

Dear Mr. Pointer,

In 2002 after conducting a 7-year study to the tune of \$33 million, it was recommended to continue breach planning of the 4 lower Snake River dams. However, this was not the decision finally rendered by the Commander.

Now, 2018, the public fully realizes these 4 dams are not economically viable. In fact, just the opposite – an economic mockery! A survey conducted by FM 3 Research from March 6-12, 2018, showed the public wants free-flowing rivers that teem with life of the steelhead and salmon as well as once again a thriving ecosystem. They indicated they were even willing to pay more for power to see this happen. Now they are without seeing it happen. The four lower dams are causing annual salmon mortality of over 10% per dam and associated reservoir.

In March of this year during a BPA webinar, Administrator Elliot Mainzer, stated publicly that “he was not ready to panic but close to it”. BPA is in dire financial straits and this burden of debt falls on its members whose rates have been increasing. Mainzer acknowledged that “now we have to do something” in his presentation. The inland water way created by these dams and locks has virtually ceased to be economically viable. This wasteful navigation project on the Snake is depriving money from other inland waterway projects.

It is not often that a resolution to a critical financial burden presents itself in a win-win situation to those impacted by the burden of these high maintenance dams. But, in this case, there is already a solution outlined in the EIS 2002.

Breaching the lower Snake River dams not only takes care of the salmon issue but represents a significant cost savings for BPA because the lower dams are not very good producers of hydropower due to limited amount of water that flows down the river; nothing like Chief Joseph or Grand Cooley dams.

These dams are earthen embankments; there is no need to remove concrete or turbines resulting in additional cost savings from \$340 million total (overestimated!) to \$40 million each for 2 lowest dams. Significant savings should not be ignored. The savings can be targeted to other dams that are more effective in their use of hydropower. Under the 2002 EIS, Alternative 4 is the most expedient way to relieve both the economic & ecological burdens these dams pose.

Breaching is a very feasible opportunity & it doesn't take years. It can be done & needs to be done immediately this December 2018. The only way to get salmon back in the ocean is breaching. Last week Gov. Inslee told the Task Force to put breaching on the table – finally the elephant has been acknowledged!

We cannot solve this with more paper. There has been enough paper generated on this dam subject for decades that, if weighed, would break a draught horses' back!

I stress the need to implement the Record of Decision as it cannot be put off another year. Stop the mounting debt and diminishing wildlife. All scientists of marine mammals, salmon, ecosystem, stress breaching to correct this long standing wrong.

Please make the call to get this done as I'm tired of writing these dam letters all the while wondering if anyone is at home...

Joyce D. Park