resident fish in the Rogue River and its tributaries, benefits of improved passage conditions at Savage Rapids Dam will accrue to these fish as well as to anadromous species. The design criteria which would be utilized for state-of-the-art fish passage facilities under the dam retention alternative would be suitable for most species of resident fish present in the Rogue River.

#### Conclusion

ODFW appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft ES and recommends that BOR move forward as quickly as possible to secure funding to correct fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam. If you have any questions about these comments or ODFW's analysis of fish benefits, please feel free to call me at (503) 229-6967, ext. 441.

Sincerely,

  
Stephane Burchfield

Water Resources Program Manager  
Habitat Conservation Division

#### Attachments

- c: Ron Garsl, USFWS - Portland  
Dan Shepard, GPID  
Doug Parrow, OWRD  
Jeff Curtis/Bob Hunter, WaterWatch (Public Information Request)

John W. Keys, III  
March 27, 1995  
Page Six

bc: Derald Walker, Admin  
Bob Mullen, Roseburg  
Mike Evanson, Central Point  
Tom Satterwhite, Grants Pass Research  
Ray Temple, Fish Division  
Jill Zarnowitz, HCD  
HCD File: HIR Project Studies/Savage Rapids Dam

diskfile: sh/epidbor.doc

## American Fisheries Society

Oregon Chapter  
P.O. Box 722  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-0722  
RECLAMATION  
ATTENTION: PN-6309

MAR 17 1995  
15 March 1995  
MR. JOHN W. KEYS, III, REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
ATTENTION: PN-6309  
1150 NORTH CURTIS ROAD  
BOISE, ID 83706-1234

RE: Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement of  
Fish Passage Improvements at Savage Rapids Dam ✓

Dear Mr. Keys:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, which represents nearly 500 fisheries and aquatic science professionals, is interested in the protection, rehabilitation, and enhancement of Oregon's fishery and aquatic resources.

The Oregon Chapter concurs with the preferred alternative to remove the existing dam and provide public funding for new electric pumping facilities with appropriately maintained fish screens.

Salmonid declines during the past 100 years throughout North America resulted largely from human caused alterations of the aquatic environments. In some cases, such as with Savage Rapids Dam, these alterations can be reversed with benefits for salmon and the public. Savage Rapids Dam has cultiivated its usefulness. Originally built in 1921 to provide water to irrigate cropland, it now mostly provides water for residential lands. For 73 years federal, state, and local governments have failed to adequately protect fish and fish habitat from the operation of Savage Rapids Dam. Immediate dam removal provides a rare opportunity to restore important salmon spawning habitat and permanently remove an unnecessary source of salmon mortality. The scientific community unanimously agrees that dam removal would be extremely beneficial to salmon and the Rogue River ecosystem.

The dam retention alternative is unacceptable for the following reasons:

- 1) Operation of the dam impounds water for three miles upstream, making spawning for chinook salmon and steelhead unsuitable there until the dam's removal (p. VI-18).

- 2) Even with proposed modifications, significant mortalities of adult and juvenile salmon will continue to occur (p. VI-24).
  - 3) Dam retention costs 4.3 million more than dam removal (Summary 10). Since the dam will eventually have to be removed, dam retention has a hidden cost of dam removal at some time in the future. Dam removal has the advantage of a one time cost.
- Further studies comparing dam removal and dam retention are unwarranted because:
- 1) Dam removal was found technically, ecologically, and economically preferable to dam retention.
  - 2) Removal of Savage Rapids Dam has been studied by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service since the early 1980's.
  - 3) Further study delays the timely removal of the dam, results in continued fish mortality, and increases removal costs.

Based on information provided in the planning report and environmental statement, we do recommend additional mitigation and monitoring to protect and assess salmon spawning.

Due to erosion in the upper basin (Evans Creek, Bear Creek and others), spawning gravels below the dam may be below desired quality. Also, the 516,000 cubic yards of fine sediment (p. VI-13) that will be mobilized after dam removal may affect egg-to-fry survival of fall chinook salmon that currently spawn below the dam. Movement of such a volume of sediment following dam removal could be particularly harmful because even small increases in percent fine sediment can have large effects on egg-to-fry survival. The dam removal alternative should consider removing and stabilizing some portion of the 516,000 cubic yards of fine sediment stored behind the dam as a mitigating measure. Perhaps it would be possible to decrease the effects of mobilized sediment by removing at least the material immediately behind the structure and upriver in the thalweg area. The objective is to blunt the effect of the initial pulse of sediment moving down the Rogue River during the first few large flood events. Contact Brian Winter (NPS, Port Angeles, WA, (206) 452-0302) about sediment issues related to the Elwha Dam removal from Olympic National Park. Bank stabilization should be done with natural vegetation so that a riparian buffer of large trees and brush becomes established. This buffer can then provide shade and woody debris to the river and act as a filter for diffuse pollutants from the immediate uplands.

Fine sediment content, or better yet, intergravel dissolved oxygen, in chinook salmon redds should be monitored. Spawning beds below and above the reservoir should be monitored for two to three years before removal of the dam and two to three years after removal. The freeze-core technique described by Rood and Church (North American Journal of Fisheries Management 14: 852-861) is recommended for sediment studies. See the literature cited in the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's dissolved oxygen issue paper for possible methods to

1. See discussion "Effects of the Alternatives on Water" in chapter VI. Hydrologists estimate that virtually all of the finer sediment would be transported downstream and remain in suspension through the lower river. Sand size materials would move slower, be deposited in slower flowing areas, and moving further downstream during flood events. The process is expected to mimic natural erosion processes. ODFW has indicated that natural dispersal of the sediment would have negligible impacts; this view is also held by the BLM and USFS.

Bank stabilization is not considered necessary as much of the river bank is rocky.

2. We agree that this type of research could further understanding of sediment movement. However, fishery agencies have not requested this type of monitoring, and under current economic conditions, such monitoring is unlikely.

## Response (American Fisheries Society Letter)

monitor intergravel dissolved oxygen and spawning success. Verification of predicted insignificant impact (p. VI-13) would provide scientific knowledge useful for future dam removals and provide information about the behavior of fine sediment. Important baseline data about the quality of Rogue River spawning gravels would be useful for trend studies.

3 Dam removal should be done so that only natural whitewater boating obstacles remain in the vicinity. These should not necessarily be considered hazards unless they are substantially greater than other natural obstacles to boating the Rogue. They may simply increase the value for whitewater boaters.

4 Finally, the Bureau should consider the likelihood that Congress will choose to spend tax dollars on other issues and programs. That is, what are the consequences (costs and benefits) of neither removing the dam, installing pumps, nor modifying the existing structures?

Please notify me of your decision and do not hesitate to call on us, if the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society can be of further assistance in this matter or with related aquatic ecosystem and fishery issues.

Sincerely yours,



Robert M. Hughes, President  
for the Executive Committee.

c: Senator Mark Hatfield  
Senator Bob Packwood  
Representative Peter DeFazio  
Representative Wes Cooley  
Governor John Kitzhaber  
Senator Gordon Smith  
Lydia Taylor, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Bob Baumgartner, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Rudy Rosen, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
M. Evansen, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
S. Burchfield, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Paul Brouha, AFS Parent Society  
C. Burger, AFS Western Division  
R. Nawa, AFS, Oregon Chapter



**Northwest Environmental Defense Center**  
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97219  
(503) 768-6673 Fax: (503) 768-6671

**BY FAX AND REGULAR MAIL.**

March 19, 1995

Bureau of Reclamation  
ATTN: Robert Hamilton  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

**RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for  
the Savage Rapids Dam Fish Passage  
Improvements Plan (1994)**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The letter constitutes the comments of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Savage Rapids Dam Fish Passage Improvements Plan. NEDC strongly supports the Preferred Alternative of dam removal. This alternative would eliminate the anadromous fish passage problems at Savage Rapids, completely removing one of the most significant factors in fish mortality on the Rogue river. Removal also eliminates a significant legal problem, the current dam's failure to comply with numerous federal and state environmental statutes.

NEDC was founded in 1969 to protect the environment of the Pacific Northwest. NEDC also provides legal support services to individuals and public interest organizations to litigate environmental issues. Its membership includes law students, lawyers, scientists, planners, engineers, and activists involved in protecting the environment of the Pacific Northwest. As such, we are very concerned about the plight of wild anadromous fish throughout the region.

NEDC strongly supports the Bureau of Reclamation's Preferred Alternative of dam removal. We fully support the overall goal of improving fish passage at the site. We submit these comments in the hope that an adequate, legally defensible Final Environmental Impact Statement

(FEIS) will result. To ensure that the FEIS is legally defensible and fully complies with NEPA, we make the following comments and recommendations.

#### 1. Additional Alternatives.

The Bureau concluded that only two viable alternatives to No Action exist: dam removal (Pumping Alternative) and Dam Retention. While the DEIS addresses these alternatives, it fails to make clear why these are the only alternatives.

The DEIS notes that other alternatives were studied, but that the two that the DEIS discusses were found to be the only reasonable ones. Although this may be the case, NEPA regulations require that agencies should "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives..." 40 C.F.R. 1502.14 (a). The importance of this mandate cannot be down played; under NEPA a rigorous review of alternatives is "the heart of the environmental impact statement." 40 C.F.R. 1502.14. This means that the FEIS should not simply state that dam removal, Dam Retention, and No Action are the only reasonable alternatives. Instead, the FEIS should outline why other possibilities were not analyzed in depth. NEDC suggests that the FEIS summarize the studies conducted in the 1970s, to show how the Bureau has thoroughly explored all the possible alternatives.

For example, it is unclear why the Dam Retention Alternative does not explore alternatives to fish ladders. The design work for these ladders was done in the 1970s. Since that time, state-of-the-art fishways, retrofitting, screens, and other technology have been developed. Such alternatives are not mentioned.

The fact that the design work and cost estimates for the Dam Retention Alternative were conducted twenty years ago is of concern. Even though the 1970s data is still basically valid, the FEIS should make clear why new design work and cost estimates are not needed.

Finally, the FEIS should consider less expensive dam retrofitting and explain why such retrofitting would be undesirable. Although NEDC in no way supports retrofitting alternatives for the Savage Rapids Dam, we do believe NEPA requires a thorough evaluation of all alternatives.

1. Reclamation is unaware of any other potentials or alternatives that would address the fish passage problem. Upstream passage can be improved only by removal of the dam or construction of acceptable fish ladders. Downstream fish passage can be improved only by adequate screening of the water diversion whether the dam is retained or removed. See discussion under Formulation Concerns in Chapter VIII.
2. Reclamation is unaware of any acceptable alternative to fish ladders for passage of adult fish over a dam of the height of Savage Rapids Dam.

3. Design work adequate to support authorization of the Dam Retention Alternative, which includes many measures, was done during the course of this study which was initiated in 1989. The fish ladder measures are based on 1970's designs only for cost estimating purposes (see discussion under "Fish Ladders" in chapter IV). Final designs for all measures including the fish ladders would be completed during preconstruction in consultation with Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies. A statement has been added in the "Facilities" section of the Preferred Alternative and the Dam Retention Alternative to clarify design considerations.
4. Fisheries agencies have indicated that modification of current fish passage and protective facilities is not acceptable (see "Formulation Concerns" in chapter VIII and OJF-W Recommendations in Attachment D). As a result, a viable alternative with retrofitting cannot be identified.

**2. The FEIS Should More Clearly Discuss The Methodologies And Reasoning As Well As Current Scientific Knowledge.**

NEPA requires that agencies "insure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of discussions and analyses in environmental impact statements. They shall identify any methodologies used and shall make explicit reference by footnote to the scientific and other sources relied upon for conclusions relied upon in the statement..." 40 C.F.R. 1502.24. The DEIS does not adequately meet this requirement.

NEDC suggests that the FEIS make clear the reasoning behind its conclusions. There are at times conclusory statements in the DEIS. For example, the choice of alternatives was made solely on the basis of "studies conducted in the 70s." The EIS should illuminate those studies and the decisions to rely on them.

In addition, mention is made of the possibility that hazardous materials may be removed from the site after dam removal. This is simply an inadequate explanation of a potentially problematic situation.

Finally, the analysis of power options and availability is rather conclusive. It is unclear who is going to pay the annual, increasing, costs for the pumping of water from the river. This should be discussed even if the Bureau cannot resolve the issue.

There also is current scientific data to supplement the old data that the DEIS uses. By providing more up-to-date scientific knowledge on the state of the anadromous fish populations in the river, the FEIS would be more defensible. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recently completed an analysis of the anadromous fish returns for the Rogue River. In October of 1994, ODFW released its "Estimation of Rogue River Salmon and Steelhead Population Increase For The Savage Rapids 'Dam Removal' Option." The study's numbers range from 20,865 to 93,542 anadromous fish annually. These numbers are lower than the 120,500 offered in the DEIS. The ODFW study should be referenced with the Draft data, because the study results reinforce the need to remove the fish passage problems at the site while a stable population of anadromous fish still exists in the river.

Anything that can be done to increase the health and size of the anadromous fish population should be done. Dam removal would eliminate the largest factor in fish mortality in the Rogue River, the Savage Rapids

6. Hazardous materials, which could include gasoline and oils used in operation of dam equipment, would be identified and removed to the extent possible before the dam is demolished. As stated under the "Disposal of Excavated and Other Materials" section in chapter III, hazardous materials will be handled in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws. The intent of this statement is to assure that precautions will be taken to identify any such materials and dispose of them appropriately.
7. Operation, maintenance, replacement, and power costs are identified for each action alternative. OMR&P costs are the responsibility of GPD whether paid directly or through a secondary funding source. A statement to this effect has been added to the "Funding" section of chapter II; a statement that all OMR&P, except for the juvenile trap facility, would be paid by GPD already exists in the "Funding" section of chapter IV.
8. ODFW has recently furnished Reclamation with an analysis of a range of fishery benefits for each action alternative. This is included in Attachment D and discussed in the appropriate sections of the report.

Dam. NEDC suggests that more recent scientific data be integrated into the Final EIS.

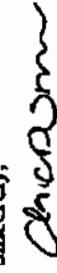
In addition, the Final EIS should address local concerns in changes in recreation after dam removal. For example, the removal of the dam may increase rafting and fishing at Savage Rapids. Also, the FEIS should discuss whether there will be destruction of on site water fowl habitat or other effects. NEDC suggests that the FEIS address these issues.

Finally, any contradictory data or studies regarding fisheries, the economics of the two alternatives or No Action, land use, and recreation should be acknowledged and addressed in the FEIS.

#### Conclusion

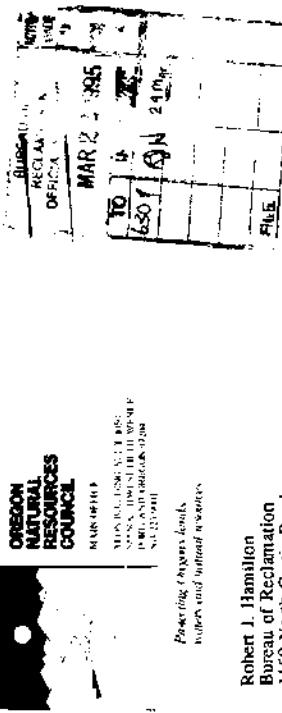
NEDC strongly supports the Bureau's Preferred Alternative of Dam Removal. We wish to express our willingness to help achieve the Preferred Alternative of Dam Removal in any way that we can. Our goal in this process is to achieve a legally defensible, valid FEIS so that the Preferred Alternative can proceed. Please contact NEDC at (503) 768-6673 if you have any questions regarding these comments or any other issues.

Sincerely,



Phillip Bender & Gloria D. Smith  
for Northwest Environmental Defense  
Center

9. Potential effects of the alternatives on recreation and wildlife are discussed in chapter VI. Elimination of the seasonal reservoir would cause some waterflow/ to be displaced by wildlife associated with more riverine conditions. Data on recreation use of the reservoir area are limited. Although types of recreation are expected to change, overall recreation use is not expected to change significantly.
10. Reclamation is unaware of any scientific studies of the fisheries that contradict the data presented in the report.



**RE:** Planning Report/DEIS—Fish Passage Improvement Savage Rapids Dam

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Natural Resources Council to strongly support the preferred alternative of dam removal and encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to seek the necessary funding. Removing Savage Rapids Dam is a classic win-win situation. It will benefit fish, the local economy, and the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID).

**No-Action Alternative**

The no action alternative is clearly unacceptable and, in fact, illegal. Savage Rapids Dam is killing more than 100,000 fish per year, even while some of those fish edge closer to endangered species status. (Steinhead in southern Oregon and northern California have been proposed for listing as threatened by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and both coast wide are overripe for a proposal.) Even without these listings, the irrigation district is bound by law to provide adequate fish passage, and will eventually be forced to take corrective measures if it is ill-equipped to afford, on top of the money needed for deferred maintenance. In addition, GPID's diversion of excess water violates Oregon's State Water Quality "Draconian" flows for the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River. The Water Resources Commission has allowed this excess diversion to continue only if dam removal is pursued. Otherwise, the district may be forced back to its certified right of 97 cubic feet per second, inadequate to serve its customers given its current inefficient system.

**Dam Retention Alternative**

Not only is installing fish passage improvements in order to "save the dam" a reasonable alternative in this case, even disregarding the value of increased fisheries, economics alone argues for dam removal (\$11.2 million for dam removal, \$17.6 million to fix the dam). In addition, federal funding would not be available for the irrigation component of the dam retention alternative, making dam removal cheaper for GPID's customers (a point that needs to be stated more clearly in the DEIS). Removing the dam and installing pumps will give the district a new lease on life, without which bankruptcy is a serious possibility. In addition, if the dam remains, the full benefit to the fishery will not be realized. The dam sits in an otherwise prime spawning area, so would continue to have a detrimental impact on fish even with improved passage. Predation and temperature problems exacerbated by the dam would still exist. And tailraces and screens might soon become ineffective due to lack of maintenance by the financially stressed irrigation district. These, and other problems with the dam retention alternative should be discussed in more detail in the DEIS.

**Preferred Alternative**

The Bureau has correctly identified removal of Savage Rapids Dam as its preferred alternative. Dam removal is also advocated by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Even the Grants Pass Irrigation District has succumbed to logic and voted in favor of dam removal. Oregon Natural Resources Council is happy to lend its support to this alternative as well.

Sincerely,

*Diane Valentine*  
Diane Valentine  
Salmon and Rivers Program Leader

*E&W 2.20*

**THREE RIVERS WATERSHED COUNCIL, INC.**  
P.O. Box 880 • Rogue River, OR 97537

BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
PORTLAND, OREGON

MAR 27 1985

Comment to be included in the  
final environmental statement

March 17, 1985 [REDACTED]  
16528 FJH 2900

Since World War II, the impression persists that dams are responsible for salmon decline. The Government has been addressing it with increasing cost and decreasing success. Instead of looking closely at commercial exploitation, which closely tracks with salmon decline. As Richard Hite pointed out in the Oregonian on February 10, 1995, "Dams aren't the culprit."

In 1971 the Government recommended a study of fish passage at the Savage Rapids dam. Although no actual, on site, study was done, the perception continued that dams were responsible for fish losses, so Savage Rapids dam had to be suspect.

Not only is the premise that dams are primarily responsible, misguided, the solution to the problem of Savage Rapids dam, could actually be part of the cause of fish decline.

The Government solution to the problem is to replace the natural water driven dam with huge electrical pumps, which would emit electropollution into the environment.

The Government (EPA) has refused to look at the problem of electropollution. In 1973, 15 years of naval research on ELF effects, as well as other pertinent work were ignored, even though they pointed out several dangers to human health. Later in 1985, Dr. Robert Becker told us about a Soviet Woodpecker signal emitting electropollution directed at the West Coast. In his book *The Body Electric*, he wrote "Since the 1970's there has been a dramatic increase in flooding, drought, and attendant hardships due to inconsistent, anomalous weather patterns. It appears likely that those have been caused in part by electropollution and perhaps enhanced, whether deliberately or not, by the Soviet woodpecker signal." (p. 326)

This coincides with the shift in California currents in the mid-1970's that caused generally less desirable upwelling and sea surface temperatures for coho in the ocean since 1976. Extreme low ocean survivals of coho in 1983 and 1984 were directly attributable to the El Nino event in the ocean. (Pearcy 1992), and the same should be expected from the 1993 El Nino. Yet, the Government still continues the same failed policies. (Per. Status of Oregon's Coastal Coho and Measures for Population Rebuilding. Final report May 1994, submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service by Steven Cramar.

Dr. Becker and others, have warned us that even if we survive the chemical and atomic threats to our existence, there's a strong possibility that increasing electropollution, could set in motion irreversible changes, leading to our extinction, before we're even aware of them.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

In your report (p. VI-11) you have two adverse effects of dam removal, loss of the lake and an increase in power consumption, but that neither are considered significant.

Replacing the dam with electrical pumps, would emit dangerous electropollution into the environment, as well as, cause economic hardship to our area.

18 March 1995

C/O Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Road  
Boise, Id 83709-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Would you please explain to me how removing Savage Rapids Dam would help the environment from an energy conservative viewpoint.

I am told that the dam generates its own electricity to run the pumps to pump the water up to the canals. If the dam is removed, electricity will have to be purchased to run the pumps. Where will this energy come from? Other dams? From coal fired power plants or fossil fueled power plants: These all have their own consideration for adding to the degradation of the environment. Are we just transferring the problem to somebody else's neighborhood? It is clearly making us more dependent on other people, i.e.: The Federal Government. If we have to buy electricity what will it cost for one years operation of these new pumps? For ten years?

The new pump will need a sump to pump the water out of the canals.  
How big will this sump have to be? How will we keep the fish out of the sump?

Could you please supply me with the dollar amount for fixing just the fish ladder and for removal of the dam. Considering fish ladders, do they work on the dams on which they are installed on the Columbia River: If they work on these dams they should work on Savage Rapids Dam. If they don't work, maybe we should be taking out the dams on the Columbia River. If they do, maybe we should be working to install them on dams that don't have them to save the fish.

Is it possible to obtain the report that says it costs eleven million to take out the dam and seventeen million to fix the fish ladder?

Thank you for reading this. I hope you can supply me with some answers to my questions.

Sincerely,

*James W. Ayling*  
James W. Ayling

1. There are no electric generating facilities at the dam. The diversion pumps are operated by direct mechanical connection to hydraulic (water-powered) turbines. Electricity to power the new pumps would be obtained from the Pacific Northwest Power grid, probably from Pacific Power and Light Company (see "Costs" section on page III-9).
2. The size of facilities is shown in Drawings 1313-D-1 and 1313-D-2 and discussed in the "Facilities" discussion for the Preferred Alternative.
3. A general itemization of construction costs is shown in table III-3 for the Preferred Alternative and in table IV-1 for the Dam Retention Alternative.

A copy of the report was sent.

Response (Dennis M. Becklin Letter)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Dennis M. Becklin   |  |
| 3575 Rogue River Hwy.   |  |
| P.O. Box 188  |  |
| Grants Pass, Oregon 97526   |  |
| February 17, 1995   |  |
| Mr. Robert Hamilton<br>US Bureau of Reclamation<br>PN-6309<br>1150 North Curtis Road<br>Boise, Idaho 83706-1234 |  |
| FAX: (208) 378-5066   |  |
| Reference: Savage Rapids Dam<br>Draft Environmental Statement   |  |

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I have attended the February 16, 1995, public hearing in Grants Pass, Oregon, regarding the Draft Environmental Statement on Savage Rapids Dam. I am aware of the preferred alternative, which would result in the removal of the dam and the subsequent pumping of water into irrigation canals which serve the patrons of the Grants Pass Irrigation District. I am a patron of GPID.

My review of the Draft Environmental Statement has identified four serious deficiencies that must be addressed prior to implementing the removal of Savage Rapids Dam. These deficiencies show considerable laxity in addressing the current condition of fish stocks in the Rogue River and of the consequential impacts that would result if the dam is removed.

#### 1. FAILURE TO STUDY ACTUAL FISH LOSSES AT SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM:

The Draft Environmental Statement makes no pretension that any effort has been made to collect and analyze actual fish loss data at the dam. This omission is a serious breach of scientific method, and leaves the remainder of the Draft Environmental Statement on an inadequate foundation of proof that a fish loss problem exists. This omission has been acknowledged by speakers from Oregon Water Watch, who along with the Bureau of Reclamation appear content to draw their conclusions by "extrapolation" from data which has been collected at locations other than the dam in question

1. See ODFW letter of comment and attachment D.

#### 2. FAILURE TO STUDY WHETHER CORRECTED FISH POPULATION DATA:

The Draft Environmental Statement has failed to examine a considerable body of data that can relate populations of migratory fish to the changing patterns of weather-related water conditions in the Rogue River. Daily data has been collected at Grants Pass for many years. This daily data, of which the writer is personally acquainted, includes water

2. This report is concerned with only the successful passage of fish at Savage Rapids Dam and the effect on the salmon and steelhead populations.

February 17, 1995  
Mr. Robert Hamilton  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234  
Reference: Savage Rapids Dam  
Draft Environmental Statement  
Page 2 of 4

flow, water temperature, water turbidity and rainfall. Fish count data at Gold Ray Dam has likewise been collected for many years, and that data is readily available. Using portions of both types of data which have been secured from local authorities, the writer has made some comparative studies of fish counts versus water flow for the purpose of tracking migratory patterns of anadromous fish on the Rogue River. These studies were conducted to satisfy my curiosity and to assist in my personal understanding of the best times to fly fish on the Rogue River.

Failure of the Bureau of Reclamation to thoroughly examine available data on water flows and conditions versus known fish counts should result in rejection of the conclusions the Bureau has made concerning the condition of anadromous fish populations on the Rogue River. If available data shows a clear relationship between weather-related water conditions and the populations of fish in the Rogue River, then that data must revise the conclusions that have been reached in the Draft Environmental Statement.

Neither the Bureau nor any other governmental body will be capable of legislating nor administratively dictating future weather and its impact on water conditions in the Rogue River. Therefore, past weather related impacts on fish populations is a necessary variable that must be considered before implementing the preferred option of dam removal and water pumping.

### 3. FAILURE TO STUDY INCREASED POWER BOAT USE ON THE ROGUE RIVER AFTER REMOVAL OF SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM:

The Draft Environmental Statement has grievously failed to identify or study changes in power boat usage that will result from removal of Savage Rapids Dam. Tourist/commercial users of the Rogue River have raised a storm of controversy for their use of the Rogue River between Grants Pass and Grave Creek in Josephine. One tourist/commercial user operates from the town of Rogue River upstream to the bottom of Powerhouse Rapids in Jackson County. There are an as-yet-unknown number of power boat users who operate in the waters between Grants Pass and Savage Rapids Dam.

3. Without knowing the configuration of Savage Rapids after the dam is removed, it would be difficult to estimate powerboat passage. If power boat use increases and is found to be adverse to fish populations, the State can implement regulations or construct barriers to powerboats.

February 17, 1995  
Mr. Robert Hamilton  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234  
Reference: Savage Rapids Dam  
Draft Environmental Statement  
Page 3 of 4

The Draft Environmental Statement has ignored the probability of substantially greater power boat usage on the Rogue River from Grants Pass upstream to Powerhouse Rapids. Those usages will include substantial increases by recreational and fishing boats and devices which rely on gasoline powered motors for upstream navigation. Opening the river from Grants Pass to Powerhouse Rapids will also create a corridor for increased tourist/commercial use of that section of the river.

The impact of power boat usage on fish habitat and on the populations of anadromous fish populations in the Rogue River has not been scientifically ascertained. Such knowledge is crucial and should be mandatory to any decision-making process that may result in removal of Savage Rapids Dam.

4. FAILURE TO STUDY THE RESIDENT FISHERY WHICH EXISTS BELOW SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM AND IMPACTS ON THAT FISHERY WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE DAM'S REMOVAL:

There are many examples of fisheries which are dependent on water conditions and food sources that were created by and are dependent on the presence of dams. Of these, the writer is personally familiar with the fabulous trout fisheries which exist below Lost Creek Reservoir on the Rogue River, in Oregon, and below Hauser Dam on the Missouri River, in Montana.

The Bureau of Reclamation has made a serious error of omission in its Draft Environmental Statement by failing to study the resident fish population that exists below Savage Rapids Dam and which is dependent on the water conditions and food sources created by that dam. Further, the Bureau has failed to study the impact on that resident fish population which would result from removal of Savage Rapids Dam.

4. Although no quantitative analysis has been made, removal of the dam would improve the resident fishery overall due to improved passage upstream and downstream. The amount of fish at specific sites would change. The population of fish in the reach just downstream from the dam would decrease, as fish trapped in this area by the dam would be free to move upstream. (Also see ODFW comments)

Before the Environmental Impact Statement on Savage Rapids Dam will be capable of withstanding a bevy of legal challenges, the Bureau of Reclamation must correct several serious deficiencies which exist in its draft form.

February 17, 1995  
Mr. Robert Hamilton  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234  
Reference: Savage Rapids Dam  
Draft Environmental Statement  
Page 4 of 4

Please confirm the receipt of this letter. I also ask that my name be included on all future mailing lists and meeting notifications which relate to this subject.

Very truly yours,



Dennis M. Becklin

DMB:tmf

cc: Senator Brady Adams  
Oregon State Senate

Representative Bob Repine  
Oregon State Legislature

Page 1 of 3

Response (William H. Brecount Letter)

William H. Brecount

514 West Main Cr. Rd.

Rogue River Ore. 97530

March 12, 1925

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| NAME OF<br>INVESTIGATOR | W.H.<br>BRECOUNT |
| OPTIONAL FEE CARRY      | 0                |

MAR 21 1925

TO MFT DATE

4300 \$1 25%

Because of Reservation

1150 N Curtis Rd.

Boise Id. 83706

Re PN 6309 coverage (High Dam)

Dear Sir:

I have lived on or near the Rogue River close to the Savage Dam since 1912. This is the very first and show case of the Rogue River Valley to carry through with the 1.5 freeway on one side and Hwy 99 on the other side of the river. The lake backs up 4 miles and is used extensively for boating, skating and fishing, backed up residents and tourists enjoy this beautiful lake daily.

In view of 8000 grants it has irrigation District land owners irrigating land with the water from Savage Dam. The open irrigation canal ion this system support a tremendous variety of trees and wild life. Without the G.P.I.D. the Rogue Valley might be named the "Gob Valley".

Without these canals, hundreds of domestic water wells would stay dry.

If the Savage Dam were destroyed, all of the aforementioned would be lost, and the land owners of this area will have worked for the past 75 years for nothing.

Under this alternative plan with the electric pump, which I don't think is feasible at all, electric power would still have to move & down to gather water and the electric bill would be prohibitive.

Electric would cause the above, but since the destruction of the G.P.I.D.

An electrical - the field runs over Savage Dam since 1942 (the old original fish ladder) and

3. They have done quite well. However, see my plant of the 26,700 anadromous fish that are supposedly killed by this dam each year, & have counted 100 fish per hour.

If anyone wants to know why we have a shortfall of anadromous fish in the mouth of the Rogue River, you should read Oregon State U. study of 2 years ago on this subject. This study shows about 95% of the fish come in on the salt-water.

1. None of the alternatives would have any effect on the GPID distribution system.

2. A dam is not part of the Preferred Alternative, water is pumped from a sump. The annual cost for pumping is estimated at \$192,600.
3. The 26,700 is the estimated difference in the number of adult returning spawners with current conditions and with the Preferred Alternative. (See attachment D for the ODFW range of estimated increases for the action alternatives.)

WILLIAM H. BRECOUNT  
P.O. BOX 1220  
ROGUE RIVER, OR 97537

Page 3

Overfishing in the ocean (Japanese and Chinese drift nets) are over regulation of predators in the ocean (seals), logging and mining combined is less than 1% of the problem. When you have someone abouting the budget then, I think the main thing is one of human residents some other state or faraway city. He get kind of tired of some strangers coming here and telling us how to regulate the river, the irrigation system and our livelihood. The people upboarment to destroying the dam keep referring to the studies that prove 26,700 \* a nonnative fish are killed yearly. I haven't seen this study and I don't think they have only one in your organizations can tell me who's to fund this study please advised.

\* would also like to see the names of the engineering firm & construction Co. who came up with the multi million dollar figure on destroying the dam and up grade the dam.

It probably isn't hard to tell that my vote, the other 8000 G.P.U. customers and 99% of the local residents are in favor of keeping the dam in place.

Response (William H. Brecount Letter)

4. See #3 above and Greenwood response #6
5. All of the cost analyses were made by the Bureau of Reclamation.

William H. Brecount

|   |  |
|---|--|
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION<br>OFFICIAL FILE COPY  |  |
| FEB 23 1995   |  |
| 4214 Midway Avenue, Grants Pass, OR 97527-1000  |  |
| Attention: Pn-6309  |  |
| 1150 N. Curtis Rd.  |  |
| Boise, ID 83706-1234  |  |
| RE: FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS: SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM  |  |
| FILE  |  |
| Gentlemen:<br>To those of us who are concerned about the environment in the Grants Pass area of Oregon it is apparent that outsiders have attempted to demand compliance with their not too well-informed opinions and verdicts upon our local resources. The outsiders include appointed members of commissions, councils, etc. with no direct responsibility or accountability to the people either of the state or of this particular area. Outsiders also include appointed officials from out of the state, as well as hosts of so-called environmentalists, both state and national. None of those above would have to live with the consequences of their ill-advised recommendations.<br>It was repeatedly reported that few copies of your bureau's draft environmental statement were requested by local residents, although many were requested from all over the nation. When I read about availability of the report/statement about three days before the hearing, it was too late to send for a copy. The word must have gotten out to environmentalists everywhere in plenty of time! How come?<br>When a hearing was held in Medford last fall, the same thing happened. Environmentalists from all around, especially from Ashland, Oregon, were not only present in great numbers, but were prepared with written presentations. Since Medford is not Grants Pass, where the Savage Rapids Dam is located, our numbers were puny in comparison and we had no inkling of coming prepared with speeches. We were under the impression that the Water Resources Board was going to give a report which would be up for discussion.<br>Actual counts of fish, such as the December 31, 1994 count of coho salmon at the Gold Ray Dam, the highest in the history of the count, and the count of fall chinook, the second highest on record, and the count of summer steelhead in the mid-range of the count on record there, do not indicate any failure on the part of the Savage Rapids Dam. The summer steelhead count could have been higher, if a completed Elk Creek Dam had been in place to supplement cold water released from Lost Creek Dam. Since Gold Ray is upstream from Savage Rapids, the fish successfully scaled ladders now in place, which, incidentally, were built according to specifications of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife. |  |

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Where is an ideal fish ladder in place? We have not been successful in getting an answer to that question. However, the alternative of leaving the much-needed dam in place and making improvements is certainly the most reasonable and practical solution and one that will have the most beneficial effect on the Grants Pass environment, which includes people, livestock, attractive green surroundings and fish.

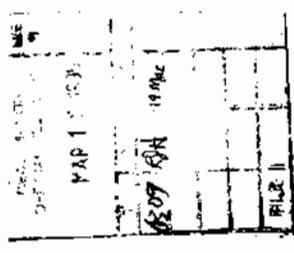
Perhaps the environmentalists can zero in on the many years of drought, the overfishing in the ocean, the overly protected sea lions at the coast, the excessive numbers of jet boats disturbing spawning grounds upstream from Gold Beach, as well as in the Grants Pass area, and help us get Elk Creek Dam completed, so more cold water will be available for release in the summer. We would appreciate that kind of help.

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1. A Bureau of Reclamation News Release dated December 14 was provided to all major media in the area and included information on how to obtain a copy of the Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement. Copies of the report were sent to all libraries in the area, media, and many individual and organizations (see "Distribution List" in chapter VII) and copies for distribution were available from the GPID throughout the review period.
2. See response to Don Greenwood letter. The high counts of salmon are probably due to curtailment of salmon fishing in 1994.
3. The design of fish passage facilities is continuing to advance. The reader may wish to contact NMFS for examples of state-of-the-art fish passage facilities (see NMFS letter for address).

Sincerely,  
*Signer M. Carlson*  
Signer M. Carlson

## Response (John Frewing Letter)



Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: PN-6309  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise ID 83706-1234

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed your "Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement" for removal/modification of the Savage Rapids Dam in Josephine County, Oregon distributed on December 13, 1994 and have the following comments based on attending a public meeting in Grants Pass, Oregon on February 16, 1995 and reading of your document and various references:

- 1) Your report is materially wrong in that it relies on information which is old and likely to have changed. I do not have problems with referencing older geologic studies, when none newer exist, but the fisheries impact data is very old and likely to have changed and the information on operation of the GPID is dated and likely to have changed. I understand that there is a rule/guide for reports of this sort which requires that data be at least current within five years. This is not the case here. Additional data collection should take place to present a reasonably accurate statement of the problem(s) and thus to disclose the environmental impact of alternative federal action.
- 2) Your report together with its references do not evaluate the ability of the GPID to repay any federal investment at Savage Rapids Dam. The GPID has lost assessed acreage over the past years and may lose more with rate hikes associated with local share costs of continued operation of the system under several of your studied alternatives. If the loss of customer revenue requires further rate hikes to meet fixed or operating costs, the GPID may shrink further in a death spiral. The environmental study should assess the ability of the GPID to pay local share capital and operating costs; otherwise, we may see the expenditure of federal monies without the calculated environmental benefits.
- 3) Your report does not recognize that a direct reading of the applicable law indicates that the GPID cannot receive water from the Rogue in excess of its calculated duty in its old permit. This is so because the recent Diack Law in Oregon prohibits any further appropriation of surface water above state Scenic Waterways when the minimum flow defined for the Scenic Waterway is not met. The minimum flow for the Rogue is not met over much of the irrigation season. The implication of this is that the GPID must increase its conveyance efficiency in order to irrigate its assessed customers and stay within its calculated duty. This additional cost must contribute to the death spiral mentioned in comment 2] above. Failure to recognize existing laws which protect the environment is a deficiency in the report. I have not completed an analysis of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers
1. The data used in fish passage and benefits analysis are considered adequate by the involved fisheries agencies (see comments by NMFS, ODFW and the USFWS). ODFW has provided new estimates on fishery benefits (see attachment D)
2. These concerns were identified during plan formulation and are discussed in chapter VIII under "Formulation Concerns."
3. The Oregon Water Resources Commission approved the GPID's temporary permit and process for renewal or change in the permit (see Attachment B). Newton provides a discussion of water rights and the availability of water for diversion at Savage Rapids Dam with respect to Diack (DNA 1994). Reclamation's assessment with respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers is discussed in chapter VI.

Response (John Freling Letter)

law and regulations; the report should explicitly state how the proposed project meets its requirements.

- 4) The report fails to assess the extent to which current operations of the GPID contribute to ground water in the Rogue Valley (see writeup on page VI-12). With the forces described above creating a death spiral for GPRD, loss of the conveyance leakage could create a hardship or economic cost to many well users in the area. The report should describe the environmental effect of 'no action' in this regard.
- 5) The economics of irrigated agriculture in this part of the Rogue Valley should be documented. If done, it will show that there are very few commercially viable farms. It is my opinion that the federal expense of the proposed action cannot be justified based on commercial returns of these farms. The authority of the Bureau to provide irrigation water to the remaining urban areas should be stated.

The result of the above deficiencies is twofold:

You have reached the wrong draft conclusion regarding the cost/benefit evaluation of federal investment at the Savage Rapids Dam.

The draft decision favoring federal funding is left subject to a variety of legitimate challenges.

I hope you can more accurately evaluate the subject project in your final analysis.

Sincerely,



John Freling  
7932 SE Reed College Place  
Portland, OR 97202

3/8/95

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| DATE   | ACTION<br>NAME<br>BY |
| FER 3/2 1995   |                      |
| COMMENTS ON PLANNING REPORT/DRAFT<br>ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT |                      |
| FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT<br>SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM                |                      |
| 16 FEBRUARY 1995   |                      |

No definitive study, scientific or otherwise, has ever been conducted to evaluate the effects of fish passage facilities on migratory fish at Savage Rapids Dam. All of the figures quoted are either estimates or extrapolations of fish passage facilities and mortalities in other river basins and have no relevance to the fish passage conditions at Savage Rapids Dam.

Not only is the referent document loaded with information that is not germane to environmental considerations, it is replete with data that cannot be supported. It is, by and large, a rehash of information contained in earlier reports, and is less than accurate in many of its claims and contentions.

On page summary 1, the statement that detailed fish studies were completed in the 1970's is in error. No such studies were ever conducted.

On page summary 2, paragraph 4 cannot be supported by any available data.

On page summary-8 paragraph seven, Fish: earlier reports quoted the difference in fish mortality—again an estimate—with or without the dam of between one and two percent rather than the five percent now being quoted.

1. An evaluation of fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam was done in the early 1970's by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (now the USFWS), Oregon State Game Commission, Fish Commission of Oregon, Oregon State Water Resources Board, GPID, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.
2. The statement on the capability and lifespan of the existing diversion facilities is based on evaluation by Reclamation Engineers.

3. ODFW has recently provided an analysis of a range of fishery benefits for the two action alternatives. This analysis is included in attachment D and referred to or summarized in appropriate sections of the report.

On page summary 9, first paragraph: Another statement that cannot be supported. Recent surveys of usage at the three parks along the SRD impoundment clearly show that between 150 and 200 thousand residents use the flat water recreation area during the irrigation season. No such usage will occur if the dam is removed.

On page summary 9, paragraph five: With recent and anticipated costs for electricity, annual pumping costs will exceed \$250 thousand and inevitably rise to higher annual levels during the projected life of the GPID. Power company sources advise a budget increase of three percent annually. This energy use represents that of 380 households but, according to the report, is not considered significant! This energy can only come from fossil fuels which means that the energy consumption byproducts of that many residences are introduced into the air we all breathe.

If all such irrigation diversion dams on rivers that enjoy migratory fish runs in the Pacific Northwest were to be removed and replaced by pumping systems, the energy demands would be enormous. No fossil derived or other electrical energy is required to operate the water driven system at SRD.

On page III-1, under accomplishments: Instead of "minor" changes, removal of the dam would result in "major" changes in wildlife habitats, vegetation, especially recreation, and social and economic considerations.

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife figures for 6 Coho salmon, more of this species were counted at Gold Ray Dam in 1994 than for any year of record. It should be noted that a majority of Coho salmon spawn in tributaries and the Rogue river below Gold Ray Dam. (Trout Unlimited, page seven, as of 12-31-94, 10,685 Coho salmon and 11,530 fall Chinook salmon--fourth highest count since 1942--were recorded at the Gold Ray Dam counting station) Press and other reports also highlight the fact that the fall Chinook run was one of the highest, in terms of fish count, in recent memory.

Referring to chapter IX, Bibliography, there is not a single document listed that deals with any study of fish passage problems and fish mortality at Savage Rapids Dam.

- 4 On page 9, unaware of any data that indicates such intense use of the pool behind Savage Rapids Dam.

4. Reclamation is unaware of any data that indicates such intense use of the pool behind Savage Rapids Dam.
5. Fish counts at Gold Ray Dam are included in the USFWS Coordination Act Report in Attachment C. The count of coho salmon was the highest on record, and the count for fall chinook was the highest since 1986. These high counts are not surprising as all salmon fishing off the coasts of Washington and Northern Oregon and all fishing for coho were banned in 1994.

6. The 1981, 1990, 1994, and 1995 USFWS references as well as most of the ODFW references either include data or references to fish passage problems. The 1974, 1976 and 1979 Bureau of Reclamation references summarize some of the passage problems.

## Response (Donald R. Greenwood Letter)

**Page VIII-5, Dam Retention:** This paragraph is ~~absolutely~~ inaccurate.  
Very few patrons cannot receive irrigation water from GPID. There is a  
~~waiting list at present for those who live along the distribution system~~  
and who desire water.

**Page VIII-4, Paragraph 4:** There are many documents of record which  
clearly state that if the fish passage facilities at Savage Rapids Dam were  
improved to current state-of-the-art specifications, they would be  
acceptable to ODFW, NMFS, and USF&W.

It is abundantly clear than elimination of the north fish ladder, the  
juvenile fish trap facility, repair as opposed to replacement of the radial  
gates, modification and enlargement of the south fish ladder, reduction  
in the number of gravity canal fish screens from five to two, and a  
realistic allowance for contingencies from some 67 percent to an industry  
average of some 20 to 30 percent would enable the improvement in fish  
passage facilities at far less cost than the current estimate derived by the  
Bureau of Reclamation.

*Donald R. Greenwood*  
Donald R. Greenwood, Chairman  
Three Rivers Watershed Council  
Member, Permit 50957 Oversight Committee  
Patron, GPID

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| 75                        | 6304    | YEAR    | 14      |

Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234  
  
Attention: PN-6309

Gentlemen:

When the first report of the proposed removal of the Savage Rapids Dam opened, I wrote a letter to the Editor to protest this stupidity. My feeling is the same -- the airheads who propose to replace the dam with pumps need only to contact Glenn County in California to gain knowledge that the pumps don't perform. The fish end up in the canals and serve no purpose, and the cost for the electrical power to run the pumps is totally ridiculous. The turbines we now have to pump water cost nothing but minor maintenance.

"The 3.5 mile lake is an asset that is of inestimable value, and it certainly contributes to the area attraction. It makes "Idaho Country" a great place to live!

I am not an engineer but it is easy to see that repainting the fish ladders would solve the migration problem at a reasonable cost. The fact that the dam has been in place for 70-plus years, and until recently we had plenty of fish should tell you something.

We sent Wes Cooley to Congress, and he has his head on right! He said the big reason for fewer fish is the foreign fishing close to our shores with their seven mile nets. **SOMEONE WITH SMARTS SHOULD LISTEN TO HIM.**

Sincerely,

*David M. Handley*  
David M. Handley  
462 Red Mountain Drive  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(503) 474-3867

SENT BY: 3-20-95 : 14:47 KINNO'S 221 SW ALDER+ 2083785066; # 2/ 3

Response (Eric W. Hartman Letter)

Eric W. Hartmann  
13015 SW 61st Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219

March 20, 1994

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Re: Savage Rapids Dam Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

I am a concerned citizen who has enjoyed wild rivers and wild fish for many years. Therefore, it was heartening to learn that all federal and state agencies, and even the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) all agree that dam removal is the preferred alternative for the Savage Rapids Dam. I concur in this conclusion. As commendable as this conclusion is, however, the reasoning for justifying this preferred alternative, as well as the details for undertaking this alternative, leaves something to be desired. Recognizing that perfection is always striven for, but rarely attained, please accept the following comments on the Savage Rapids Dam Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement (Draft) in the spirit of constructive criticism with which they are offered.

First and foremost, retiring the debt owed by the Grants Pass Irrigation District to the Federal Government on the current dam is absurd. This dam has impeded fish passage on the Rogue River ever since it was completed in 1921. Despite several lame attempts to add fish passage, Savage Rapids Dam continues to exact a terrible toll on fish. Thus, due GPID has reaped benefits from the dam that has never adequately mitigated the harms to the fisheries. Money cannot make up for the loss of fish runs, but it stands to reason that an entity which has prospered at the expense of these fish runs should at the very least pay its own way. To do otherwise is tantamount to condoning the damage already done. Retiring the debt is also fiscally unreasonable. As a taxpayer, I resent the astronomical debt the federal government has incurred, and exacerbating this debt by retiring debts owed to the government willy-nilly is even more galling. Subsidizing the ruin of fisheries does not make any sense. In short, retiring the debt owed sets a poor precedent.

Second, the cost-benefit analysis underestimates the value of an enhanced fishery.<sup>1</sup> The values attached to fisheries were outdated and do not properly reflect the high value in purely monetary terms of a more prolific fishery. Indeed, the latest values for sports fishing are from 1978 and for commercial fishing are 1982. Draft at p. III-2. In addition, when weighing the alternatives, the value of not having a prolific fishery should be incorporated as a cost because it is a benefit forgone. Thus, the cost/benefit analysis is weaker than it ought to be in proving that the removal of Savage Rapids Dam is the most expedient course of action.

Third, the Draft implies that property owners along the erstwhile impounded lake would be most adamantly opposed to the preferred alternative. If this is so, that would be sad, if not disingenuous, because these property owners are likely to enjoy a water body which will likely experience fewer fluctuations in bank location in its free-flowing state than in its former state as a seasonal irrigation reservoir. Moreover, as the Draft states, property values will not be adversely affected.

1. The monetary values used in the analysis were the latest available and are considered adequate for this evaluation and to propose Federal action.

SENT BY:

3-20-95 : 14:48 :KINNO'S 221 SW ALDER-

2083785066;# 37 3

Last, the draft is a bit weak when it comes to detailing how Savage Rapids Dam will be removed. For example, where will the bulk of the present dam be disposed of. As a suggestion, the possibility of leaving some of the big blocks of concrete in the river may want to be considered. While perhaps not aesthetically appealing, such blocks could provide valuable fish habitat and avoid the necessity of transporting a significant part of the dam, thereby reducing the overall cost..

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Savage Rapids Dam Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement and look forward to receiving an even better final decision.

Very truly yours,



Eric W. Hartmann

Response (Eric W. Hartman Letter)

2. Specific sites for disposal of concrete would be developed during preconstruction activities. For this analysis, it is adequate to note that there are available sites within a reasonable distance of the dam.

12-20-94

Response (Randy Hinke 12/20 Letter)

Attn: PN 6309  
 Comment  
 Savage Rapids Dam -

|                       |
|-----------------------|
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Fact #1 The Russians still have  
 Miss. pointed at us.

Fact #2. 40 miles N.E. 2 nuclear  
 2 E.C.B. Mr with multi-wheeled  
 are pointed at the Heart of Portland  
 Fact 3 one I.C.B.m. has 4-20 megaton  
 Bombs and the other three 8; 20 megaton  
 Bombs.

Fact 4 Savage Rapids Dam has turbines

1 That pumps water and could be ~~adapted~~  
 to generate electricity.

Fact 5. 2 40,000 Survivors and cannibalistic  
 are slated for evacuation to S. w. Oregon

Fact 6 The power grid will be destroyed  
Question How will we power over  
 medical services with out a generating  
~~power~~ source for electrical power  
 If we are ever ~~hit~~ hit by these bombs?

Please reply

Randy Hinke  
 304 Lincoln St.  
 Grants Pass OR 97527

- Using the existing turbines to generate electricity would require expensive and extensive modification to the existing structure, would require a change in State law, and would preclude using the turbines to pump irrigation water.
- Based on 800 cfs falling through a 40 foot head with the facilities on line 95 percent of the year, about 22,000 MWh would be produced annually.

2-12-95

proposal

I propose that the B.C. Rec. Table any and all activities concerning Savage Rapids dam until such time that the threat from the Russians and Chinese have ~~dangerous weapons~~ been eliminated.

Randy Hinke

Response (Randy Hinke 2/12/95 Letter)

Subject National & internal security threat from the removal of Savage Rapids Dam and pumping on generating system, using the instability of the Russian threat as a basis.

Randy Hinke

304 Wood Lake Dr  
Grants Pass OR 97527

2-12-95  
Recommendation for fish passage improvement  
Use native boulders to build a set of  
jump ponds that come up to the base of  
the ston logs.

start approx 100 feet down stream. Create  
a natural water fall, while keeping the tail  
race open and at its present grade.

1. I gave this some comment every time the  
issue of fish passage comes up.

1. The fish ladder design used in the cost estimate includes 28 pools or cells. It can be assumed that about the same number of jump ponds constructed of boulders would be needed. The amount of material needed would be very large and would extend far downstream.

Randy Hinke  
304 Wood Lake Dr  
Mount Pleasant, PA 15666

8-12-95

Congress /

Sage 1-1 continuing DL 92-199, 85 Stat. 664 enacted December 15, 1971

1 This requires a economic impact statement.

2 Stream continuum in context of regulation

Vegetation and how ~~with~~ this will effect

Stream chemistry

3 Regulation consequences and the effect

4 What are the factors affecting type and extent

of regulation legislation present now around the

lake? and how will this ~~involvement~~ from a

lake side Regime, ~~involvement~~ to a down canyon

Review Monolithic effect the current residing  
geological relationships and their track

- 2 If the streambanks in the lake area were to remain undisturbed, the area could be expected to revert over time to a riverine environment similar to that upstream and downstream from Savage Rapids Dam. However, the land around the lake is essentially all privately owned and the vegetational responses to removal of the dam would vary with the actions of individual land owners.

SPR

Response (Randy Hinke 2/12/95 Letter)

Bur. Rec. 2-12-95

Projections for the recovery from  
a nuclear attack with a low direct effects  
Risk Factor (hot Fema) for the United States.

Full capacity as we know it now 5 years  
Minimum Services power  
Metropolitain 21 weeks  
Urban 36 weeks 9 mos.  
Rural 3 years  
Transportation Truck 1 year  
Rail minimum 1 year

Randy Hinke  
304 Woodlake Dr  
Grants Pass OR 97527

2-12-95  
Letter to Oregon Division of Lands  
and Oregon Water Resources Institute  
Subject Salmon Habitat Study Travel Request  
Date Oct 1994  
Section 3 Page 46 thru 76  
Subject Stream processes - Hydrology and  
~~Hydro~~ hydrology

- Concerned ① The dam will increase the  
grade of the river above the ~~lake~~ by approx.  
10 feet per mile over the distance from the dam to  
Gold Hill. This will cause the river above the  
dam to produce chronic sediment and gravel  
canyon development ~~problems~~ approx 5 million  
cubic yards of material to move down river between  
the dam and Gold Hill. ~~Causing~~ ~~more~~ ~~severe~~ ~~problems~~  
~~Dam~~ ~~causes~~ ~~the~~ ~~problems~~ ~~above~~ ~~the~~ ~~dam~~  
② ~~causes~~ ~~the~~ ~~problems~~ ~~above~~ ~~the~~ ~~dam~~
3. See response to American Fisheries Society letter.

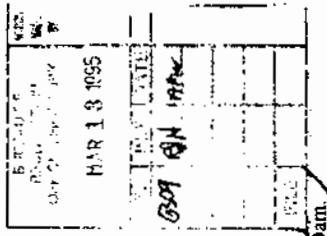
~~that~~ Justify this action and its harm to  
in River life forms

Randy Hinke  
304 Wood Lake Dr  
Dorena Pass OR 97327

Response (Jerry K [----] letter)

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention PN-6309  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

HAR 13 1995  
See response to Charles Weaver Letter.



Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

Please allow me to voice my concerns about the removal of the Savage Rapids Dam.

In the 50's the city of Rogue River had two saw mills in operation, now we only have one. We are attempting to make up for the loss of timber related jobs by encouraging tourists to visit the local area. Without the lake, behind the dam we would lose this great resource. The tourists that come yearly to enjoy the Lake for water skiing, jet skiing, boating, etc. would have no reason to vacation in our area. The park at Savage Creek is filled with families enjoying the lake all summer. Also important, it takes all the summer recreation away from our local residents.

The impoundment area proved to be an invaluable asset, during the Evans Creek and Hull Mountain fires, by retaining sufficient water for the Helicopters. Thus allowing for quicker turn around time and lessening greater fire loss.

The homes along the lake portion will no longer have nice river frontage, during the summer. When it was made known about the dam, property values dropped 50%. The main concern of buyers is the retention of the dam. Without a guarantee that it will stay they don't want it. Granted it will still be river front property, but during the summer the river will look more like a dry gulch.

As for his amount of fish it is supposed to be killing, I have been to several meetings and read all I can find about it. The only thing I know is that:

1. Millions of gallons of raw sewage that is accidentally dumped in the river annually.
2. The extreme droughts we have been experiencing, causing the fish to fall victim to diseases resulting from warmer water.

3. The ever increasing armada of sea lions and seals at the mouth of the river. Consuming many tons of roe laden salmon annually. They are now following the migrating fish up the river several miles.

4. The continual increase of anglers.
5. The massive increase of the Squaw fish population. One adult is known to consume up to 30 young salmon a day.

The spring Chinook run in 1993 was the highest since 1989, a record run. The annual run of Coho Salmon that ended Jan. 30, 1995 is the largest number ever recorded crossing Gold Ray Dam. It seems that if the dam was killing as many fish, as the environmentalist predict, it would have effected the Chinook and Coho salmon.

The removal of the Dam has nothing to do with the killing fish. It is outsiders trying to tell us what to do. It is a frivolous waste of tax money that could be well spent in helping the economy in the Rogue Valley not hampering it. Please do not allow the dam to be removed.

Respectfully,  
*Jerry K. [Signature]*

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention PN-6309  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

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The removal of the Dam has nothing to do with the killing fish. It is outsiders lying to tell us what to do. It is a frivolous waste of tax money that could be well spent in helping the economy in the Rogue Valley not hampering it. Please do not allow the dam to be removed.

Respectfully,  
*Elaine Lake*  
6532 Hwy 12  
Lester Park, OR 97534

Response (James Lamp Jr. Letter)

2-47745

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6307 PN 6309  
savage rapids dam

Re: PN-6309  
savage rapids dam

Bureau of Reclam.  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706-

Dear Sirs & Sisters:

1. Why are you people involved in our Dam?
2. Why is government involved, all Bureau, Deptt, etc.

Do you people have any idea what the impact will be if the dam is removed? Have you done an impact study? Economy study?

The people are the endangered species here, not the fish. People come over <sup>all</sup> to use the lake behind the dam. What do we do if the lake goes? I know one, use it to water ski.

Repair the dam.

Thank you  
James Lamp Jr.  
P.O. Box 3448  
Crandall Point, Ore. 97502

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January 18, 1995

Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: PM #6309  
1150 North Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Gentlemen:

I am writing regarding Savage Rapids Dam and what I believe about the figures that it would take to renovate it.

I live on the Lake portion above the Dam. We built our home there because of the recreation in the Summer. We are definitely interested in renovating the fish ladders and keeping the Dam. The value of our property and home depends on keeping the Dam.

At one of the GPID meetings I attended the figures were reported for fixing the Dam at 17 Million Dollars. Now, no one has reported what this 17 Million Dollars is for.

Please read the report in detail. I don't believe we need paved parking, bathrooms, and observation decks to watch the Salmon. This report was padded with more than just fixing the fish ladders.

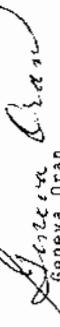
This Dam offers so much for the residents of Josephine & Jackson Counties. Water skiing, boating, fishing, swimming, water storage for firefighting, water fowl galore.

I believe taking out the Dam would be the wrong thing to do. The ladders can be repaired and I believe we need to get bids from the right parties and stop giving the 17 Million Dollar figure.

We cannot get back what we destroy, but we can repair this structure and enjoy the fish also.

I am very glad to hear the future meetings will be in Grants Pass. The average citizen works in the daytime and needs to be heard in the evening hours at a local location.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.



Geneva Oran  
6606 Rogue River Hwy  
Grants Pass, Ore. 97527

503-582-2695

March 13, 1995

To the Bureau of Reclamation,

These are my fact sheets. I have prepared this selection of pictures along with my comments, to instill and magnify how desperately important it is to keep the Savage Rapids Dam.

There has been a death penalty put upon it, but it's only "crime" consists of killing fish. Is it not innocent until proven guilty? Is it not the responsibility of the accusers to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt, the accusations ? Where is the absolute proof , and the piles of fish ,lying at the foot of the dam? Is it not unfair to blame so strongly, the dam for killing fish when overfishing ,sea lions, and other factors have taken their toll, before reaching the dam?

It was requested that comments be factual and I pray that my presentation will help to show the positive side of keeping the dam in place.

The BIGGEST FACT ,is, that those of us living in this area,are being invaded by powerful forces, who don't live or work here. They care not what we think or feel, just so long as they get their way and can push through their agenda.This is none of their business.

It's hard not to get emotional about this.  
This is plumb scary for us when these groups are being allowed to dictate and override our opinions,of the valuable asset ,the dam is to our community and the land.

(2)

A dam that has withstood 74 years of high water and flood times, is ONE STOUT STRUCTURE. (Made things to last, in the good old days.)

Priorities need to be set straight. There is much more at stake here, than the fish. It's location is the best for helicopters to put out forest fires close by. Fish in the water, have a better chance of surviving a fire, than the land animals do.

Too much emphasis is being placed on the fish, only. The wildlife that are, and would be saved, by the water from the dam, during forest fires, are being completely left out of the picture.

ARE THEY NOT JUST AS IMPORTANT?

They would be denied a chance of survival, if the dam is torn down. Our officials need to take this aspect and realize the full impact of this, before making their decision. Also needed to take into consideration is the several years of drought conditions, and our many, many forest fires each year, which, in my opinion, is harder on the fish, in the small streams, than the dam's existence.

For how can fish survive, anywhere, if the land is burning up? ?

By being able to use the irrigation water here, we are able to keep our trees, bushes, etc., green, which, in turn, attracts the birds, such as robins, sparrows, jays, finches, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, quail, and other wildlife. It would be a great injustice to withdraw this water from them.

1. The Preferred Alternative would eliminate the large pool convenient for filling buckets used by helicopters to fight fires; however, natural pools would remain that could be used in the same manner.

Response (Janita Pickett Letter)

(3)

3/11/95 Grants Pass Courier states,  
Fishermen getting 12 million in economic assistance,  
because of salmon decline.

This tells me that huge amounts of fish are being  
taken from the ocean, therefore, less are able to  
come up river to spawn.

The dam should be acquitted from it's "crime"  
on this count alone.

According to the TV news recently, it was  
stated that computers have been used to estimate how  
many more fish would be saved, if the dam were torn  
down. Maybe more fish would be saved, but that's  
only an "if", for there are other elements that could  
prove those numbers wrong. Estimates are not proof.

I believe it's wrong and deceitful to the public  
to use computers this way.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Janita Pickett  
Mrs. Janita Pickett

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| OFFICIAL FILE COPY         |                         |                            |
| FEB 27 1995                |                         |                            |
| To:                        | Mr. John W. Keys III    | Subject:                   |
| 6309                       | Regional Director       |                            |
| 6309                       | Bureau of Reclamation   |                            |
| 6309                       | Attention: PN-6309      |                            |
| 6309                       | 1150 North Curtis Road  |                            |
| 6309                       | Boise, Idaho 83706-1234 |                            |
| February 22, 1995          |                         |                            |

Dear Mr. Keys:

I would like to comment on the "Need for Action" at Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River, near Grants Pass, Oregon. My name is Mark Smith. I'm currently living in Tigray, Oregon, but was born and raised in Grants Pass. I support the "Preferred Alternative" and complete removal of the dam.

The first 23 years of my life in Grants Pass gave me the privilege of experiencing a quality of life that most people in our country will only dream about, or maybe get a brief glimpse of in passing while on a vacation. Most of the best memories of my childhood and growing up, are from time spent on the Rogue River. I've spent thousands of hours on the river, and caught hundreds of Salmon and Steelhead. One of my most vivid memories of Savage Rapids Dam, is from a visit my dad and I made to the dam when I was 11 or 12 years old (about 1970). It was during the month of May and the Spring Chinook were passing through the "fish ladders". The only problem was that about every fourth or fifth salmon attempting to jump the ladders would end up out of the ladder, on the rocks. Several were severely injured, or died as a result of inadequate passage facilities. This seemed unacceptable to me at the time, so I wrote a letter to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with no response. Now, about 25 years later, I'm writing again. Although this time, after reading your draft report on the Savage Rapids Dam "problem", there is at last some positive news for the Rogue River fishery.

This appears to be a very simple problem to solve, and I think your report does a great job of exposing the issues. The "need for action" as stated in the report states that the Rogue River salmon and steelhead fisheries are nationally renown for diversity and productivity, and that the Rogue River supports the largest wild population of the anadromous salmonids in Oregon. We are all aware of the crisis that is facing the salmon and steelhead populations throughout the west coast of North America. We cannot allow this to *foreverlast*ly continue on one the most productive streams on the west coast. Considering the hundreds of millions of dollars the Bonneville Power Administration will be spending *per year* to finance fish recovery programs in the Columbia Basin, the expenses associated with the preferred alternative at Savage Rapids dam are relatively insignificant, but will provide a solid investment in the future of the Rogue River fishery. The fishery on the

## Response (Mark H. Smith Letter)

Rogue, and the quality of habitat the river provides, is a critical element of Southern Oregon's desirability and economic foundation. With all of the devastation of Salmon and Steelhead populations going on today, we should make every possible effort to preserve and enhance the remaining viable fisheries wherever practical.

The pond above Savage Rapids dam will be lost with the Preferred Alternative. However, if the riverbanks are properly restored, those businesses will continue and property values will be maintained or possibly improved. Recreational opportunities will be available all year, especially if the river is accessible.

Water diverted at the dam will continue to be provided to the customers of GPID under the "Preferred Alternative". However, I strongly disagree with the Bureau's proposal of delivering 150 CFS. The GPID has water rights for 90 CFS. GPID has few, if any customers whose livelihood depends on irrigation water from the GPID system. 90 CFS should be reduced to the demand sufficient to satisfy only the most legitimate users. Do NOT increase the withdrawal to 150 CFS. Most of the water will continue to be wasted, put onto a pasture, onto a household yard or garden, and/or subsequently return to the river, warm, polluted and un-fit.

The out-dated concept of water rights does not apply to the majority of GPID water users. The water is more valuable to society IN THE RIVER, not in a pasture or garden. Pumping 150 CFS is wasteful and not in the best interest or consistent with multiple use objectives.

Pressures on the fish populations in the Rogue include logging, mining, illegal irrigation diversions/withdrawals, over-allocation of water rights, pollution, off-shore fishing, and drought. The Rogue has withheld considerable odds up to this point, but is clearly suffering. As responsible stewards of the environment we live in and love to enjoy, we owe to the river the right decision and immediate action.

The Preferred Alternative is a very "practical" option for protecting the fishery, and for preserving the quality of the Rogue River. Savage Rapids dam is a KNOWN hazard to fish, and must be removed. In simple terms, it's a wasteful menace to the river.

Sincerely,  
*Mark H. Smith*  
Mark H. Smith  
13668 SW Michelle Ct.  
Tigard, OR 97223

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation,  
1150 North Curtis Road,  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Bob,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Hank Vann. My family and I are a six year residents of Rogue River, Oregon. My wife Dixie and I purchased our business, Circle W RV Park, in 1989. The park is located on the "Lake" portion of the Rogue River, two and a half miles upstream of Savage Rapids Dam. We have made many improvements to the property. In 1989 we invested \$46,000 for a second dock. While it cost less than some of our neighbors docks, it represents a significant investment to us.

Circle W was originally established in 1968. Our customer/guest base comes from all around the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They come for very basic reasons, the beauty of the lakefront in the spring, summer, and early fall, the recreational boating facilities, the fishing and swimming when the dam is up and the current slow.

Property taxes reflect the value of "lakefront land that we own. The same three acre property "off water" would have cost less than a third of what it was purchased for. Property tax would be a third of the current assessment. When our taxes were doubled three years ago we were told it was because we live on the lake.

For the Bureau of Reclamation, Bob Hunter of Water Watch, or Dan Ross the Jackson County Tax Assessor, to suggest loss of the "Lake" wouldn't have a dramatic impact on property or business values is a lie to achieve their ends or the assessments are false. Either way it's insulting our intelligence. The Preferred Alternative should include compensation to the property owners on the "Lake". Real estate brokers in the area have suggested that values could drop as much as fifty percent.

As past president and current secretary of the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce, I can tell you that the local population is appalled at the stance of the "Bureau". To suggest that public opinion was solicited and considered is a falsehood.

REBULLE OF  
RECLAMATION  
OFFICE FILE COPY

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| FEB 10 1998 |           |
| TO          | WATKINSON |
| COPY        | 1354      |
| FILE        |           |

## Response (Hank Vann Letter)

Your report fails to address some very important issues particularly above the dam, wetlands, riparian vegetation, ground water recharge, etc.

I have taken the liberty of writing my version of the summary to your "Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement", and hope you will give some consideration to my viewpoint. I haven't included the attachments with this copy but they will be available at the February 16th meeting at the Grants Pass Fairgrounds. You are probably familiar with most of them anyway.

Before moving to Oregon from Southern California, I spent thirty years in industry, building things. I started as a engineering planner, became a cost analyst, later an operations manager, project engineer, and program manager. My largest project was a five year program budgeted at one hundred and fifty million dollars.

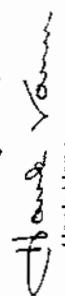
Our neighbors on the "Lake" include the Brothers of Brotherton Pipeline Construction, the Artoff's of Artoff Heavy Construction, "Robco" which does work for GPD, and several retired civil engineers.

My neighbors and I know what it costs to move dirt and rock, lay steel, pour concrete, do pumps and pipe. The estimates provided by the "Bureau", whether it was your work or not, are atrocious. I would have been 'fired' at any point of my career for such a submission.

More importantly, we live on the "Lake" year around. My children learned to fish, swim, ski, and canoe on the lake. If the dam were to go all that would remain is canoeing and there are many better areas of the Rogue for canoeing or kayaking on.

We see the salmon run. When the smolt run, we know because of the reaction of the wildlife. We see the river as a trickle, we "button up" for the floods. No biologist, ecnologist, politician, or bureaucrat can begin to understand the area unless they live here. I invite you to spend a few days with us this summer and winter to get a real 'feel' for the environment. Perhaps then you will begin to understand our resistance to the destruction of our livelihood and lifestyle.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hank Vann  
6110 Rogue River Hwy,  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

1. Thank you for providing your view. However, much of the information provided is contrary to the technical data Reclamation received during the course of the study. In addition, we have not received the referenced attachments and are unable to respond to those concerns.

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention PN-6309  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

6309 147  
147

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

Please allow me to voice my concerns about the removal of the Savage Rapids Dam.

In the 50's the city of Rogue River had two saw mills in operation, now we only have one. We are attempting to make up for the loss of timber related jobs by encouraging tourists to visit the local area. Without the lake, behind the dam we would lose this great resource. The tourists that come yearly to enjoy the lake for water skiing, jet skiing, boating, etc. would have no reason to vacation in our area. The park at Savage Creek is filled with families enjoying the lake all summer. Also important, it takes all the summer recreation away from our local residents.

The impoundment area proved to be an invaluable asset, during the Evans Creek and Hull Mountain fires, by retaining sufficient water for the Helicopters. Thus allowing for quicker turn around time and lessening greater fire loss.

The homes along the lake portion will no longer have nice river frontage, during the summer. When it was made known about the dam, property values dropped 50%. The main concern of buyers is the retention of the dam. Without a guarantee that it will stay they don't want it. Granted it will still be river front property, but during the summer the river will look more like a dry gulch.

As for the amount of fish it is supposed to be killing, I have been to several meetings and read all I can find about it. The only thing I know is that:

1. Millions of gallons of raw sewage that is accidentally dumped in the river annually.
2. The extreme droughts we have been experiencing, causing the fish to fall victim to diseases resulting from warmer water.
3. The ever increasing armada of sea lions and seals at the mouth of the river. Consuming many tons of roe laden salmon annually. They are now following the migrating fish up the river several miles.
4. The continual increase of anglers.
5. The massive increase of the Squaw fish population. One adult is known to consume up to 30 young salmon a day.

<sup>1</sup> The spring Chinook run in 1993 was the highest since 1989, a record run. The annual run of Coho Salmon that ended Jan. 30, 1995 is the largest number ever recorded crossing Gold Ray Dam. It seems that if the dam was killing as many fish, as the environmentalist predict, it would have effected the Chinook and Coho salmon.

The removal of the Dam has nothing to do with the killing fish. It is outsiders trying to tell us what to do. It is a frivolous waste of tax money that could be well spent in helping the economy in the Rogue Valley not hampering it. Please do not allow the dam to be removed.

Respectfully,

*Charles Weaver*

Charles Weaver  
7365 Rogue River Hwy  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

1. See attachment C—Coordination Act Report for fish counts at Gold Ray Dam. Also, see response to Don Greenwood letter.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

|            |                  |        |
|------------|------------------|--------|
| TO:        | RE: 104-1381-100 | 40 CFR |
| 6-3-SP-101 | 5/2/95           | WADP   |
| 2-3-12-000 |                  |        |
| 6-5-95     | 5/2/95           |        |

MAY 10 1995

Reply to Am: WD-126

May 4, 1995

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fish Passage Improvement, Savage Rapids Dam. Our review was conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, which directs EPA to review and comment on all federal EISs.

Following our review, EPA has found no significant statutory or jurisdictional issues from its perspective. We are rating this draft EIS LO (lack of Objections). An explanation of the EPA rating system is enclosed for your reference. This rating will be published in the Federal Register.

EPA supports the preferred alternative, which is removal and demolition of the dam and construction of two electric powered pumping plants. This would increase salmon and steelhead escapement at the site by about 22 percent.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft EIS. We appreciate your consideration of our comments at this stage in the process. If you have any questions regarding our review, please contact John Bregg, in our Environmental Review Section at (206)553-1984.

Sincerely,

*Joan Cabeza*  
Joan Cabeza, Chief  
Environmental Review Section

Enclosure: Rating System Summary

- From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment
- February, 1987

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Environmental Quality       | DEPARTMENT         |
| Office of Natural Resources | State Parks        |
| APR 3 - 1995                | 6309 R.R. 1st Ave. |
| FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS   |                    |

**Oregon**

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STATE PARKS



Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

March 28, 1995

RE: Fish Passage Improvements Savage Rapids Dam Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement (DES)

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Page 2  
Savage Rapids Dam DEIS  
OPRD  
March 28, 1995

those desired for participation, is on activities occurring in the natural environment with minimal development. We have enclosed a copy of the draft 1994-1999 SCORP for your use.

The 1993 Legislature identified the south coast basin, including the Rogue River system, as one of two high priority regions in the state needing major restorative efforts for the benefit of threatened and endangered fish runs and other species. Known as the Watershed Health Initiative, the program was allocated \$10 million for the 1993-95 biennium to begin effecting improvements in watershed health. The support of federal agencies in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for keeping our department informed of your progress. If you have further questions about the SCORP data, please contact Kathy Stratton at 503-378-6378 x235.

Sincerely,

*Alan Clark Jr.*

Alan Evans/Manager  
Policy and Planning

As noted on page VI-30, "the Rogue River is nationally and internationally recognized for its diverse recreation opportunities." To that end, this river bears designation as both a State Scenic Waterway and a National Wild and Scenic River downstream from this project. Fisheries and recreation are important values recognized under both state and federal designations. In general, water quality improvements resulting from dam removal in a non-designated reach will enhance fish and recreation resources in the State Scenic Waterway and federal Wild and Scenic sections of the river.

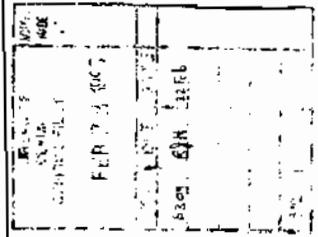
The 1994-1999 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey shows that there is high statewide participation in non-pool swimming, boating, bank and dock fishing, tent camping and nature study. The percentage of households where no one participated but would like to revealed that the top desired activity was non-motorized boating. This was followed closely by horseback riding on trails, hiking, backpacking on trails and nature study and wildlife viewing. Except for scenic driving, the emphasis of both those activities participated in and

Enclosure

c. Dept staff  
Stephanie Burchfield/ODFW

1115 Environmental St. #4  
Salem, OR 97316-6011  
(503) 373-6345  
(503) 373-3728-6347  
FAX: (503) 373-6347  
Toll free: 800-442-1115

# Oregon



February 14, 1995

**WATER  
RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT**

John W. Keys, Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Attention: PN-6309

Dear Mr. Keys:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement of Fish Passage Improvement at Savage Rapids Dam.

The Water Resources Commission and Department have worked closely with the Grants Pass Irrigation District and Bureau staff during the evaluation of alternatives to resolve fish passage problems at the dam. We concur in the conclusion that the most cost effective method for resolving fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam is through replacement of the dam with electric pumping plants.

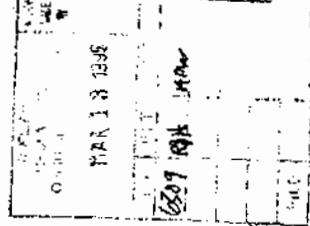
The Rogue River provides an anadromous fishery of national importance. During recent years, however, petitions have been filed proposing listing of the basin's coho salmon and winter steelhead as threatened or endangered species. The State of Oregon is working to resolve the problems which have caused the declines in fish populations through the investment of watershed restoration funds. Because of the condition of the fish populations which spawn upstream of Savage Rapids Dam, the proposal to replace the dam with electric pumping plants is a critical element of recovery efforts.

In October 1994, the Commission approved an extension of the water use permit held by the district. The Commission also approved the conservation and fish passage plans proposed by the district. Under the approved fish passage plan, the district would replace Savage Rapids Dam with electric pumping plants. The district's plan anticipates the completion of this project in 2001, but identifies federal assistance as critical to implementation of the project.

We believe that the proposed project is important to the protection and restoration of a national resource and we urge the Bureau of Reclamation to proceed in an expeditious manner.

Sincerely,

Martha O. Page  
Director



American Rivers

March 7, 1995

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

RE: Savage Rapids Dam/Rogue River, Oregon

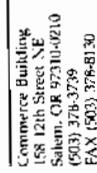
Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am writing in response to the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon, owned by the Grants Pass Irrigation District. American Rivers strongly endorses this report's preferred alternative of dam removal and replacement with water pumps.

Removal of the Savage Rapids Dam is a win-win situation for the Rogue River, the Grants Pass Irrigation District, the salmon and steelhead, and for the people who enjoy the river. The Bureau of Reclamation correctly concludes that the dam removal/pumping alternative has two times more net benefits than the dam retention/fish ladder alternative. These benefits include the following:

- \* It will cost \$6.4 million less to remove the dam and replace it with water pumps than to repair the dam.
- \* Removal of the dam is estimated to increase the run of salmon and steelhead in the Rogue by approximately 114,600 fish annually, with an estimated annual benefit of \$5 million.
- \* State-of-the-art fish ladders and screens would provide significantly fewer benefits to the fishery than dam removal due to migration delays, injuries and increased predation. Fish ladders would also result in annual operations and maintenance costs.
- \* Removing the dam and installing pumps will provide a boost to the economy of Southern Oregon, not only due to increased recreation income as a result of the improved fishery, but also from funds spent during the construction phase.

Dams on rivers often meet important needs. But when those needs can be met by less environmentally damaging alternatives, we must be prepared to remove the dams to restore the natural functions of rivers. Just because a dam is in place does not mean that it is a "need."



Commerce Building  
1581 12th Street N.E.  
Seattle, OR 98101-4210  
(503) 378-3739  
FAX (503) 378-8130

511 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 547-6900  
(202) 543-6142 (FAX)



Printed on recycled paper

it should remain forever. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Grants Pass Irrigation District have taken an important first step in recognizing the need to remove the Savage Rapids Dam.

American Rivers is a national conservation organization with over 15,000 members and a mission of preserving and restoring America's river systems, and fostering a river stewardship ethic.

*AMERICAN RIVERS*

20 Mar. 1995

20 Mar. 1995

March 14, 1995

Sincerely yours,  
  
Margaret B. Bowman  
Director of Hydropower Programs

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton.  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The Northwest Regional Office of American Rivers writes to support the Bureau of Reclamation's recent DRAFT recommending the dam removal/pumping alternative for the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon. Through the efforts of our national organization, the Rogue River was among the first to receive National Wild and Scenic River status. Yet for the past two years, unfortunately, we identified the Rogue/Illinoian River System in Oregon as one of North America's Most Threatened Rivers. Our concern for the fate of the Rogue River could not be greater.

American Rivers' Northwest Regional Office, through its Endangered Salmon Project, focuses on the improvement of in-river conditions for salmon spawning, rearing and migration. The disastrous effects of dams and water diversions and withdrawals are at the center of our work. Savage Rapids Dam causes more harm to fish than any other single factor on the Rogue River, resulting in an annual loss of approximately \$5 million to the economy. The dam removal/pumping alternative is the only one which achieves the greatest benefits for fish, while costing \$0.4 million less than building fish passage facilities. The Bureau correctly concludes that the dam removal/pumping alternative has significantly more benefits than the dam retention/ladders and the screen alternative.

Implementation of state-of-the-art fish ladders and screens would still result in delays in fish migration, injuries, and increased predation over natural conditions. In addition, ladders and screens require ongoing maintenance and repair, for which the Grants Pass Irrigation District does not have the financial resources. On the other hand, the dam removal scenario would give a needed boost to the economy of Southern Oregon due to the funds that would be spent during the construction phase, and the direct and indirect economic benefits associated with an increased fishery.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
4518 UNIVERSITY WAY, NE

Suite 112  
Seattle, WA 98105  
206-545-7135  
206-545-7144 (FAX)

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION<br>OFFICIAL FILE COPY   | APR - 3 1995 |
| TO   | INT DATE     |
| SAC  | SPC          |
| FEDERAL LAND   |              |
| (621 Connecticut Ave. N.W.<br>Suite 200)<br>Washington, D.C. 20545   |              |
| Phone: (202) 332-4840<br>Fax: (202) 332-4865<br>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:civel@igc.apc.org">civel@igc.apc.org</a> |              |

It is rare to find a dam removal scenario with the unanimous support of all of the stakeholders. The Grants Pass Irrigation District, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the regional environmental community all agree that the dam should come out.

American Rivers' Northwest Office fully supports the Bureau's preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wilkie

cc: Senator Mark Hatfield  
 Senator Bob Packwood  
 Representative Peter DeFazio  
 Representative Wes Cooley  
 Governor John Kitzhaber

**RE: Savage Rapids Dam, Rogue River, Oregon**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am writing in response to the Planning Report and Draft Environmental Statement prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon, owned by the Grants Pass Irrigation District. The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) strongly endorses this report's preferred alternative of dam removal and replacement with water pumps.

Removal of the Savage Rapids Dam is a win-win situation for the Rogue River, the Grants Pass Irrigation District, the salmon and steelhead, and for the people who enjoy the river. The Bureau of Reclamation correctly concludes that the dam removal/pumping alternative has two times more net benefits than the dam retention fish ladder alternative. These benefits include the following:

- \* It will cost \$6.4 million less to remove the dam and replace it with water pumps than to repair the dam.
- \* Removal of the dam is estimated to increase the run of salmon and steelhead in the Rogue River by approximately 114,600 fish annually, with an estimated annual benefit of \$5 million.
- \* State-of-the-art fish ladders and screens would provide significantly fewer benefits to the fishery than dam removal due to migration delays, injuries and increased predation. Fish ladders would also result in annual operations and maintenance costs.
- \* Removing the dam and installing the pumps will provide a boost to the economy of Southern Oregon, not only due to increased recreation income as a result of the improved fishery, but also from funds spent during the construction phase.

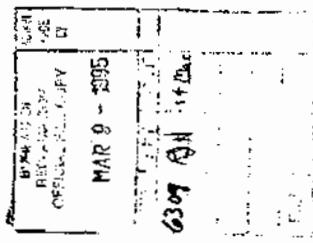
Mr. Hamilton  
March 27, 1995  
page two

CIEL is a U.S. non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the global environment. The Rogue River's salmon and steelhead fishery is of International concern, as perhaps the greatest remaining river for wild fish in the continental U.S. Under the Law of the Sea Convention and customary international law, the U.S. is responsible for the conservation and management of its anadromous fisheries. Removing Savage Rapids dam is an important step in that process.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Hunter  
Senior Attorney

## INTERNATIONAL RIVERS NETWORK



Mr. Hamilton  
March 27, 1995  
page two

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North  
Curtis Road  
Boise  
Idaho, 83706-1234.

March 7, 1995

Dear Mr. Hamilton

International Rivers Network is a non-profit organization which supports the work of local groups around the world which are promoting the wise use of the planet's rivers and fresh water. IRN works to halt investment in destructive river development and to encourage strategies that are environmentally, socially and economically sound.

IRN believes that the Savage Rapids Dam on Oregon's Rogue River must be removed if the river's salmon fishery is to be restored. Savage Rapids Dam causes more fish passage damage than any other single factor on the Rogue River. Because of the dam, the numbers of salmon and steelhead found in the Rogue River is reduced by some 116,000. The annual monetary value lost is estimated to be approximately \$15 million. We therefore urge the federal government to make the funding available to remove Savage Rapids Dam.

Of the three alternatives studied in BuiRec's December 15, 1994, draft environmental statement on fish passage improvements at Savage Rapids Dam, removing the dam and replacing it with pumps is by far the best option on both ecological and economic grounds. The cost to remove the dam and replace with brand new pumps is about \$11.2 million versus \$17.6 million to install fish ladders and screens.

Removing the dam is also superior to the fish passage option as it would eliminate delays in fish passage with the consequent predation risks which this entails, and would increase spawning habitat in the area upstream and downstream of the current dam site. Dam removal also eliminates possible detrimental temperature impacts because of the reservoir pool created by the dam; losses due to draw-downs during periods of dam maintenance; and would eliminate the risk of losses due to accidents.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife all support dam removal as the best and most viable solution for solving the fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam.

cc: Sen. Mark Hatfield  
Sen. Bob Packwood  
WaterWatch of Oregon

## OREGON DIVISION

Trying to fix Savage Rapids Dam with ladders and screens is not a permanent solution. It is very likely that such an investment would be lost due to improper maintenance and repair, and if Grants Pass Irrigation District should go out of business in the future, the dam would then have to be removed and additional funds spent. Trying to keep the dam and fix it is a bad investment.

Renovating the dam and providing the district with brand new pumps is a major benefit to the irrigation district. The dam is very old and has a lot of deferred maintenance, and the pump turbine system eventually would have to be replaced. The district cannot afford to make the repairs necessary to maintain the dam. By providing the district with brand new pumps, the district increases the life of its irrigation diversion system.

GPID is currently under order from the Water Resources Commission to remove the dam, and failure to do so could result in the loss of additional water it needs to continue to survive. GPID has a legal responsibility to provide adequate fish passage at the dam and cannot afford to do so without federal assistance.

Finally, implementing the dam removal and pumping project would be good for the local economy because of the funds that would be spent during the construction phase and because of the fish benefits that would be provided after completion.

I hope you will give consideration to these points.

Yours sincerely

*W.W.C.*  
Patrick McCullly  
Campaigns Director

cc Senator Mark Hatfield, 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510;  
Senator Bob Packwood, 259 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510;  
Representative Peter DeFazio, 2134 House Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20510;  
Representative Wes Cooley, 1609 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515;  
Governor John Kitzhaber, 254 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310.

## Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.

DEFENDER OF SOIL, WOODS, WATERS AND HABITATS

MAP # - 1105

February 27, 1995

John W Keyes, III  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: PN-6309  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Keyes:

The Oregon Division, Izaak Walton League of America (League) has a long standing concern with the fish passage problems associated with Savage Rapids Dam. The north bank fish ladder has been considered inadequate for anadromous fish with its narrow width, steep gradient, and short pools with shallow water depths. The such fishway has been described as a hodgepodge of walls and weirs and could easily meet the criteria as a maze.

During the period 1952-56, the League assisted in convincing Congress the importance of the Rogue River Fishery and for the funding to purchase and install the first fish screens for the turbines at the dam. These were installed in 1958.

In 1979, the League appointed a special committee Chaired by Dr. David B. Charlton, to review the fish passage facilities. Mr. Bob Barbo, formerly with the Bureau, met with the committee in Grants Pass, Oregon on several occasions. He also accompanied them during some of the tours of the facilities at Savage Rapids Dam. A Committee Report was submitted dated January 31, 1981 (copy furnished your office). It is interesting to note, that some of the recommendations contained in the report are similar to the Alternatives contained in the Bureau's Draft Environmental Statement. They are: (1) dam removal and using pumps to furnish necessary water for irrigation; (2) dam retention with needed fish passage improvements; (3) no action.

The League was enthused when it learned the Bureau was initiating the Josephine County Water Management Improvement Study in 1989. As you are aware, we expressed our interest in a letter to you requesting that the fish passage, both upstream and downstream be addressed. We were assured that a main objective was to identify a permanent solution to the fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam and help resolve conflicts over water uses in Josephine County.

The League is in agreement with the Preferred Alternative (Pumping Alternative) contained in the Draft Environmental Statement. We are also pleased that the Board of Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) voted in favor of this alternative. It is realized that it may have been a reluctant move on their part. However, a necessary one to gain approval from the Oregon Water Resources Commission for the additional amount of irrigation water required for operational purposes.

We commend the Bureau for its time and effort expended to-date with this study and thank you for this opportunity to comment. If the League can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Bryan M. Johnson  
President  
Oregon Division  
110 NW Orchard Dr.  
Portland, Oregon 97229

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
of Curry County

P.O. Box 1265

Port Orford, Oregon 97465

REMEMBER  
OFFICE OF THE  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

1239 AM  
20%  
100%

Bureau of Reclamation

Robert J. Hamilton

1150 North Curtis Road

Boise, Idaho 83706

March 13, 1995

Robert J. Hamilton,  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society is fully supportive of the removal of the Savage  
Rapids Dam. The dam removal/pumping alternative should be supported.

The Grants Pass Irrigation District will benefit from the use of new pumps and the  
Irrigation District Board, itself, is in support of the dam removal.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife are all supporting the removal of the dam.

By removal of the dam the fish populations of salmon and steelhead will increase  
greatly, and,

The cost of removing the dam and replacing it with new pumps is \$6.4 million less  
than trying to fix the dam.

We urge the Bureau of Reclamation to remove the dam.

Sincerely,

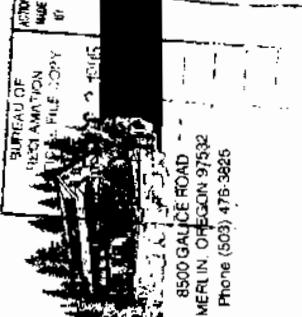


Ellen Warming  
Conservation Chairman  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

*Morrison's*

## ROGUE RIVER LODGE

|                       |       |         |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION | REC'D | 1/26/95 |
| RECLAMATION           | FILED | 1/26/95 |
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| 8500 GAUCHE ROAD      | 1/26  | 1/26    |
| MERLIN, OREGON 97532  |       |         |
| Phone (503) 476-3825  |       |         |
| HLS                   |       |         |



## ROGUE RIVER LODGE

*Morrison's*

February 15, 1995

### Bureau of Reclamation

1150 N. Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706

### Subject: Written Statement on Savage Rapids Dam

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

In the decision for the removal of Savage Rapids Dam, I am sure it would appear that local sentiment favors retaining the old structure. I do not believe that is true. There are many, like myself, who favor removal of the structure completely, as the only reasonable action to take.

First of all, my qualifications for my opinion. This will be the 32nd season I have operated the above business. During that time, fishing has been a major portion of our income. Hence, I have taken more than a layman's interest in the river and its fisheries. I have sweated through each one of those 31 fishing seasons, day by day. I am aware of the effect of Savage Rapids Dam from both the standpoint of continual attrition (fingerlings, smolt, etc. going over the dam) and accidental problems (malfunction of the fish screens, turbines etc.). It would seem that at least the accidental problems should have been chronicled by both the irrigation company, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. I really doubt that to be true. I can recall times that fish went down the canals, ending up as volunteer fish rescue actions. Perhaps these instances are recorded, at least in later years by someone like the Northwest Steelheaders, but I would doubt the Irrigation District would have a true picture for you. Continued attrition on the fisheries by injury in the ladders over the dam, etc. has really only been recognized in the last few years, and again I would doubt the effect is really known to its full extent. The Dam is without doubt a fish killer, and depending on the incident, can be a major impediment to the Rogue migratory fisheries.

Hue and cry for "Saving The Dam", has been a complete amazement to me, and is, in my opinion, due to the vigorous efforts of a few people. This condition of a very few interests, [water skiing, property owners behind the dam, realty interests] somehow by timing and luck, turned the whole issue into one of local patriotism. Local politics was effaced to the point that anyone running for office was forced to "save the dam" no matter how they really felt in order to be and stay elected.

I believe the people who live behind the dam, would be better off in the long run without the dam, as well as recreation both commercial and private. The river would again be free flowing for use between Gold Hill, Rogue River, to Grants Pass and Grave Creek both for floaters and "tour" boating. The only true loss I can see for recreation would be water skiing. I have no excuse or solution for that except to go to nearby impoundments, which is an inconvenience to some people.

The economic value of agriculture (thus irrigation) to the lower Rogue valley is far less now than earlier periods. The unwillingness of the district to even consider purchasing more water for their dire needs (50,000 acre feet available from Lost Creek) show me, they truly cannot afford it. They cannot afford it simply because there are very few remaining true agriculture operations left in the county. Forty acres, five horses, two cows and a pig, simply cannot be more than hobby farming. I have a great deal of sympathy for agriculture, as I was brought up in it, and still own over a section of land used purely for agriculture. The proposal for removing Savage Rapids, and replacing it with pumping stations, and a larger volume water right, is without doubt the best thing that could happen to agriculture in this county.

Please do not be dissuaded by a selfish minority of local people. Make your decision on what is right for the fisheries and the River. Remove Savage Rapids Dam.

Sincerely,

B. A. Hanef

*B. A. Hanef*

*ROGUE RIVER LODGE*

March 17, 1995

John W. Keys, III  
Regional Director,  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: PN-6J09  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Re: Support For Removal Alternative of Savage Rapids Dam

Dear Mr. Keys,

The undersigned representatives and organizations of the West Coast commercial and recreational fishing industries support the preferred alternative for the "Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement of the Fish Passage Improvement--Savage Rapids Dam."

We feel that it is in the public interest of the citizens of this state and in the economic interests of the fishing industry that the Savage Rapids dam be removed for the following reasons:

\* **COSTS:** According to the Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement, the amount of money required for removing the dam and replacing it with pumps is reportedly \$11.2 million. This amount is less than the \$17.6 million required to keep the dam. We feel that obtaining the \$11.2 million in state and federal funds for dam removal and pump installation is possible, and that we should work together to obtain it.

\* **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that \$5 million per year would be generated indefinitely in commercial and sport fishing revenues if the dam were removed. The cost of dam removal, on the other hand, is a one time cost. At the end of three years, more money will be generated by additional commercial and sportfishing revenues than the cost of removal. The net benefits of removing the dam are in fact more than are generated by the dam itself.

\* **FISH RESTORATION AIDS THE SALMON INDUSTRY:** The West Coast salmon industry is in a state of collapse. Last year salmon harvest closures off the coasts of Oregon, California, and Washington cost coastal communities tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue. These closures are so severe that coastal fishing communities and fishermen in Northern California, Washington and Oregon qualified for federal disaster relief.

Fish managers tell us that the 1995 salmon season will not be much better than 1994, and that we can expect to see widespread closures once again.

With scores of salmon and steelhead stocks in California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho being in such grievous condition, all of us who depend on salmon are actively pursuing all reasonable salmon

restoration solutions. We feel that the case for Savage Rapids dam removal is especially attractive because:

- it is economically feasible;
- water deliveries could be accomplished through alternative means; and,
- a net economic gain of millions of dollars would be realized through salmon and steelhead restoration.

\* **TIMING:** We feel that now is the time to move forward and seek federal funds for dam removal as decision makers in the region and in Washington D.C. are well aware of the crisis facing the salmon of the Pacific Northwest. As we have stated in the past, we are willing to work together in a coalition with the members of Grants Pass Agriculture and water community to obtain the federal and state funds for dam removal, as well as for upgrading the Grants Pass Irrigation District water delivery system.

In closing, our only hope lies in cooperation among all users of Oregon's resources. To ensure that the citizens of the Northwest continue to have the opportunity to harvest salmon for food, for pleasure, a way of life, and/or for religious reasons, we must address the salmon's habitat problems where sensible solutions can be found. We feel that the removal of Savage Rapids dam is not only economically feasible, but in the short term would impart extensive economic benefits to the ocean, estuary and river fishery economies (including the Grants Pass area).

Therefore, we urge that you adopt the Preferred Alternative of removing Savage Rapids Dam and request that you employ all means necessary to fund dam removal and construction of new pumping plants.

Sincerely,

RANDY FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION, GLADSTONE, OREGON

TOM WOLF, CHAIRMAN, TROUT UNLIMITED OREGON COUNCIL, FOR THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS: TUALATIN VALLEY, SANDY RIVER, BLUE MOUNTAIN, NORTHEAST, OCHOCO, DESCHUTES, AND KLAMATH

JIM WELTER, CHAIRMAN, OREGON SOUTH COAST FISHERMEN, INC., HARBOR, OREGON

LIZ HAMILTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTHWEST SPORTFISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, OREGON CITY, OREGON

IRV URIE, RIVER TRIPS UNLIMITED INC., MEDFORD, OREGON

GLEN SPAIN, NORTHWEST DIRECTOR, PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF  
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS, EUGENE, OREGON

TOM POSEY, PRESIDENT, TOM POSEY CO., BEAVERTON, OREGON

BOB ZAGORIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OREGON OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION, EUGENE,  
OREGON

TOM SHAFFER, OREGON FISHERIES CONGRESS, NEWPORT, OREGON

DAVE JOBE, VICE-PRESIDENT, WHITE WATER WAREHOUSE, CORVALLIS, OREGON

DAWN FOWLER, SECRETARY, PACIFIC COAST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S WIVES  
ASSOCIATION, CLATSOKANIE, OREGON

BILL BOICE, PRESIDENT, CURRY GUIDES ASSOCIATION, GOLD BEACH, OREGON

MILT WALKER, PRESIDENT, CURRY ANADROMOUS FISHERMEN, GOLD BEACH  
OREGON

GUY THORNBURGH, CHAIRMAN, FISHERMEN INVOLVED IN SAVING HABITAT  
(F.I.S.H.), SHAW ISLAND, WASHINGTON

HARRIET ENGBLOM, NORTHWEST COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S WIVES  
ASSOCIATION, ASTORIA, OREGON

BRUCE HARPOLE, PRESIDENT, OREGON FISHING CLUB, OREGON ANGLERS, ALBANY,  
OREGON

PORT OF BROOKINGS HARBOR FISHERIES COMMITTEE, BROOKINGS, OREGON

STEVE BEYERLIN, VICE-PRESIDENT REGION 3, OREGON GUIDES AND PACKERS, GOLD  
BEACH, OREGON

JACKIE JACOBSEN, PRESIDENT, UMPQUA COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S WIVES  
ASSOCIATION, WINCHESTER BAY, OREGON

FRANK WARRENS, PRESIDENT, NAUTILUS NORTHWEST CHARTERS, PORTLAND,  
OREGON

BOB EATON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALMON FOR ALL, ASTORIA, OREGON

ZEKE GRADER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PACIFIC COAST OF FEDERATION  
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS, SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA

LAW OFFICES OF  
PIAZZA & PIAZZA  
A. EUGENE PIAZZA  
201 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97535  
TELEPHONE (503) 542-2200

March 1, 1995

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise ID 83706-1224

RE: Savage Rapids Dam Removal

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

As a third generation Oregonian, lifetime resident and concerned citizen, I urge you to secure whatever funding is necessary to remove the Savage Rapids Dam as quickly as possible. I have personally witnessed the damage to the Rogue River Fishery caused by this dam. The alternative in retaining the dam would not provide a solution to the problem and the cost of such alternative, together with the ongoing expense to monitor and solve inevitable future problems, far outweigh any advantage.

The tragic situation in the Columbia River system which utilized the alternative solution should be ample evidence against its use.

Sincerely,

E. Piazza

AB/bf  
cc: Senator Mark Hatfield  
Senator Robert Packwood  
Representative Peter DeFazio  
Representative Wes Cooley  
Governor John Kitzhaber



SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED  
MARCH 2 1995  
TOM M. NELSON  
SOUTHERN OREGON'S PREMIERE GUIDED RAFTING AND FISHING TRIP COMPANY

Bureau of Reclamation,

I would like to express my feelings  
on the "Savage Rapids Dam" Planning Report

Being Secretary of the Rogue River Guides Assoc.  
and Being a full time guide of over 18 years  
and See what the dam has done to the  
fishery and the huge amount of waste through  
the irrigation district I'm very much in  
favor of Blasting the whole thing out and  
pumping water to those it was affected to and  
let the fish have a chance and the farmers  
get what they deserve.

Please take my knowledge into  
consideration on this issue.  
*Randy Nelson*



IRVINE L. URIE

Irvine L. & Sam L. Uri  
GUIDE and OUTFITTER  
1140 Dry Creek Road  
Menzies, OR 97534-9253  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
RECLAMATION LINE 800-447-3865  
OFFICIAL FISH FARM 613-2726

| TO   | INIT | DATE     |
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| 3309 | FN   | 21/03/95 |
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March 16, 1995

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton  
% Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Rd.,  
Boise, ID 83706-1234  
Phone: 208-378-5087

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Re: Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon.

I could go over all the facts after reading the Planning Report/Draft Environmental Statement to remove Savage Rapids Dam, but you already have all of them, so will keep this short. I have fished below Savage Rapids Dam for almost 40 years, with taking pictures (I believe we also have a video) of dead fish (Salmon and Steelhead), steelhead eggs all over the rocks because of them jumping out or missing the South Fish Ladder, and also organized work parties through the Rogue River Guides Association on the South Fish Ladder. With all the work done on these fish ladders there still seems to be many problems in fish passage at the dam and believe that it is a much larger fish killer than in your report.

I completely support the Bureau of Reclamation preferred alternative of the removal of Savage Rapids Dam, with the construction of two electric powered pumping plants, one on each side of the river near the site of the existing dam, with the total capacity of 150 cfs and the demolition of the existing dam and related facilities, primarily by mechanical means, and disposal of the waste.

I would also request that the Bureau of Reclamation ask for the funds to implement this preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

Irvine L. Uri  
Past State President - Oregon Guides & Packers, Inc.

Salmon and Steelhead Specialist—Go with a Pro



## ROGUE FLYFISHERS

P.O. BOX 4637, MEDFORD, OREGON 97501



February 27, 1995

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Re: Savage Rapids Dam. /

The Rogue Flyfishers is an organization of nearly two hundred sportsmen/women residing in the Ashland-Medford-Grants Pass, Oregon area. The organization's primary aims are the conservation, preservation, and enhancement of fishery resources, habitat, and environment.

We have reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's draft environmental impact statement on fish passage improvements at Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River. We strongly support the preferred alternative of removing the dam and replacing it with pumps. This alternative is clearly superior from the standpoint of immediate cost (\$11.2 million versus \$17.6 million to attempt to repair the dam) as well as long-range net benefits. The economic gains which will accrue to the Rogue Valley from unobstructed fish passage through that area far outweigh any benefit resulting from the existing lake. Although water skiing on the lake will undoubtedly end, the scenic value of the river itself and the resulting riparian zone should increase local real estate values over current valuations.

We urge adoption of the preferred alternative and active support for funding its implementation

Yours truly,

Daniel Z. Boyd  
President

cc: Senator Mark Hatfield  
Senator Bob Packwood  
Representative Wes Cooley  
Representative Peter DeFazio  
Governor John Kitzhaber



JACKSON COUNTY OREGON JOSEPHINE COUNTY

**ROGUE RIVER GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P. O. BOX 792 • MEDFORD, OREGON 97501

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
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February 15, 1995

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton  
% Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706-1234  
Phone: 208-378-5087

Dear Mr. Hamilton

Re: Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon.

As an organization that has worked on Savage Rapids Dam Fish Ladders at different times to try to improve the fish passage over the dam, with man power, materials, etc., we have seen some of the many problems with this obsolete structure over the course of many years.

Our organization completely supports the Bureau of Reclamation preferred alternative of the removal of Savage Rapids Dam, with the construction of two electric powered pumping plants, one on each side of the river near the site of the existing dam, with the total capacity of 150 cfs and the demolition of the existing dam and related facilities, primarily by mechanical means, and disposal of the waste.

We request that the Bureau of Reclamation ask for the funds to implement this preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

  
Willie Illingworth  
President  
Rogue River Guides Assoc., Inc.

|  |  |
|--|--|
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| PLANNING REPORT/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT  |  |
| CONCERNING FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM  |  |
| WaterWatch strongly supports the dam removal/pumping alternative as the preferred alternative.   |  |
| The no-action alternative is totally unacceptable for the following reasons:   |  |
| 1. If no action is taken, the tremendous fish losses currently caused by the dam would continue. As long as the dam is in place, the full productive potential of the Rogue River System to produce salmon and steelhead is greatly diminished. It is estimated that because of the adverse impacts of the dam, the Rogue River produces some 116,000 less salmon and steelhead annually, the annual monetary value of which is estimated to be approximately five million dollars. In essence, while Oregon and California's coastal communities have had to limit their commercial and sports harvest because of limited fish numbers, Savage Rapids Dam is still allowed to harvest a tremendous number of fish, which harvest does not bring any economic benefit. |  |
| 2. The Grants Pass Irrigation District (CPID) has the legal responsibility to provide adequate fish passage at the Dam but does not have the financial wherewithal to carry out its responsibility. Some definite action will eventually be required under State law.  |  |
| 3. The continued survival of the Grants Pass Irrigation District requires that some immediate action be taken. CPID's continued right to use water in excess of its certified right of 97 cubic feet per second has been conditioned by the State of Oregon Water Resources Commission on dam removal. If the dam is not removed, then CPID could lose the right to divert the additional water with the result that CPID would probably go out of business. If CPID went out of business, the dam would ultimately have to be removed and the people in this area would no longer have either the dam or the District.  |  |
| 4. The granting by the State of additional water to CPID violates the State of Oregon's Scenic Waterway DIACT™ flows set for the wild and scenic section of the Rogue  |  |

River. The State of Oregon Water Resources Commission contended that "DIACK" flows could be violated because of the benefits that can be obtained from dam removal. If the dam is not removed then there is no longer any justification to violate "DIACK" flows and GPID could again be forced back to their certified right.

5. The dam is very old and has a lot of deferred maintenance. The existing pump turbine system will eventually have to be replaced. GPID is looking at a cost of approximately \$2,848,000 to correct these deficiencies. GPID probably cannot afford to make the repairs necessary to maintain the dam. By providing GPID with brand new pumps GPID would increase the life of its irrigation diversion system and would have a greater likelihood of being able to survive into the future.

6. It is very likely that the coho salmon in the Rogue River may be listed as threatened or endangered. If this should occur then GPID would most likely be legally obligated either to remove the dam or fix it. Some definite action would be required.

7. It should also be noted in the EIS that if some action is taken to improve fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam, it will be a positive benefit to the wild and scenic section of the Rogue River. Salmon and steelhead fisheries have been identified as values to be protected by the wild and scenic designation of the lower Rogue River. Any action taken to improve fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam would have a positive impact on the wild and scenic values downstream.

As between the dam removal/pumping alternative and the dam retention/ladders and screens alternative, the dam removal/pumping alternative is the preferred alternative and the only reasonable alternative for the following reasons:

1. The cost to remove the dam and replace it with brand new pumps is cheaper than trying to fix the dam. (\$11.2 million dollars v. 17.6 million dollars)
2. The cost to a GPID patron for the patron's water would be cheaper under the dam removal/pumping alternative than the dam retention/ladders and screens alternative as the Federal Government would not be picking up the irrigation component of the dam

retention alternative. Adding in this additional cost would increase the overall cost to a district patron. This should be highlighted more in the draft environmental impact statement so that this point is made clear. WaterWatch supports the cancellation of GPID's bonded indebtedness to the Federal Government in order to make the dam removal/pumping alternative a more viable option to GPID. It should also be noted that the power cost will go down if GPID continues to be successful in its conservation efforts. Other means to reduce power costs should also be explored.

3. The greatest benefits can only be achieved with dam removal. With dam removal, there would be no delays in fish passage. In addition, there are other benefits and advantages that the dam removal alternative has over the dam retention alternative, some of which are as follows:

- A. Even with improved ladders and screens there would still be a high level of predation at the dam site because fish are concentrated and delayed at the dam site during upstream and downstream migration and because fish are more susceptible to predation after going through ladders and bypass systems.
- B. With the dam retention alternative there would still be lost spawning upstream and downstream of the dam because of lack of gravel recruitment downstream and because of siltation in the reservoir pool upstream of the dam. The dam is located in the heart of the fall chinook spawning area in the Rogue System and it is estimated that dam removal would provide additional spawning habitat in the vicinity of the dam that could support up to an additional 4,000 fall chinook spawners.
- C. Ladders and screens only function with proper and diligent maintenance and repair. GPID would be responsible for ongoing maintenance and repair and may not have the financial ability to meet the repair and maintenance obligations of a sophisticated ladder and screen system. Even with the best maintenance and repair there are still accidents that will occur and there is definitely a lag time before identifying and correcting problems that arise.

- D. There will still be losses at the dam site due to draw downs during periods of dam maintenance and repair.
- E. There are possible detrimental temperature impacts because of the reservoir pool created by the dam.
- These points should be more thoroughly discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement.
4. The Bureau of Reclamation estimates the dam removal/pumping alternative has two times more net benefits than the dam retention/ladders and screens alternative. (The cost benefit ratio of the preferred alternative is 3:2:1 while that for the dam retention alternative is 1:7:1.)
5. The only permanent and certain solution to the fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam is its removal. Trying to keep the dam and fix it is a bad investment. Such an investment could be lost due to improper maintenance and repair and if CPID (a very financially distressed district) should go out of business in the future, the dam would then have to be removed and additional funds spent. There is no reason to pay twice for benefits that can be achieved with a single solution.
6. There are more uncertainties with the dam retention/ladders and screens alternative as there are so many more variables affecting that alternative.
7. The National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife all support dam removal as the best and most viable solution to solving the fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam.
8. The dam removal/pumping alternative is the only one that would allow CPID to comply with the existing State of Oregon Water Resources Commission order to remove the dam. Failure to remove the dam could result in the loss of additional water that CPID needs to survive. The pumps also give CPID greater flexibility in responding to future conditions.
9. If the coho salmon are listed in the Rogue System, the dam retention/ladders and screens alternative may not be acceptable because of the losses that would still occur. Removing Savage Rapids Dam is a win-win solution that is good for the Rogue River Fishery, good for CPID and good for the State of Oregon. Implementing the dam removal/pumping project would be good for the local economy. It would give a needed boost to the economy in Southern Oregon because of the funds that would be spent during the construction phase and it would also help Southern Oregon and the coastal communities of Oregon and Northern California because of the fish benefits that would be provided after completion. It is good for CPID because the increase in the life of its diversion system would put them on a more economically sound footing; would give them more flexibility in the future as the new pumps can be moved to different locations and are a more salable asset than the existing dam structure; and it would assist CPID in coming into compliance with the Oregon Water Resources Commission and in fulfilling their legal responsibility as to provide adequate fish passage at the dam. CPID can probably not survive without federal assistance in implementing the dam removal/pumping alternative.
- WaterWatch respectfully requests the Bureau of Reclamation to seek funding for implementation of the dam removal/pumping alternative.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. HUNTER  
Vice President, WaterWatch

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 6309                   | APR 1995  |
| Mr. Robert J. Hamilton | RE: SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM<br>S WATER POLLUTION, ROGUE RIVER |
| 1330 East Park         | 1330 East Park  |
| Grants Pass, Or 97527  | Grants Pass, Or 97527                                   |
| February 25, 1995      | February 25, 1995                                       |

Mr. Robert J. Hamilton  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
1150 N. Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

For 81 years I have lived in Grants Pass, and during my teen age years, most of the teenagers spent the summer days at the Riverside Park, swimming. There was a City bath house and the water temperature was posted daily. This is where you could find the teenagers during the summer. Good, clean fun, diving for white rocks, swimming out to the big raft, or the little raft, or to the log anchored in the river.

For 40 years I have lived at the above address on the banks of the Rogue River, about one mile up river from Riverside Park in Grants Pass. I used to wade and fish during the summer, but in the past several years the pollution is constant, and I would not think of wading in it, even if I could.

Sometimes these white chunks are bigger than basketballs; other times they are small, but always there, day after day, every day. What is it? It appears to be detergent. I wonder if this is part of the trouble with fewer fish.

Several times over the years I have telephoned the Environmental Quality Dept in Medford. They say they don't have a boat so cannot look for the area where it enters the river.

If fewer fish are coming up the river, in my opinion the problem is not Savage Rapids dam. And, you know, the Rogue is not the only river where the fish are fewer.

I think the dam should be left right where it is, and the fish ladders repaired. And in the meantime, we along the river here would like to know what this pollution is, and from where it is coming.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Bennett*

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  | DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR |
| 6309                   | APR 1995              |
| Regional Director      | December 19, 1994     |
| Bureau of Reclamation  | Attn: DN-6309         |
| 1150 North Curtis Road | FILE                  |
| Boise, Idaho 83707     |                       |

Dear Sirs:

Regarding our local "dams", particularly the Savage Rapids Dam, our local newspaper states that your office would appreciate comments from us "locals" before final decisions are being made. I appreciate this opportunity.

Unless you live in the area it would be difficult to appreciate what this dam has meant to us. Water conservation of course is extremely critical in that we have experienced a ten year drought. Our few dams, Lost Creek, Applegate and Savage Rapids have allowed us to make it through the summer. The ability to control the flow and water temperature allows fish to survive until the winter rains come. We need to expand this kind of water conservation...not decrease it! Unless you live here it is difficult to appreciate how critical this is.

Also, lakes resulting from these dams have been part of our environment for half a century in many cases. They are a source of beauty, recreation, fishing, and parks that cannot be reproduced in any other way. My family are white water canoe "fanatics" and do enjoy this activity....the "lakes" certainly are not a problem in allowing us this recreation contrary to a small group. It is a simple matter of a balanced use of our water resource.

Fish growing up in this area I know as a child fish runs were great or not so great depending on many factors. Certainly the dam is one factor however it was never a dominant problem. The many reviews I have read from credible sources cite many other problems, particularly the drift nets and other massive losses in the ocean. We have had a drought problem and certainly more people using the river leaving garbage in the water, more fishermen. The dams are only one of many problems.

Talking to several contractors I'm disturbed that a distorted picture is being presented to us in respect to "young" the dam....15-17 million dollars? The "anti-dam" people of course have pushed these distorted numbers, however typical of government projects.

Lynn and Della Bernstein  
113 Ash Drive Rogue River, Oregon 97537 503 542-4014  
*SPZ*

9.6. 16. 1995

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| RECLAMATION | OFFICIAL FILE COPY |
| FFB 21      |                    |
| DATE        | 0309 AM 09/06/95   |

U.S. Bureau of Recl  
Alt: P N 63589  
1150 S. Ruiz Rd.  
Borde, Id 83706 1234

We would like to see good estimates from local contractors to "fix" the fish ladders and other necessary improvements. We would also like to see the Elk Creek Dam completed in view of our need for more water conservation and flow/temperature control.

Our largest complaint is that this is where we live. The forces wanting to change our environment do not live here, could care less what kind of environment we wish to enjoy... My irrigation water rate has increased five times, not to improve the facilities but to spend on yet another "study". These "studies" have not produced any information that allows us to see in detail what the problem is or what the cost would really be.

Please leave our dams alone and allow us to work with local contractors to "fix" the problem. We can do this.

Respectfully,

*Lynn & Della Bentson*

Lynn and Della Bentson

Re: salvage Rapid Dam

I was born in Bedford, On a life lived here all my life. 69 years old. Without changes Rapid claim will go away Singapore Grants Bank and my agent friend will be resident below the dam and will never find a home.

There are several reasons to this there down:  
# 1. any increase in population means more fishing  
# 2. the increase in commercial fishing  
both local and foreign  
# 3 predators such as sea lions at the mouth of river  
means loss of river

loss of river  
so please let me tell you about it  
dam is a big forest the tick back its on  
that forest the following sentence is true  
month to month it stands.

Salvage of the river  
5555 and Sanjo along - 96  
Bedford, On 92201

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| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION |      | MAR 13 1985 |
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Mr. C. R. Brodeur  
605 First Floor Office  
Box 775, Denver, Colo. 80202  
P.O. Box 995  
Chairman - Land Board  
Division of Water Resources  
1 Put. 40th & Charles Road  
Denver, Colorado 80205 125c  
Attn: Mr. Hancher  
1. I am in full support of the removal of the removal of the Savage Rapids Dam. It is the best solution to the problems of the Colorado River District. In front of the dam there is no water for both members.

I oppose the state and federal agencies have done to date. I would like to see the State to never allow any party to ever have another "no diversion" slide for both state and the Colorado River District.

Secondly, I have been aware of situations where the dam has failed and that might bring about a emergency situation. The fish would continue to attempt to swim up to a very rocky bottom. As I see it, any other option above the dam is not good. I would have to contend with possible damage to fish ories or fish culture that could be caused by the water flowing over the dam. We will also have to consider the possible flooding of the area around the dam. The water could be diverted by you proposed plan. I think everyone is a winner.

John Smith  
Chairman

cc: Mr. P. E. Hancher  
Chairman - Colorado River District  
P. O. Box 4000, Denver, Colorado

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bureau of Reclamation  
Re: Savage Rapids Dam  
To whom it concerns:  
I and my family live in Cold

Beach, Oregon, at the mouth of the Rogue. All the salmon hearings are by stream, near Grants Pass, as though that area were the only area effected.

But we in Gold Beach have a big stake in the fish runs of the Rogue. To my view the economic benefit to our area of a healthy number of fish runs far outweighs the water-skier and scenic property issue of those living beside the reservoir. I urge that

Savage Rapids Dam be removed.  
Sincerely  
John S'Casey  
Gold Beach, OR.

|                       |             |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION | RECLAMATION | ROBERT J. HAMILTON |
| OFFICIAL FORM NO. 10  | DATE        | MAR 18 1995        |
| TO:                   | FROM:       | 303-42104          |
| INITIALS:             | INITIALS:   | 63-02104           |
| REASON FOR REMOVAL:   |             |                    |
| REASONS FOR REMOVAL:  |             |                    |

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Rd  
Boise, Idaho, 83706-1234

Dear Robert,

I support the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative to remove the Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon. I strongly advocate federal fund effort removal of the dam and supplying pumps to provide the irrigation district with water.

My reasons are:

1. West Coast Salmon and Steelhead runs are in jeopardy, and this dam is a well known fish killer!
2. Coastal Oregon communities are hard hit due to shortened salmon seasons, because tourism is down.
3. Commercial fishermen are in desperate financial need of more salmon to harvest.
4. The retention of the dam will only benefit those who water ski, jet ski or the property owners on the shore of the reservoir. While as the commercial fishermen, sports fishermen, and river guides depend on a healthy Rogue River System. This one dam is a detriment to the entire river system.
5. As salmon and steelhead trout stocks continue to decline, there is the possibility that they would be declared a threatened or endangered species. Should this happen, everyone would suffer financial loss.

We need to do what is logical and right. Let us take the steps to ensure wildlife and fish for future generations. Let not the decision be made to benefit only the local water sports enthusiasts, rather make the correct decision for the health of a beautiful river system and the financial benefits of those who make their living off of a healthy river.

*John J. S.*  
John J. S.  
David Dedrick  
837 Marshall  
Medford, OR 97501  
  
Sincerely,  
Sammy Jersey

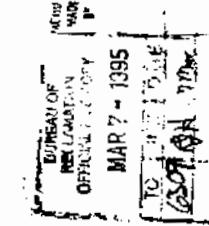
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| SANDRA DANERY        |           |       |
| 1075 PEACHWOOD COURT |           |       |
| MEDFORD OR 97501     |           |       |
| FEB 28 1995          |           |       |
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| REASON FOR REMOVAL:  |           |       |
| REASONS FOR REMOVAL: |           |       |



The dam is too old and needs repair. Irrigation can be handled efficiently by pumping. We live near the dam. There are many nearby lakes for recreation. We don't need the dam.

We do need to have fish numbers be able to get up the river to spawn.

Remove the dam.



Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho, 83706-1234

Dear Robert,

I support the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative to replace the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon. I strongly advocate federal funding for removal of the dam and supplying pumps to provide the irrigation district with water.

My reasons are:

1. West Coast Salmon and Steelhead runs are in jeopardy and this dam is a well known fish killer!
2. Coastal Oregon communities are hard hit due to shortened salmon seasons, because tourism is down.
3. Commercial fishermen are in desperate financial need of more salmon to harvest.
4. The retention of the dam will only benefit those who water ski, jet ski or the property owners on the shore of the reservoir. Where as the commercial fishermen, sports fishermen, and river guides depend on a healthy Rogue River system. This one dam is a detriment to the entire river system.
5. As salmon and steelhead trout stocks continue to decline, there is the possibility that they would be declared a threatened or endangered species. Should this happen, everyone would suffer financial loss.

We need to do what is logical and right. Let us take the steps to ensure wildlife and fish for future generations. Let not the decision be made to benefit only the local water sports enthusiasts, rather make the correct decision for the health of a beautiful river system and the financial benefits of those who make their living off of a healthy river.

Sincerely,  
*Dennis Debrick*  
Dennis Debrick  
837 Shafer Ln  
Medford, OR 97501

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION | ACTION<br>NAME |
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|                          |                |
|                          |                |

Glenn M. Gray  
2185 Faots Creek Road  
Gold Hill, OR 97525  
(503)-582-0639

February 21, 1995  
REF. PN-6309  
FILE

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Mr. Hamilton,

Regarding the Savage Rapids Dam operated by the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID).

1. I support removal of the dam.
2. The lake behind the dam benefits few at the expense of many.
3. Perhaps a better question would be if the GPID should even continue to exist.
4. The GPID has few parcels over 40 acres using its water.

*Glenn M. Gray*

ACB  
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
RECLAMATION  
OFFICE - PORTLAND

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| TO             | INITIALS | DATE        |
| 6309 R.H.      |          | MAR 20 1995 |
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Dear Mr. Hamilton,

Please accept this letter as a strong endorsement for the preferred alternative on removal of Savage Rapids dam on the Rogue river. This alternative provides the most benefit for anadromous fish at the least cost while still allowing the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) to withdraw water by way of pumps.

The studies done by the Bureau and other agencies provide objective data on the extent of fish loss and the obstacles to modifying this 74 year old dam. In addition to loss both upstream and downstream at the ladders, the dam has a screened opening considerably below the water's surface that allows water to pass through to turbines that provide power to existing pumps. Small fish (fry and smolts) get forced against this screen and cannot escape due to the high water velocity.

In a time when the cost benefit of decisions of this type are being highlighted, I find your analysis of the benefit for the removal alternative of \$3.20 per dollar versus \$1.70 per dollar for the modification alternative compelling. Furthermore, the National Marine Fisheries Society just proposed listing steelhead runs in the Klamath Management Zone, which includes the Rogue river, as a threatened species.

It appears to me that those wishing to keep the dam as is or with minor facelifting make their case by invoking local rights, arguing it's a matter of either protect people or protect fish, or denying that the data reported on by scientists is accurate. By contrast I see the the decision about the dam as a regional, state and national matter. The future of state water rights for GPID depends on dam removal. The future of anadromous stocks of Rogue river fish will be impacted favorably by dam removal. With strong public support and decisive political leadership the funding necessary to remove the dam can be obtained and both people and fish can win.

*Stephen C. Haslett*

Merlin, OR  
March 27, 1995

Good Morning Mr. Hamilton:

I do hope you can take time to read my letter and to glance at the clippings. I have highlighted, in yellow, the main points that I would like to make. Savage Rapids Dam has been there for 72 years, as you know. For over 40 years and maybe a little longer, the fish have had no trouble making their way up the ladders, or for that matter a lot jumped the whole open flow. Common sense tells one that it is something else. You will see by the clippings that by Fish and Game's own statements and other agencies that for a number of years and very much so in the past 3 or 4 years such as 10,000 spring little Chinook salmon one year died of disease, another year almost the whole hatch was lost due to a virus, another year a lot were lost because of to warm water and low water; caused mostly by the drought that we have had for so long. IF THE LITTLE FISH COULDN'T OR DIDN'T GET OUT OF THE RIVER TO THE OCEAN, they sure couldn't come back. Then summer of 1993 or maybe it was 1994 a good share of the fish swimming up the river to SPAWN died of warm water 20 miles or so down river from our dam.

When man upsets natures balance we usually pay for it somehow. At the mouth of the Rogue River, there seems to be maybe an overpopulation of the sea lions that have been maybe overprotected (have you ever seen them feeding? they take one bite out of the stomach of the salmon and then grab another, and one sea lion can eat an awful lot of fish), then there are the merganser ducks that can devastate the schools of small fish going out.

Then there are the LONG LINE FISHERMEN mostly from other countries I might add. In one of the clippings it is stated that the fishing was curtailed to help all the runs up and down the whole west coast.

I have tried very hard to touch on a lot of reasons for fish decline and show why we do need the dam without taking up too much of your time. The little lake provides an awful lot of recreation to a lot of people who can come in the evenings after work and on weekends. It's quite away to any other water area.

I thank you very much for your time and I hope you can see what I am saying and perhaps agree with us, AND THERE truly many of us here. I realize it is hard for someone to come and a day or two see all the ramifications the loss of the dam would have on this area.

PLEASE HELP US TO SAVE SAVAGE RAPIDS DAM!

Very sincerely,

*Stephen C. Haslett*

Mary Reppert P.O. Box 61, Merlin, OR 97532  
403-476-1117

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February 16, 1995

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Road  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

I am writing to you to encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to request the appropriate funding for the removal of Savage Rapids Dam. The dam is an unnecessary hindrance to the migration of the fish of the Rogue River. At this point in time when the salmon stocks are so depleted and there is concern along the entire west coast for survival of the various salmon species it seems that the removal of a dam that has outlived its usefulness should not be hard to justify. The dam was constructed when the family farm was a very necessary part of American production. Agriculture has progressed a great deal since then. The family farm is no longer a viable means of economic self sufficiency in the Grants Pass area. The only users of the water diverted from the Rogue River at Savage Rapids dam are hobby farmers. They grow small lots of hay, row or vegetable crops and keep a few animals as pets simply as a hobby. In order to support their hobby they require water that is being diverted at the expense of the other residents of the entire Rogue valley. This is selfish and very unnecessary. Far more people would benefit if the dam were removed and fish could migrate as they were intended. The option to pump water to the current users does not limit their ability to continue pursuing their chosen hobby and at the same time it will provide more fish for the whole population of southwest Oregon.

Several years ago I volunteered to work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the fish ladders at Savage Rapids dam so that more fish could find the ladders and pass by this obstacle. It was a lot of hard work and most satisfying when completed. We that participated would like to believe that is made a difference in the number of fish that were able to migrate upstream. Only the experts can make that judgement. I do know that as we worked on the project and even afterward we witnessed fish attempting to jump the various obstructions and eventually killing themselves before they could find their way around this structure. I don't believe we can continue to waste these kind of irreplaceable resources when there are better alternatives available. Constructing this dam was viewed as great progress in its day. Now the day has come for further progress. Please move forward with the plan to secure funding for the removal of Savage Rapids dam. I want my children to be able to witness the migration of the salmon on the Rogue River just as I have. Your careful consideration will be greatly appreciated by them and me.

Sincerely,

Perry A. Huguna

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January 8, 1995

Robert J Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation,  
1150 N. Curtis Road,  
Boise, Idaho 83706 1234

Re: Savage Rapids Dam

Dear Mr Hamilton:

I am writing to you to encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to request the appropriate funding for the removal of Savage Rapids dam and the GIDU in place. This dam is a valuable resource to the welfare and economy of Southern Oregon and particularly the Rogue Valley. The dam , during the summer months forms a 3.5 mile lake that is used by over 50,000 people a season for boating, water skiers, swimming and other water sports. It also provides irrigation for 7 to 8 thousand farmers and ranchers. In addition its fishy runs replenish the aquifer under the Grants Pass basin.

This will become more important as the population of Southern Oregon grows and water becomes more dear. This is also a reason for completing the Elk Creek dam.

The dam has been in place for 74+ years. During this time there have been major fish runs, indeed record runs. The dam is not the major cause of fish loss. None of the studies, as you admit, are specific to the Savage Rapids dam , but are based on studies of other dams. The dam as a "fish killer" is the chant of the "radical" environmentalist. These people have stated that they want to remove all the dams in the Northwest, if not the western United States. This overreaching by the non-compromising environmentalists has resulted in a negative reaction to even reasonable environmental efforts. See enclosed article.

Once the dam is removed it could never be replaced i.e. the difficulty in completing the Elk Creek dam. Helping the fish should start with steps that are reversible: such as reducing the Seal/sea Lion population, restrict fishing, especially, commercial fishing using nets. Last year, at Agness Oregon , nine miles from the mouth of the Rogue River I watched Sea Lions decimate the Spring Salmon run. They were not just feeding but killing . As you know these darlings are protected.

There are, of course, other forces working against the fish : El Nino, which has disrupted the fish's food supply for almost six years. Then there is the draught which has reduced water flow for almost nine years. There is little man can do about these conditions except to wait until the conditions improve. In the meantime, these conditions be used as an excuse for destroying a useful facility.

The radical environmentalists have used the convenience of the above problems to pursue their goal of dam removal. They have used the tactic of separating the issues i.e. the dam is only a source of irrigation for a declining number of irrigators, currently 7 to 11

(209) 420-2000  
MAIL DATE  
MARCH 20 1995

**TO:** Douglas M. McGee  
**FROM:** BOR  
210 Renault Av.  
Medford, OR 97501  
**FILE:** [REDACTED]

March 17, 1995

thousand. They ignore the use of the lake behind the dam as a recreation facility, a source of water for fire protection (used extensively to fight the two major fires we have had in the last two years) water table replenishment and the loss of property values (which affect the tax base of Jackson County), the loss of business for those small businesses that are located on the lake portion of the river.

In regards to the costs that have been bandied about, they are as suspect as the fish kill numbers. The 17 million dollars includes the most expensive fish ladders (\$11,000,000 for fish ladders), a fish viewing platform, a parking lot and down stream rock removal etc. On the other hand, there have been other estimates as low as \$5,000,000 for an adequate alternative, this is half the cost of removing the dam. Some of the other numbers quoted are equally absurd for example, Removing the dam would save 27,000 fish allowing 90,000 to return (assuming they are not netted or eaten by Sea Lions) the value to the economy of Southern Oregon would be \$5,000,000 or \$55.56 per fish, really? Also, they claim that "650,000" smolts die going over the dam Smolts as you know, move from late May to early October or about 6,000 per day. With that many dead fish in the river, the smell would be noticeable. It isn't

Frankly, as an overtaxed citizen, I am not willing to pay for such nonsense. I will continue to politically support those representatives who will fight to save the dam and cut the funding or eliminate agencies that are biased toward the view of the radical environmentalist. Some compromise and thought must be given to human needs as well as the fish and fowl. The water rights and usage of the Klamath River are being addressed in a more sensitive and intelligent manner. If you are not familiar with the Klamath river approach, get a transcript of the "Klamath River" a series of interviews prepared and broadcast over Jefferson Public Radio, Ashland Oregon.

*R. McMillory*  
Sincerely Yours:  
Robert McMillory  
195 Rogue Blvd  
Grants Pass, Or. 97526

<sup>a.s.</sup>\*Radical environmentalist; we, all environmentalist, and for the protection of the environment, but not to the exclusion of compromise and thought to human needs.

Mr. Robert Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 North Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

RE: Support of Removal Alternative of Savage Rapid Dam

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I support your agency's preferred alternative to remove Savage Rapid Dam on the Rogue River in southern Oregon. The strongest justifications for dam removal are the most obvious in that they rationally address economic, financial, environmental, and timeliness issues. Below, I have briefly outlined the reasons that I believe best support removal of the dam.

According to BOR estimates, fixing the dam is more costly than removing the dam. The amount of difference between the alternative costs will always be debated. The strength of the argument is not how much of a difference there will be but that there will be a difference and that economies favors dam removal.

The real lure appears to be the no action alternative in today's political climate. However, that scenario leads to long term dam/irrigation maintenance costs and possibly permanent losses to commercial and recreational fishing and associated secondary industries related to the Rogue fishery affected by the dam. As the west coast salmon industry nears a state of collapse, the "do nothing" approach is irresponsible economics.

As for the financial aspects of BOR's three alternatives, the sheer costs of investing in this old dam is prohibitive. Not only would it be throwing good money after bad, I question the irrigation district and the state of Oregon's ability to afford the finances needed to do necessary repairs and continue the maintenance. Most likely, this shrinking district, counties and state government will eventually be seeking federal assistance for ever after to keep an old dam safe and maintained.

Environmentally, the preferred alternative is a permanent solution that places the river closest to its natural state. The arguments that there is no proof that the dam harms salmonid species traveling back and forth over the dam defy dam watchers', fishermen's, and fishery experts' observations and experiences. The fact that the National Marine Fisheries Service is now openly considering a proposal to list northwest steelhead as an endangered species is strong evidence that the

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February 16, 1985

dam has not only outlived its usefulness, but that it is a serious obstacle to reclaiming the health of a threatened ecosystem.

The political climate is bad for asking for any funds, but it certainly makes more sense to ask for money to do a less costly alternative of dam removal with pump replacement than the more costly one of repairing an old irrigation dam. There are no real legitimate reasons for keeping the dam, especially given that there is an alternative that is more economical, that is within financial reasonableness and that is environmentally sound. The time is right to remove the dam when so many of the parties are willing to cooperate and so much economic and environmental benefit can be obtained. Therefore, I urge you to adopt the preferred alternative of removing Savage Rapids Dam with pump replacement and immediately seek funding to that end.

Sincerely,

*Douglas H. McGahey*  
 Douglas H. McGahey  
 Jackson County Resident

cc: Sen. Mark Hatfield  
 Sen. Bob Packwood  
 Rep. Wes Cooley  
 Rep. Peter Defazio  
 Gov. John Kitzhaber  
 State Sen. Brady Adams

Robert J. Hamilton  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 1150 North Curtis Road  
 Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Dear Sir:

My name is Ronald Harrington. I live at 1056 Rogue River Hwy, Gold Hill, Oregon. I have lived at this location for over nine years. This property frontage on the Rogue River about four and one-half miles above Savage Rapids Dam.

I personally would not trade my property on the River for similar property on the "lake" created by the Dam. It would seem there should be no particular loss in property values to owners of property along the "lake" occasioned by removal of the Dam.

G.P.I.D. must either correct the fish passage problems raised by the Dam or cease taking irrigation water from the River at some future time certain. If the District has 7700 members and the costs to repair the Dam and correct fish passage problems is \$1700000, it would require an assessment per member of over \$2200. Such an assessment would seem out of the question. To do nothing would eventually result in no water for irrigators. The G.P.I.D. Board made the proper decision to remove the Dam and replace it with a pumping system.

The Bureau of Reclamation proposal for Dam removal and pump replacement, at a cost of \$1100000, would eliminate most of the opposition from those factions who support the preservation and enhancement of the anadromous fish population.

The defenders of the Dam, who have chosen Brady Adams as their champion, appear to expect the taxpayers to pay \$1700000 for an anadromous fish passage solution that will provide for less fish survival than the \$1000000 solution. Hopefully, such political intrigue will meet with no greater success than the do nothing alternative.

Removing the Dam and replacing it with a pumping system as proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation is a win situation for all parties. Property owners preserve their property values. Irrigation users preserve their access to water. The Rogue River fishery is preserved and enhanced. The taxpayers' interests are best served.

This writing supports the Bureau of Reclamation's position for Dam removal and pumping system replacement and requests the Federal funds be made available to complete the project.

Very truly yours,

*Ronald Harrington*  
 Ronald Harrington

Tues Dec 22, '94  
Braxits Pass, O.

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| CSCP RAY              | REEDS | FEB 23 1995 |
| FEB 1995              |       |             |
| 6309                  |       |             |

Regional Director,  
Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho

Dear Sir:

As a retired Plant Engineer from and aviation corporation, I find the lame arguments of the fish and game advocates that it is to costly to re-engineering said dam to improve fish runs is ridiculous. This is certainly not a major project as some of the fish and game advocates would like one to believe.

Gentlemen there comes a time in this world that fish just don't need to be 100% comfortable in their life and after all there are human beings with their properties rights that need to be protected also.

Also the beauty of the locale is paramount to the area, and yes the property owners certainly have their rights to have said backwater lake.

Lets for once let this dam remain and reengineer the fish runs for their happy progress up stream... it can be done.

For you information, I am not a property owner in this area but a concerned citizen that doesn't like to see property owners enowed with false acutations and bad propaganda.

Sincerely,

T. E. MECHEN

T. E. MECHEN

|                       |       |             |
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| FEBRUARY 1995         |       |             |
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T. E. & HELENE A. MECHEN  
2202 CRESTON COURT  
MEDFORD, OR. 97504  
503/776-4841

Subject:-Rapid Dam

DEAR SIRS:-

I am writing to urge you and your people to please remove Savage Rapids Dam, also Self Creek Dam. Rapids is an eye sore & serves no purpose. It is a favor of the Salmon. the more fish that go up the river to spawn make more money (a good livelihood) for the fishermen on the coast.

Of course, the people who live above the dam like having a lake (full of noisy summertime boaters). For a few short weeks.

My husband & I some have hunted & fished in predictably all the Western States, true sportsmen, & are against so many dams. If and when another good flood comes along, like the '55 & '64 floods, of which we will be those many little dams? Leave Nature alone - Dam a conservationist, not an environmentalist!

Please remove Savage Rapids Dam, let the river flow free, & let the Salmon live naturally.

I want you

Ditch Jewelry  
601 N. E. 8th St.  
Braxits Pass, Oregon 97526

I-93

476-4802

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| FEB 24 1995                 | Ch. P. Gray        |
| TO: Robert J. Hamilton      | RECEIVED           |
| FROM: Bureau of Reclamation | 1/20 N. Curtis Rd. |
| Boise, Idaho                | 83706              |

Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Sir:

I'm sorry for taking the time to write you. I am 82 years old & have lived & travelled all over the Northwest. I never ever seen such a mess of streams, river, pond & lake water full of fish, & other species. There nothing but trash & rats. Too many dams.

I once used to travel all over the Northwest. I never ever seen such a mess of streams, river, pond & lake water full of fish, & other species. There nothing but trash & rats. Too many dams.

John C. Newley  
601 N.E. 8th St. Portland, Oregon 97214

March 4, 1995

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I support the dam removal/pumping alternative proposed for Savage Rapids on the Rogue River in Oregon.

The water diversion purpose of this dam would easily be replaced by a less costly pipe and pump. The Grants Pass Irrigation District will get the same amount of water it ever did and will avoid major dam repair costs.

The economic benefits of removing the dam include increasing by over 100,000 the salmon and steelhead runs on the Rogue River, one of Oregon's most important fisheries. The value of the enhanced fishery is estimated at \$5 million annually. The projected \$11 million removal cost would be offset in just over 2 years!

Recreational and commercial fishing industries, as well as boaters, will benefit. In addition, we will take a step away from losing Rogue River fish stocks by this significant habitat improvement.

I have yet to hear any sensible argument from the opponents of dam removal. I am sure that your careful analysis of this issue will lead you to a final decision to remove this dam, despite misguided efforts to retain it.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

*Chris Orsinger*  
Chris Orsinger  
3100 Willamette St.  
Eugene, Oregon 97405

|                          |  |                 |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION |  | AGCN<br>NO<br>B |
| OFFICIAL FILE COPY       |  |                 |
| MAR 16 1995              |  |                 |
| TO : T. W. BREWSTER      |  | INITIATE        |
| FEB 22 1995              |  | [22 Mar]        |
| 221 JOSEPHINE            |  |                 |
| TAFEN, OR 97541          |  |                 |
| MARCH 8, 1995            |  | FILE            |
| [Signature]              |  |                 |

|                          |       |          |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| ACTION<br>ITEM<br>BY     |       |          |
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION |       |          |
| OFFICIAL FILE COPY       |       |          |
| FEB 22 1995              |       |          |
| TO                       | INIT. | DATE     |
| ROBERT J. HAMILTON       | QA    | 02/22/95 |
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION    |       |          |
| 1150 NORTH CURTIS RD.    |       |          |
| BOISE, ID 83706-1234     |       |          |

I am writing to support the preferred alternative, dam removal/pumping alternative, for Savage Rapids Dam on Oregon's Rogue River. I am a native of the Rogue Valley, and until recently have lived there all of my life. My family's property is on the Rogue, above Dodge Bridge. We moved to the river in the early fifties. Our property has one of the oldest water rights on the upper Rogue.

During the course of our tenure on the river, I have seen a steady decline in the fishery, and the overall quality of the river. I attribute this decline to many things, but foremost I believe that dams have had the most serious negative impact on the river. I believe that I have a good understanding of both the benefits and the drawbacks of dams. In the 1950's and 1960's our family has nearly forty acres to flooding. Regardless of the fact that dams now help protect our land, I do not believe that they are in the best, beneficial. It is not the taxpayer that needs to support and protect people who choose to live on a flood plain. It certainly should not be the co-op system that is made to pay.

The Rogue River fishery is world famous, and in serious decline. Oregon Waterwatch reported that the loss of income due to the fishery decline is \$5,000,000 annually. I cannot conceive that Savage Rapids dam is in any way capable of mitigating that loss to the citizens of Oregon. The owner of the dam, Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) is currently under an order from the Oregon Water Resources Commission to remove the dam, but cannot do so without Federal assistance. The cost to remove the dam and replace it with irrigation pumps is estimated at \$11,200,000.00. When contrasted with an annual fishery loss of \$5,000,000.00 or \$17,600,000.00 taxpayers spend less, we restore a significant annual income with the restoration of the fishery, and GPID still can provide water for their customers.

In summary, I support your preferred dam removal/pumping alternative. I believe that this is the most cost effective means of ensuring that GPID citizens continue to have needed water, of restoring the fishery and bringing a significant financial amount to Oregon and its businesses.

Sincerely,

*Stephen K. Parsons*  
Stephen K. Parsons

cc: Gov. John Kitzhaber, Sen. Mark Hatfield, Sen. Bob Packwood, Rep. Peter DeFazio, Rep. Les Cooley

THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ESTIMATES THAT DAM REMOVAL WILL TWICE THE NET BENEFITS OF ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE. PLEASE REQUEST AND SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THIS LONG OVERDUE PROJECT WHICH BENEFITS WRL BY OBVIOUS AND LASTING.

SINCERELY,

*John Pearson*  
John Pearson

|   |      |         |
|---|------|---------|
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION<br>OFFICIAL FILE COPY |      |         |
| FEB 22 1995                                 |      |         |
| TO  | INFO | DATE    |
| 6309  | RN   | 2/22/95 |
| FILE  |      |         |

January 18, 1995

Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Annt: PN 6309  
1150 North Curtis Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Gentlemen:

I do not believe it will take 17 Million dollars to fix the fish ladders at Savage Rapids Dam. That figure included more than just the ladders, it was for paved parking, observation decks, and public bath-rooms. Now I ask you, why do we need these types of improvements? This figure is ridiculous as is tearing down the DAM. We need this Dam for recreation, water storage and fire fighting, water foul and the beauty of the lake in the Summer.

Lets get some bids from contractors for only the necessary repairs. Tearing down this useful structure is just not acceptable to the homeowners above the dam or the reasons I've stated above.

My parents live on the lake and our whole family and many of our friends do enjoy recreation all Summer there. We want to keep the Dam.

*Kathy Peckham*  
Kathy Peckham  
1141 Darneyville Ln  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

503-479-8389

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
FEB 22 1995  
557 Slin Lake Beach Stated  
Gentleman of PN 6309  
6309 RN 2/22/95  
FILE

Alvin G. Hartman  
Alvin G. Hartman  
557 Slin Lake Beach Stated  
Gentleman of PN 6309  
6309 RN 2/22/95  
FILE

Solictor of Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Dear Sirs:

This is protest against the removal  
of Savage Rapids Dam. I have known  
this area for 20 years & never knew  
the fish had become so stupid they  
don't know how to go up the ladder  
like they have been doing for 29 years.

But as usual as the government always  
does in the U.S.A - Build & then tear  
down - Build & then tear down. Give  
the pleasure all of us receive because  
of the lake area, destroying the value  
of property. Stand off stupid  
government.

Do not destroy this lovely  
area - Please!!!

Yours truly,  
*Alvin G. Hartman*

ENV-500-  
3/18/95 SP  
P.O. Box 1874  
Shantz Pass, OR  
10309 AM 23 Mar.  
97526

Bureau of Reclamation

Hello,

I am writing to support the idea of removing Savage Rapids Dam on

the Rogue River near Shantz Pass.

The fish runs have declined drastically over the past 30 years, and Savage

Rapids Dam is part of that problem.

Removing the dam will benefit our anadromous fish runs, and a water pumping plant will satisfy our local irrigation needs.

Sincerely,  
Steven Jichner

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Sarah M. Miller</i>                                       |            |
| TO: Bureau of Reclamation                                    |            |
| RE: Removal of Savage Rapids Dam                             |            |
| OFFICIAL FILE COPY   |            |
| MAR 1 9 1995   |            |
| BUREAU OF RECLAMATION<br>1150 Curtis Road<br>Boise, ID 83706 |            |
| TO   | 6309       |
| DATE   | 1 MAR 1995 |
| INIT   | MM         |
| FILE   |            |

*Re: Savage Rapids Dam on the  
Hagerman River*

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am writing to inform you of my full support of the Savage Rapids Dam removal as outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement of December 1994. Funding for the implementation of this plan is the obvious next step.

I hope this leads to a chain reaction removal of all unnecessary dams which misuse and abuse water, and harm essential fish populations.

Sincerely,

*Kelley S. Webb*  
Kelley Webb

|                                  |      |            |
|----------------------------------|------|------------|
| BUREAU OF<br>RECLAMATION         | TO   | 6309       |
| OFFICIAL COPY                    | DATE | 1 MAR 1995 |
| RE: Removal of Savage Rapids Dam | INIT | MM         |
| 1150 Curtis Road                 | FILE |            |

March 1, 1995  
Robert J. Hamilton  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706

*Re: Savage Rapids Dam on the  
Hagerman River*

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

I live in Hagerman Valley, about 20 miles from Shoshone Reservoir and am very concerned about the proposed removal of Savage Rapids Dam. Enclosed is an article from the Idaho Statesman by Kelley Webb of the Courier staff. I believe as he does, that it would be a big loss to this area to remove the dam. Would you please read The article and consider what he says? Thank you. Sarah Miller  
3901 Pleasant St  
Half Creek, ID 83457