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IN RE:

**COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**HELD BY  
TELECONFERENCE ON  
MARCH 17, 2020  
4:00 P.M.**



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2                   **COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

3                   **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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8                   **MARCH 17, 2020**

9                   **4:00 P.M.**

10  
11                  **THE OPERATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen,

12 thanks for standing by and welcome to the CRSO call.

13 And as a reminder, today's call is being recorded.

14 And I would now like to turn the call over to our

15 facilitator, Maryam.

16                  Please go ahead.

17                  **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

18                  Hello and welcome, everyone. I am Maryam

19 Habibi with Bonneville Power Administration, and I

20 will be your facilitator today. We have scheduled

21 these teleconferences to provide opportunities for

22 you to submit verbal comments during the comment

23 period for the Columbia River System Operations

24 Draft EIS. In a few minutes, I will let you know

25 how to indicate if you would like to provide

1 comments on the call today.

2 First, I'd like to introduce you to who  
3 will be listening to your remarks. We have with us  
4 deputies representing the three agencies -- the U.S.  
5 Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and  
6 Bonneville Power Administration.

7 Each will now give us a short  
8 introduction, and I will hand off to Scott  
9 Armentrout first.

10 **MR. ARMENTROUT:** Thanks for joining  
11 tonight. This is Scott Armentrout. I am the  
12 Executive Vice President of Environment of Fish and  
13 Wildlife of Bonneville Power Administration.  
14 Bonneville Power Administration transmits the power  
15 produced at the Army Corps and Reclamation  
16 facilities.

17 So looking forward to hearing your  
18 comments tonight, and I am going to pass this over  
19 to Roland Springer from the Bureau of Reclamation  
20 for his introduction.

21 **MR. SPRINGER:** Thanks, Scott.

22 Good evening. My name is Roland Springer.  
23 I am the Bureau of Reclamation's Deputy Regional  
24 Director for Resources in the Columbia Pacific  
25 Northwest Region out of Boise, Idaho.

1 Reclamation owns and operates two dams  
2 that are being analyzed as part of the Environmental  
3 Impact Statement, namely, Grand Coulee Dam in  
4 Washington and Hungry Horse Dam in Montana. These  
5 facilities are used for irrigation, power  
6 generation, and flood control.

7 This Environmental Impact Statement is  
8 very important to us and is part of our mission. I  
9 also appreciate this opportunity to listen to your  
10 comments.

11 Thank you for joining. And now I will  
12 hand it back to the Corps of Engineers.

13 **MS. COFFEY:** Good evening. Thank you for  
14 calling tonight. We look forward to hearing your  
15 comments.

16 My name is Beth Coffey. I am the Programs  
17 Director for the Corps of Engineers Northwestern  
18 Division, who is the lead federal agency on this  
19 EIS.

20 As Roland discussed, the Corps has  
21 remaining 12 federal dams within the system that are  
22 being analyzed, and we look forward to the comments  
23 that you will give us tonight.

24 I'm going to go -- going to take a couple  
25 of minutes now and just go through kind of an

1 overview of the EIS and the alternatives that we  
2 looked at. The goal of EIS is to analyze the impact  
3 of operating, maintaining, and configuring 14  
4 federal dams, reservoirs, and related facilities  
5 that make up the Columbia River System. Based on  
6 this analysis, we identified, in accordance with the  
7 National Environmental Policy Act, a preferred  
8 alternative that seeks to balance the many  
9 obligations of the Columbia River System.

10           While the region derives many benefits  
11 from the Columbia River System, the dams, even with  
12 the fish ladders and downstream passage routes, have  
13 adversely impacted fish and wildlife and Native  
14 American tribes. Construction of the dams directly  
15 impacted many of the region's tribal communities,  
16 including inundation of tribal homes and villages  
17 and resource-gathering locations, and traditional  
18 fishing sites. These dams also inundated salmon and  
19 steelhead habitat.

20           Recognizing the system effects and the  
21 many regional interests in the Columbia River  
22 System, we made it a priority to listen to and  
23 consider all viewpoints. And from a regional input  
24 and analysis and other information, we developed  
25 objectives focused on improvements for fish

1 migration and survival, power supply, greenhouse gas  
2 emissions, operating flexibility, and water supply.

3           We narrowed the analysis to five  
4 alternatives for operating the system. Each  
5 alternative is made up of a combination of measures  
6 or actions that were deliberately designed to meet  
7 all or most of the eight EIS objectives to the  
8 greatest extent possible.

9           One alternative is the no action  
10 alternative. This is essentially the way the system  
11 was running at the beginning of the EIS in 2016. It  
12 provides us with a baseline from which we can  
13 compare the other alternatives.

14           Let me briefly describe the multiple  
15 objective alternatives, or MOs, as we call them.  
16 Multiple Objective 1 focused on designing an  
17 alternative to improve conditions for ESA-listed  
18 species, including both life stages of anadromous  
19 fish or -- and resident or nonmigrating fish.

20           Multiple Objective 2 was developed to  
21 increase hydropower production and reduce regional  
22 greenhouse gas emission with a focus on low-carbon  
23 emissions. It would provide spill at 8 dams to 110  
24 percent total dissolved gas. It was also intended  
25 to benefit lamprey and endangered salmon while

1 avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other  
2 authorized project purposes.

3 Multiple Objective 3 includes breaching of  
4 the four lower Snake River dams and increasing  
5 juvenile fish passage spill with the main features  
6 being for anadromous fish while avoiding or  
7 minimizing adverse impacts to other authorized  
8 project purposes.

9 Finally, Multiple Objective 4 focused on  
10 high-spill operations at 125 percent total dissolved  
11 gas to decrease migration time of juvenile  
12 anadromous fish while -- with measures for water  
13 management flexibility, hydropower production, and  
14 additional water supply for fish flows while  
15 avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other  
16 authorized project purposes.

17 Our analysis shows that these alternatives  
18 meet the purposes and objectives of the system to  
19 varying degrees with varying levels of beneficial  
20 and adverse effects. To improve what we learned, we  
21 selected a combination of measures from the  
22 alternatives to develop the preferred alternative.  
23 The operational, maintenance, and structural  
24 measures in the preferred alternative will allow us  
25 to meet the intent of the EIS, and it balances the

1 multiple, sometimes competing river resource needs,  
2 Congressional authorized purposes, and the agencies'  
3 missions.

4           Specifically, actions in the preferred  
5 alternative will improve conditions for ESA-listed  
6 anadromous and resident fish and provides a plan to  
7 address uncertainty related to anadromous fish model  
8 outputs. It will continue to provide for reliable  
9 economic and carbon-free power; continue to provide  
10 for authorized water supply; improve water  
11 management operations, including spills that  
12 maintain Congressionally authorized flood risk  
13 protection while providing flexibility for current  
14 and future climate variability and other purposes;  
15 and continue fish and wildlife programs and  
16 mitigation commitments that were in place or planned  
17 at the start of this process.

18           As Maryam stated earlier, we will review  
19 all comments and consider substantive input as we  
20 develop the final EIS. We will publish the final  
21 EIS, including responses to substantive comments,  
22 this summer, and we will issue Records of Decision  
23 by September 30th of 2020.

24           I recognize this is a very brief overview  
25 and encourage you to read the Executive Summary for

1 more detailed information and read the EIS chapters  
2 to build a greater understanding of this work and  
3 outcomes to inform your comments.

4 We appreciate you taking the time to join  
5 us on the phone today, and we look forward to  
6 receiving your input. At this point in time, I'll  
7 turn the stage back over to Maryam, our facilitator.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you, Beth.

9 We'll begin hearing from you in just a  
10 minute. First, I would like to explain to you how  
11 to queue into the list for providing comments. If  
12 you would like to provide a public comment, press 1,  
13 then 0 now. As you do this, the phone lines will  
14 enter a queue. And we'll pause briefly to allow  
15 time for that.

16 Again, that direction is if you'd like to  
17 provide a public comment, press 1 and then 0. If  
18 you press 1 and 0 a second time, it will remove you  
19 from the queue.

20 Agency officials will remain on the line  
21 for the entire call to hear your comments tonight.  
22 So we will not be responding to questions or  
23 comments today. The agencies do welcome and will  
24 consider your comments in developing the final EIS.

25 All comments provided during this

1 teleconference will be recorded, transcribed, and  
2 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any  
3 personal information you share on the call will  
4 become public. Everyone listening on the call will  
5 be able to hear your remarks.

6 If you do not wish to use your full three  
7 minutes, you may let us know that you would like to  
8 yield your remaining time.

9 If you are sharing a phone with someone,  
10 please let us know before you begin your comments so  
11 that we can move to the second speaker after the  
12 first is finished.

13 Our operator will state your full name  
14 when your line is open. Each speaker will have three  
15 minutes to provide their comments. I will notify  
16 you when you have 30 seconds remaining. At that  
17 time, you will hear me say 30 seconds. You will  
18 still be able to continue with your comments. When  
19 the three minutes has passed, I'll interrupt, and  
20 the operator will prepare to mute your line and  
21 prepare for the next caller.

22 Currently, we have 16 callers in the queue  
23 that have indicated they would like to provide  
24 comments. Again, if you'd like to provide a public  
25 comment, press 1 and then 0.

1           We're now ready for the first speaker, and  
2 I will let you know when you have 30 seconds  
3 remaining.

4           Operator?

5           **THE OPERATOR:** Yes?

6           **MS. HABIBI:** We're ready for the first  
7 caller.

8           **THE OPERATOR:** All right. Our first  
9 question -- or, actually, I'm sorry -- our first  
10 comment comes from the line of Kurt Miller.

11           Kurt Miller, please go ahead.

12           **KURT MILLER:** Hi. As you said, my name is  
13 Kurt Miller. I'm the Executive Director of  
14 Northwest River Partners.

15           Our mission is to help the Northwest reach  
16 its clean energy goals in a way that is affordable  
17 and accessible to vulnerable communities. While my  
18 organization will submit detailed written comments  
19 on the CRSO DEIS, I wanted to take this opportunity  
20 to say that we cannot ignore the serious challenges  
21 facing our region in terms of salmon, safety, and  
22 social equity.

23           First of all, salmon need our help. Now,  
24 this is a statement that applies up and down the  
25 Pacific Coast. So (indiscernible) and rivers with

1 dams and without are threatened and endangered. To  
2 say it another way, the salmon issue is much larger  
3 than the lower Snake River dams. Framing the  
4 challenge too narrowly won't allow us to address the  
5 underlying problems of climate change and predation.

6 We also cannot ignore the fact that we  
7 need a dependable electric grid. Many people have  
8 shared with me that they have come to recognize how  
9 critical a reliable electric system is during this  
10 time of national emergency. Imagine our communities  
11 trying to make it through this public health crisis  
12 without electricity. It is important to recognize  
13 that the CRSO DEIS shows that losing the lower Snake  
14 River dams would double the risk of region-wide  
15 blackouts.

16 The DEIS shows that the lower Snake River  
17 dams can be replaced, but only at an extreme cost.  
18 That cost can be either to the environment by  
19 replacing the dams with fossil fuel generation or to  
20 communities by replacing the dams with a clean  
21 energy portfolio that would add \$1 billion annually  
22 to electricity cost. That is 1 billion with a B.

23 For millions of people across the  
24 Northwest, that would equate to a 25 percent  
25 increase in their monthly electric bills. Many

1 vulnerable communities are already struggling to  
2 make end's meat. We have an affordable housing  
3 shortage and a homelessness crisis.

4 Things will likely become much more  
5 challenging once the full economic impact of the  
6 coronavirus is felt. We cannot pretend that a 25  
7 percent rate increase is something that most people  
8 can afford. All of these issues are serious enough  
9 that they cannot be papered over. Doing so does a  
10 disservice to the affected people and communities.

11 As a friend and trusted colleague said to  
12 me, it is okay to say that the salmon need our help  
13 and that the lower Snake River dams are critical to  
14 our region because both statements --

15 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds --

16 **KURT MILLER:** -- are true.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** -- remaining.

18 **KURT MILLER:** We ask you, the federal  
19 agencies, as you finalize the EIS and Records of  
20 Decision that you continue to acknowledge these  
21 important truths so that we can move to a place  
22 where shared solutions are possible.

23 Thank you so much.

24 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you, Kurt.

25 Operator, we'll take the next call.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Michelle Ryan,  
2 please go ahead. Michelle Ryan.

3           **MICHELLE RYAN:** My name is Michelle Ryan,  
4 and I am -- I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a  
5 member of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, which  
6 is a national conservation group. And we've made a  
7 priority to save the salmon and orca it -- that are  
8 -- that rely on each other in the Columbia River.

9           The alternatives that it was chosen, M04,  
10 all -- the only thing it does is continue the status  
11 quo. And this is entirely inadequate and will mean  
12 the salmon will go extinct.

13           As stated in Chapter 2 of the  
14 comparables -- comparable (sic) survival study  
15 annual report for 2019, the M03, the four-dam breach  
16 alternative, results in the highest smolt-to-adult  
17 return and in-river survival. We need to breach the  
18 dams in order to save the salmon. Nothing less will  
19 enable them to survive.

20           Until the dams can be breached, we need  
21 24-hour spill at 125 percent just to get them  
22 because we know it will take time to breach these  
23 dams. The Army Corps has the authority to do this,  
24 and nothing less will work.

25           We are also battling climate change, and

1 that is making things even worse for the salmon and  
2 the ecosystem. The -- I, as many people, I imagine,  
3 pay for our electric bills that continue to go up  
4 and are sourced from BPA, they will continue and  
5 continue to go up as long as we are paying billions  
6 of dollars on schemes to save salmon that are not  
7 working. These dams are also aging out. They are  
8 going to have incredible amounts of repair and  
9 maintenance to be done to them. And again, that  
10 plus the cost of trying to save these fish to drive  
11 them up and down the river in a boat is  
12 extraordinary and going to cause BPA to either have  
13 to be bailed out at tremendous amount of money, go  
14 bankrupt, or to increase our bills.

15           Something has to be changed about this  
16 system. And as we increase both wind and solar --

17           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
18 remaining.

19           **MICHELLE RYAN:** -- and our battery  
20 storage-ability, there are alternatives that will  
21 solve this problem, even though the dams are  
22 breached and that 4 percent -- only 4 percent -- of  
23 our electricity comes from those sources. And it's  
24 at times when we really don't need it. We are  
25 selling -- we are giving electrical power away --

1 the BPA is -- right now at times. And it's all to  
2 our loss.

3 Thank you.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

5 Operator, we're ready for the next call.

6 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. We now go to  
7 the line of David Cannanella (sic).

8 Mr. Cannanella, your line is open.

9 **DAVID CANNAMELA:** Thank you. It's  
10 Cannamela. You did a pretty good job on that. It's  
11 great not to be there.

12 I'll begin. The people of the Pacific  
13 Northwest and Americans at large will determine the  
14 fate of Snake River salmon, southern resident killer  
15 whales, and everything in between. It will not be  
16 the DEIS.

17 The DEIS, despite the incongruity between  
18 what it identifies as the solution and the preferred  
19 alternatives recommended reaffirms what we already  
20 knew. The only way to restore salmon, steelhead,  
21 Pacific lamprey, and the cultures, economies,  
22 ecosystem, and livelihoods they support is to  
23 restore free-flowing conditions in the lower Snake  
24 River.

25 Secondly, the authorized identified the

1 real impediment to salmon recovery, reaching  
2 agreement among stakeholders that affordable energy  
3 and commodity transportation can be maintained  
4 without the four lower Snake River dams.

5           The authors could have, and should have,  
6 stopped at delivering the salmon solution. Instead,  
7 they decided for us that we are unwilling and unable  
8 to collaborate to solve the fish-energy-  
9 transportation equation.

10           Several decades and 17 billion -- billion  
11 with a B -- later, we know -- with no  
12 (indiscernible) to recovery in sight, I say the only  
13 thing the federal government is solving for is the X  
14 intercept for salmon, orca, and the lives that  
15 depend on them. What would you say?

16           In essence, the federal government has  
17 concluded that, given a choice between salmon  
18 extinction and collaboration, we would choose  
19 extinction. Fortunately, they are wrong. Political  
20 leaders in the region, namely, Congressman Simpson,  
21 Governors Brown and Inslee, along with a host of  
22 stakeholders, including the tribes, energy  
23 cooperatives, outfitters and guides, sport and  
24 commercial fisher people, the Port of Lewiston,  
25 conservation groups, and individuals who have a

1 stake of their own that puts things in motion. And  
2 if history has shown us anything, it's that the  
3 river will never give up.

4 Wendell Berry put it this way: Man may  
5 dam a river and say they have created a lake, but it  
6 will still be a river. It will keep its nature and  
7 bide its time, like a caged animal alert for the  
8 slightest opening. In time, it will have its way;  
9 the dam, like the ancient cliffs, will be carried  
10 away piecemeal in the currents, end quote.

11 And like the river, neither the fish nor  
12 the people will ever give up. The Kennebec River,  
13 held in a chokehold for 162, showed remarkable  
14 rebirth following liberation. Likewise for the  
15 Elwha, White Salmon, Rogue, and 1,500 other rivers  
16 in this country, including three in Idaho. And  
17 people made this happen.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
19 remaining.

20 **DAVID CANNAMELA:** Sadly, the DEIS, like  
21 the documents before, serves to expedite extinction  
22 rather than promote recovery. But it matters not  
23 because we the people will have the final say. We  
24 will, as Congressman Simpson said, stay alive long  
25 enough to see salmon return to healthy populations

1 in Idaho.

2 Thank you kindly.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

4 Operator, we're ready for the next call.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** All right. We now go to  
6 the line of Brian Shinn. Mr. Shinn, please go  
7 ahead.

8 **BRIAN SHINN:** Thank you.

9 As he said, my name is Brian Shinn. I'm  
10 an Asotin County Commissioner. And I've also been  
11 on the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board since  
12 December of 2011.

13 I would also note that I have an  
14 ecological background going to work for the  
15 Department of Ecology in Washington in 1972. At the  
16 time, the director, John Biggs, said to me,  
17 "Remember this whole notion of ecosystem includes  
18 man."

19 I can tell you that, looking and listening  
20 to all of these comments, the new multiple option  
21 will work. Removing the dams will not restore the  
22 salmon runs. The biggest decline in those runs  
23 happened around 1900, long before any of the dams  
24 were built. There is absolutely no biological  
25 evidence documented that dam breaching will restore

1 the runs. Indeed, breaching advocates offer no  
2 specific solution to repair damages from those dams  
3 being removed.

4 And I will yield the rest of my time. I  
5 get frustrated with this. But it's very biased, and  
6 the people of the Pacific Northwest need these dams,  
7 they need this power, and they need this ecosystem  
8 preserved.

9 Thank you.

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

11 Operator, we're ready for the next call.

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And now to the  
13 line of Leslie Druffel. Ms. Leslie Druffel, please  
14 go ahead.

15 **LESLIE DRUFFEL:** Thank you.

16 My name is Leslie Druffel. I'm part of a  
17 family wheat farm in Eastern Washington, and I'm  
18 also employed by a company that supplies inland  
19 Northwest farmers with the input needed to grow the  
20 bountiful dryland and irrigated crops this region is  
21 known for.

22 Farm families in my area, along with the  
23 businesses who support them, have long requested the  
24 comprehensive approach to managing the Columbia  
25 River System. In particular, the four lower Snake

1 River dams that we rely upon for transporting our  
2 wheat downriver and moving crop input products  
3 upriver.

4 CRSO's preferred alternative as outlined  
5 in the Draft EIS is a flexible approach that the  
6 agriculture and navigation industries have been  
7 recommending for over 20 years. There are four  
8 specific points I'd like to address.

9 One, barging is the least carbon-intensive  
10 mode of cargo transportation compared to freight  
11 trains and semitrucks. Barges move 90 percent of  
12 all the wheat produced in this region. It would be  
13 devastating to our air quality and any of our  
14 efforts to slow climate change if the option of  
15 river transportation were lost and we were forced to  
16 move the same amount of product by trucks and  
17 trains.

18 Two, investments in fish passage  
19 facilities is making a difference in the number of  
20 anadromous fish that can pass each of the federal  
21 dams. The Draft EIS is correct to call for further  
22 action outside the scope of the Columbia-Snake River  
23 System to accelerate the recovery of these fish.  
24 Immediately addressing the waste water and human-  
25 produced toxins being introduced into the Salish Sea

1 and Puget Sound area will have a much greater impact  
2 on the health and quantity of fish coming upriver  
3 than would a draconian measure of breaching dams.

4           Three, farm families have been improving  
5 habitat for fish and wildlife through voluntary  
6 programs for decades, all while making sound  
7 decisions for sustainable farming practices and  
8 leaving the land in better shape for the next  
9 generation. We expect similar participation and  
10 action to be made by all citizens and businesses  
11 along the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

12           Four, after participating in a recent  
13 lower Snake River dams stakeholder engagement  
14 process that was initiated by Washington's Governor  
15 Jay Inslee, it became clear to me that the  
16 stakeholders, while presenting their different  
17 perspectives, really all had a common goal -- a  
18 healthy economy and environment through good  
19 management practices and reinvestment in our natural  
20 and cultural resources. The preferred --

21           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
22 remaining.

23           **LESLIE DRUFFEL:** -- alternatives as  
24 outlined in the Draft EIS is the right approach.

25           Thank you. I yield any remaining time.

1           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you very much.

2           Before we move to the next caller, I just  
3 take a moment to welcome the people that have joined  
4 us or who are new to the call.

5           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
6 For those of you that have joined us since we began  
7 taking comments, this is a public meeting providing  
8 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like  
9 to provide a comment, please press 1, then 0 to add  
10 your name to the queue. If you press 1 and 0 a  
11 second time, it will remove you from the queue.

12           Agency officials do remain on the line to  
13 hear all of your comments. Though we are not  
14 responding to questions or comments during this  
15 meeting, and we will not be providing an additional  
16 overview, the agencies welcome and will consider  
17 your comments in developing the final EIS, which  
18 will be released this summer.

19           All comments provided during this  
20 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
21 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any  
22 personal information you share on the call will  
23 become public. If you do not wish to use your full  
24 three minutes, you may let us know that you would  
25 like to yield your remaining time.

1 Our operator will let you know when your  
2 line is open. Each speaker will have three minutes  
3 to provide their comments. I will notify you when  
4 you have 30 seconds remaining.

5 We currently have 11 callers who indicate  
6 they would like to provide comments.

7 One more reminder: If you'd like to provide  
8 comments, press 1 and 0 to add your name to the  
9 queue.

10 We'll now resume taking comments.

11 Operator, we're ready for the next call.

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. We do have a  
13 comment from Michelle Andres (phonetic). Ms.  
14 Andres, please go ahead.

15 **MICHELLE ANDRES:** -- the preferred  
16 alternative. The fish passage center did not follow  
17 Simon orders during the 2014 biological opinion and  
18 a low-flow, high-temperature year in 2014. And  
19 those fish were not transported. And it's 40 and 50  
20 percent that are supposed to be transported to make  
21 sure. It's a climate change net safety net to save  
22 those fish.

23 So barging is necessary, and those fish  
24 are collected at every single dam on the lower Snake  
25 River and then transported all the way through

1 McNary, John Day, Dalles, and below Bonneville and  
2 released in the middle of the river at night without  
3 predation. And when those -- when the fish passage  
4 center did not follow those instructions, they went  
5 against all protocol and all warnings by NOAA, who  
6 stipulated taking out the dams or deep drawdown will  
7 not help the orcas.

8           In study after study in Idaho, the Idaho  
9 biologists say there's not enough habitat. They  
10 also introduced a brook trout that stays in the  
11 Idaho rivers and Montana rivers year-round, and they  
12 feed and they take away from the Chinook salmon in  
13 their native streams where they are spawned. Eighty  
14 to eighty-five percent of the Chinook salmon in the  
15 native streams do not even make it to the first dam.

16           Yes, there are Caspian terns. Yes, there  
17 are sea lions. But the first place to do -- put the  
18 money is in Idaho in their waters and to repair the  
19 rest -- and restore their habitat.

20           The Idaho Fish and Game folks like their  
21 brook trout. They fight very hard. And they  
22 decided that they're an exotic native. They are not  
23 native. This must be challenged.

24           If they are to balance the place for  
25 Chinook salmon, we need to do it where they live. I

1 have lived in Idaho. I have walked in the creeks  
2 where these fish swam against my feet. And they do  
3 very well getting up to all of those dams.

4 We have done adaptive management through  
5 the Corps of Engineers, and the weirs that are put  
6 in and that are replaceable moving in and out take  
7 the juvenile fish in the top 20 to 30 feet of water  
8 and gently drop them over.

9 There is much more to do, but it is in the  
10 habitat of Idaho. And when the judge whipped up  
11 that 2014 biological opinion, he also took the fish  
12 accord money, which is 730 million, and bumped it to  
13 1.5 billion specifically for hatchery and habitat.

14 These are the challenges. Only 13 percent  
15 of those fish in 2015 were transported. They were  
16 supposed to transport 40 to 50 percent. And when  
17 you look at 2001, we had the exact same --

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thirty seconds remaining.

19 **MICHELLE ANDRES:** -- conditions. 2001, 98  
20 percent of those fish were transported. And we have  
21 had 25 years up until 2015 of the record amount of a  
22 returning fish. There is no reason to take down  
23 these dams.

24 Thank you.

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

1 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

2 **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. We do have a comment  
3 from Colby Blair. Colby Blair, please go ahead.

4 **COLBY BLAIR:** Hi. Thank you. And I  
5 wanted to thank everyone for providing us the  
6 ability to make these comments.

7 I'm a fishing outfitter in Riggins, Idaho,  
8 and we've been there since 1992. We depend pretty  
9 heavily on anadromous fish for fishing that used to  
10 be 90 percent of our business, but we've been having  
11 to try to diversify away from it, sadly. So it's  
12 just in the nature of the environment that's been  
13 created. The clients are wanting to go downstream  
14 where there's more abundance. So I think that  
15 that's something we need to change in Idaho.

16 And for us outfitters, I think the only  
17 reason we've been focusing on dam and migrations,  
18 they're impeding and potentially breaching on this  
19 because of the DEIS from the BPA itself showing a 50  
20 percent mortality rate on smolts and the Idaho Fish  
21 and Game's findings that were similar as well. So I  
22 think that's our best shot. We're trending towards  
23 extinction. And we need big changes instead of  
24 small.

25 So I also get -- I have a lot of friends

1 in agriculture and in other tourism areas, and I  
2 wouldn't want them to face the things that we are  
3 facing. We are facing, potentially, our industry,  
4 anadromous fishing being wiped out. So I wouldn't  
5 want to see that happen to my friends in, say,  
6 agriculture.

7           So looking at this DEIS, there was a real  
8 lack of any analysis done on our industry. I think  
9 that that's been our -- the biggest gripe that the  
10 Idaho outfitters are having right now, is it feels  
11 like maybe, like, we are not important in Idaho.  
12 And I think -- I don't think that's really true, but  
13 it's making it feel a little bit less friendly.

14           So I think we need to have more analysis.  
15 We need to be brought to the table to help for  
16 people to get the idea of how that affects our  
17 economy. You know, last year, there was \$700  
18 million spent in Idaho related to anadromous  
19 fishing, so it's not a small number. You know, it  
20 doesn't -- it's not necessarily the biggest number,  
21 but we're not saying that we need to be the top  
22 priority. We just want to be --

23           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
24 remaining.

25           **COLBY BLAIR:** -- a priority.

1           So I think what I'd like to see from this  
2 process is a little bit bigger ideas, more  
3 involvement with outfitters. And we don't want to  
4 put anybody else out, too. If we were to do  
5 something bold, we need to make other parties whole.  
6 We need to make sure that, you know, we can build up  
7 rail infrastructure. We could have different  
8 alternatives to power. And I think that we can do  
9 those things. Those are big projects, but so were  
10 the dams in the beginning. And our environment and  
11 our economies have changed, and I think that we need  
12 to adapt to those things as well.

13           So I'll yield the rest of my time.

14           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

15           Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

16           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

17           Our next comment comes from Elizabeth  
18 McKeag. Ms. McKeag, please go ahead.

19           **ELIZABETH MCKEAG:** Good evening. My name  
20 is Elizabeth McKeag, and I live in Grangeville,  
21 Idaho. And like many people who live in rural  
22 Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, my family is  
23 economically and culturally tied to salmon and  
24 steelhead returns.

25           I wanted to express that I am disappointed

1 in both the preferred alternatives and the analysis  
2 that led to the preferred alternatives. First off,  
3 the preferred alternatives openly admits that it  
4 does not get our fish runs to what scientists have  
5 decided is a harvestable population level, which is  
6 a smolt-to-adult return rate of around 4 percent.  
7 Anything below that will continue up in our  
8 extinction trajectory. And that's just not  
9 acceptable.

10           Also, I would like to comment that during  
11 a presentation to the Idaho Governor Little of  
12 salmon workers recently, your own biologists did not  
13 understand the difference between a population  
14 growth rate in an SAR, which, quite frankly, I found  
15 terrifying, considering you're the ones in charge of  
16 this analysis.

17           As far as the analysis being unacceptable,  
18 I will just reiterate the previous comments about  
19 how crazy it is that the economic implications of  
20 the sport fishing industry were not evaluated in  
21 this EIS, especially considering they were evaluated  
22 in previous EISs. And this information is publicly  
23 available through several sources, including the  
24 Idaho Fish and Game Department. And my  
25 understanding was that you were potentially given

1 this information during the cooperating agency  
2 portion of the analysis. So anything moving forward  
3 must include that consideration, especially since  
4 barging, transportation, energy, everything else had  
5 a quantitative analysis, while for some reason  
6 fishing was only allowed a qualitative analysis.

7 And I yield the rest of my time.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

9 Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
10 just like to take a minute to welcome anyone who has  
11 joined us. This is the public meeting for providing  
12 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like  
13 to provide a comment, please press 1, then 0 to add  
14 your name to the queue. Pressing 1 and 0 again will  
15 remove you from the queue.

16 Agency officials remain on the line to  
17 hear all of your comments. Though we are not  
18 responding to questions or comments during this  
19 meeting, and we will not be providing an additional  
20 overview, the agencies welcome and will consider  
21 your comments in developing the final EIS, which  
22 will be released this summer.

23 All comments provided during this  
24 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
25 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any

1 personal information you share on the call will  
2 become public. If you do not wish to use your full  
3 three minutes, please let us know that you would  
4 like to yield your remaining time.

5 Our operator will let you know when your  
6 line is open. Each speaker will have three minutes  
7 to provide their comments. I will notify you when  
8 you have 30 seconds remaining.

9 We currently have nine callers who  
10 indicate they'd like to provide comments. Again, to  
11 add your name to the queue, press 1 and 0.

12 Operator, we're ready to take the next  
13 call.

14 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

15 And our next comment comes from James  
16 Michael Short. Mr. Short, please go ahead.

17 **MICHAEL SHORT:** Hello. I go by Michael  
18 Short. I was born in Pullman in 1955. I -- and I'm  
19 back living here again. I grew up hunting, fishing,  
20 hiking, and camping along the Snake River when it  
21 ran wild and free. We used to pick fruit down at  
22 the orchards at Wawawai.

23 Now when I go down, I see a dead river, a  
24 slack water reservoir and the salmon runs and  
25 steelhead runs that are slowly dying. And of

1 course, yes, they have been dying for a long, long  
2 time due to many factors. But the dams are just an  
3 additional impediment that it could be the nail in  
4 their coffin.

5 I believe they must be breached. I would  
6 hope that we have been learning that natural systems  
7 produce the greatest abundance. And rather than  
8 engineer them -- over-engineer them with dams and  
9 hatcheries and fish bypass systems, we must return  
10 the lower Snake River to its more natural and  
11 abundant state and then have the riches of that  
12 abundant production to exploit and exploit  
13 cooperatively.

14 And I just want to give a reminder that  
15 research at Washington State University in recent  
16 years has shown that these slack water reservoirs do  
17 produce significant amounts of methane. So it's not  
18 entirely honest to call the energy that these dams  
19 produce carbon-free.

20 I yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

22 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

23 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next  
24 comment comes from Sarah Highfield. Ms. Highfield,  
25 please go ahead.

1           **SARAH HIGHFIELD:** Thank you.

2           My name is Sarah Highfield, and I am the  
3           Communications Director for the Port of Whitman  
4           County in Colfax, Washington.

5           On behalf of the Port of Whitman County  
6           Commissioners, we would like to thank the co-lead  
7           agencies for their exhaustive research efforts and  
8           express a support for the preferred alternative.

9           We believe the alternative appropriately  
10          balances fish recovery measures with our community's  
11          need for water, navigation, trade, and power. As a  
12          public Port commission, we are charged with  
13          promoting economic development in Whitman County.  
14          Therefore, our perspective on this draft report  
15          centers on the impacts of your final decision on the  
16          Whitman County citizens whose livelihoods most  
17          depend on the dams.

18          Here, our rolling hills are known for  
19          their extraordinary ability to grow grain. Since  
20          1978, Whitman County has produced more wheat than  
21          any other county, not just in the state, but across  
22          the nation. The vitality of our agricultural  
23          communities and the continued operation of the dams  
24          cannot be disentangled, as dam breaching proponents  
25          would argue.

1 Whitman County wheat growers owe their  
2 competitive edge to barging. About 80 to 90 percent  
3 of the grain grown in our region ships to oversea  
4 markets. Growers can compete internationally  
5 because of their high product quality and low price  
6 point, made possible by barging, the least-expensive  
7 means of transport.

8 As the Draft EIS states, breaching the  
9 dams would eliminate this valuable shipping method,  
10 swelling transportation and associated product  
11 costs, crowding our roads, and compounding carbon  
12 emissions. This, coupled with the \$500 million loss  
13 in irrigation, places many family farms at great  
14 risk. The Draft EIS captures some of this economic  
15 and societal impact, but we believe it is  
16 understated still.

17 A study commissioned by the Pacific  
18 Northwest Waterways Association assessed the impacts  
19 that would result if barging on the Snake River is  
20 lost. The study found that if (inaudible), more  
21 than 1,100 farms could be at risk of bankruptcy.  
22 With wheat prices already down near the break-even  
23 point, the study calculates that the federal  
24 government would need to increase annual direct  
25 payments to farmers, that up to \$38.8 million to

1 maintain (inaudible) level.

2           Among the farmers who escape bankruptcy,  
3 how many would rather retire than face steep losses?  
4 How many future generations would forfeit a rich  
5 farming tradition as their family operations go  
6 under?

7           According to the 2017 Census of  
8 Agriculture, the average age of a farmer in the  
9 United States is 57.5, and 96 percent of farms and  
10 ranches are family-owned. Family farms, the  
11 foundation of our country, would crumble under an  
12 extreme decision to breach the lower Snake River  
13 dams --

14           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
15 remaining.

16           **SARAH HIGHFIELD:** -- consideration should  
17 be elaborated in the report as well. Nearly one in  
18 five people living in the 10-county area most  
19 impacted by a dam-breaching alternative, including  
20 Whitman County, are at or below the federal poverty  
21 level.

22           Thank you. I yield the rest of my time.

23           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

24           Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

25           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And we do have

1 a comment from Jim McIver. Mr. McIver, please go  
2 ahead.

3 **JIM MCIVER:** Okay. I -- this is Jim  
4 McIver. I was born in Idaho in 1954, and I'll  
5 probably die in Idaho. I've fished and hunted in  
6 Idaho all my life.

7 I was reading a book called Against the  
8 Torrents. It's a book written by a local author  
9 about the local people here. And one of the persons  
10 in that book is Darrell Bentz, a jet boat builder  
11 and a fishing guide on the Salmon River. And in  
12 that book, he stated, in 2007, there was an  
13 abundance of fish in the river, okay?

14 And then his brother, Rusty, did some  
15 research on fish counts. From 1938 to 1947, the  
16 fish counts averaged 127,000 steelhead. From 2000  
17 to 2009, the average steelhead counts were 401,000,  
18 a 300 percent increase. For Chinook salmon, 1938 to  
19 1947, average count was 62,000 fish. From 2000 to  
20 2009, the average return was 164,000 Chinook, 265  
21 percent increase. How is that possible? Our dams  
22 have been in place for 30 years, and we had good  
23 fish counts?

24 I guess I would like to task to somebody  
25 to say what changed. Did netting on the river

1 change? Did the predators change? Did the ocean  
2 change? Did the fish transportation change? The  
3 only thing that didn't change between 2000 and 2009  
4 were the dams, and we had a lot of fish.

5           Anyway, that's the end of my comment.  
6 Thank you. And I yield the rest of my time.

7           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

8           Operator, we're ready for the next  
9 commenter.

10           **THE OPERATOR:** All right. And that is  
11 Aaron Lieberman. Aaron Lieberman, your line is  
12 open.

13           **AARON LIEBERMAN:** My name is Aaron  
14 Lieberman. I am the Executive Director of the Idaho  
15 Outfitters and Guide Association, and I am also a  
16 member of Governor Little's Salmon and Steelhead  
17 Recovery Workgroup.

18           I represent an industry that has long been  
19 negatively impacted by the decline of sport fishing  
20 opportunities for salmon and steelhead, both in  
21 their businesses as well as in their communities  
22 economically, culturally, and socially. There are  
23 currently over 2,000 outfitters and guides across  
24 Idaho licensed for and reliant on salmon and  
25 steelhead fishing. Approximately 80 percent of

1 these resident Idaho outfitters live in and  
2 contribute to economies of communities with an  
3 average population of around 500.

4           The importance of these fish and the  
5 outfitting guiding industry to these rural  
6 communities really can't be overstated. And yet  
7 fishing outfitters and guides and their communities  
8 continue to helplessly watch the downward arc of  
9 Idaho's anadromous fish. We heard from one of those  
10 outfitters several comments back. His hardship,  
11 their hardship is not hypothetical. It is real and  
12 immediate and long-endured.

13           While outfitters and guides made their  
14 currently an inordinate burden under the status quo,  
15 we recognize that we are not the only group vested  
16 in, alternately, in its maintenance or reformation.  
17 The lower four Snake River dams help to electrify  
18 and make prosperous the rural American West, and  
19 there are many in our state whose industries and  
20 businesses function with an existent infrastructure  
21 and services afforded by the Snake River hydro  
22 system from grain producers to irrigators and more.

23           One of my close personal friends and  
24 recovering river guide is a farmer outside of  
25 Cottonwood. He currently relies on barging to get

1 his product to market, and I would sooner not fish  
2 another day in my life than hurt him or his family.  
3 So our industry is neither blind, nor inconsiderate  
4 to this fact on our fellow citizens. I know that  
5 irrigators and farmers also pay a price.

6 But whereas the action agencies' plan  
7 details the impacts positive and negative across the  
8 different alternatives on other industries,  
9 including agriculture, including subsidized barging  
10 and power generation, Idaho's outfitters, guides,  
11 and rural fishing communities were literally and  
12 completely ignored from the impact analysis, as was  
13 mentioned, despite readily available information.  
14 For all management alternatives and their preferred  
15 alternative, the economies of recreation and fishing  
16 from diving, outfitting, hotels, restaurants, gas  
17 stations, boat shops, license fees, and on were not  
18 even accounted for, despite, again, existing,  
19 publicly available data. The economic and cultural  
20 impacts of salmon and steelhead in Idaho must be  
21 given full consideration by the federal agencies  
22 that control the system.

23 As was also mentioned before, previous  
24 EISs included this information, but this newer  
25 iteration does not. Moreover, the preferred

1 alternative implement strategies already used --  
2 already in use to make (inaudible) --

3 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
4 remaining.

5 **AARON LIEBERMAN:** -- reservoir releases.  
6 Both of these approaches already in use have not  
7 yielded the result (indiscernible) federal  
8 obligations to conserve endangered fish populations,  
9 even just above extinction trend levels.

10 This EIS puts into practice insane by  
11 insanity -- trying the same thing over and again,  
12 expecting different results. I'd just like to close  
13 by saying, when did we -- so federal government,  
14 these -- the action agencies, and the people in this  
15 region become so meek and short-sighted, so  
16 unwilling to envision bolder and brighter possible  
17 futures? It wasn't so long ago that we moved  
18 mountains to install these structures to electrify  
19 the American Rural West and drive into --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time is up.

21 **AARON LIEBERMAN:** -- as far -- yeah.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** I'm sorry. We're going to  
23 have to move on to the next caller.

24 **THE OPERATOR:** All right. Thank you.

25 And Joseph Bogaard, your line is open.

1 Mr. Bogaard, please go ahead.

2           **JOSEPH BOGAARD:** Good afternoon. My name  
3 is Joseph Bogaard. I'm the Executive Director of  
4 the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. We're a 25-  
5 plus-year-old coalition that's been working to  
6 protect and restore harvestable populations of  
7 salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin. Our  
8 members, 40 or so organizations, represent  
9 conservationists, (indiscernible) advocates, clean  
10 energy advocates, and commercial and sport fishing  
11 businesses and associations.

12           In the short time we've got, I just want  
13 to make, I think, two points. One has to do with  
14 the process of public comment that's now underway.  
15 And of course, it was, in our minds, inadequate to  
16 start with, with a very short 45-day comment period  
17 for the purposes of receiving comments from the  
18 public on a document that exceeds 8,000 pages. This  
19 inadequacy and insufficiency on the part of the  
20 public comment process has been greatly exacerbated  
21 by the public health crisis, you know, caused by the  
22 coronavirus.

23           It -- we appreciate the -- this  
24 opportunity for the teleconferences in lieu of  
25 public meetings, given that health crisis. But it

1 just is undeniable that the -- given the commentary  
2 on different perspectives so far on this initial  
3 call, these are really big and important issues.  
4 And abbreviated or insufficient public comment  
5 period without public meetings and without more  
6 time, given the important issues and given the  
7 reality and disruptions and concerns around the  
8 coronavirus crisis, it's just unacceptable.

9           And I'm speaking to the agencies here to  
10 encourage you once again to expand the public  
11 comment period to include rescheduled public  
12 hearings after a better time at which the  
13 coronavirus is no longer a threat and people can  
14 gather safely. That's the process point.

15           On the substance, our organization and our  
16 member groups will submit technical and detailed  
17 comments. But I will say, in brief, that the DEIS  
18 is inadequate for salmon, for orca, for fishing and  
19 farming communities, and it perpetuates a status  
20 quo. It is marked by and will continue --

21           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
22 remaining.

23           **MR. BEAUGARD:** -- further mitigation, high  
24 costs, uncertainty for communities, and a strategy  
25 that has brought salmon and steelhead populations to

1 some of the lowest levels on record.

2           The way forward has got to involve  
3 Northwest policymakers working with sovereigns and  
4 stakeholders to work together collaboratively on  
5 solutions that work for all of us, as the concerns  
6 that were raised by others on this call are  
7 legitimate concerns, and we've got to work together  
8 on solutions that involve us all and bring us all  
9 forward.

10           Thanks very much.

11           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

12           Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
13 like to take a moment to greet anyone who has joined  
14 us since we began taking comments.

15           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
16 For those of you who have joined us, this is a  
17 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
18 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment  
19 this evening, please press 1, then 0 to add your  
20 name to the queue. Pressing 1, then 0 again will  
21 remove you from the queue.

22           Agency officials remain on the line to  
23 hear your comments. Though we are not responding to  
24 comments or questions during this meeting, and we're  
25 not providing an additional overview that we started

1 the meeting with, the agencies welcome and will  
2 consider your comments in developing the final EIS,  
3 which will be released this summer.

4 All comments provided during this  
5 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
6 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any  
7 personal information you share on the call will  
8 become public. If you do not wish to use your full  
9 three minutes, you may let us know that you would  
10 like to yield your remaining time.

11 Our operator will let you know when your  
12 line is open. Each speaker will have three minutes  
13 to provide their comments. I will notify you when  
14 you have 30 seconds remaining.

15 We currently have six callers who indicate  
16 they'd like to provide comments. Again, if you  
17 press 1 and 0, that will add your name to the queue.

18 We'll now resume taking comments.

19 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next  
21 comment comes from Richard Scully. Mr. Scully,  
22 please go ahead.

23 **MR. SCULLY:** Okay. Thank you very much.

24 Wild Snake River salmon and steelhead need  
25 smolt-to-adult returns that average 4 percent and

1 range from around 2 to 6 percent to -- in order to  
2 have abundant, fishable, and widespread fish  
3 populations in Idaho, widespread to the point where  
4 the Selway Bitterroot and the Frank Church  
5 Wilderness areas are full of spawning salmon and all  
6 of the ecological benefits they provide as a  
7 keystone species to many other species in those  
8 areas.

9           It's not just how many fish can we get  
10 back to the hatcheries for people to catch, although  
11 that's important. But over the long run, our  
12 obligation and the obligation of the EIS is to care  
13 for these threatened and endangered species.

14           The preferred alternative will not provide  
15 that level of smolt-to-adult return, and this will  
16 not recover salmon and steelhead. And it -- that  
17 level is possible. Before the lower Snake River  
18 dams were in place, we had that 2 to 6 percent  
19 smolt-to-adult returns. And the John Day and Yakima  
20 Rivers that are just downstream from the Snake River  
21 and are only upstream from three and four  
22 (indiscernible) Columbia dams, they still enjoy that  
23 2 to 6 percent survival. So that's a possibility.  
24 And they enjoy that even though they also endure the  
25 same ocean conditions we've had in the recent years

1 and the same predation and -- by birds and mammals  
2 and fish. So it's a possibility if we had a rapid  
3 outmigration to the lower Snake River like we had  
4 before we had the dams in place.

5           There has been previous biological  
6 opinions and EISs dating back to 1993 on the  
7 Columbia River System. And all -- and -- but the  
8 solutions that were generally provided were  
9 improving on natal habitat are adding more  
10 hatcheries. And there really needs to be a mainstem  
11 hatchery improvement. That is, the lower Snake  
12 River, if that was a river again, as Mike Simpson  
13 said recently, salmon really need that.

14           And federal judges have found all of the  
15 recent -- or all of the biological opinions that go  
16 clear back to 1993 to not be adequate to protect  
17 salmon. And they've been rejected and --

18           **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
19 remaining.

20           **MR. SCULLY:** -- and now we're at this  
21 point.

22           So anyway, we talked about the -- all the  
23 economic problems of taking out the dams. But there  
24 are some economists like Rocky Mountain Econometrics  
25 that say that the power to the lower Snake River dam

1 really isn't necessary. It's only used for surplus  
2 power and that the cost, operation, and maintenance,  
3 fish mitigation, term and rehab, and river dredging,  
4 if that would -- did not have to be paid for, that  
5 money could be used to subsidize unit trains to haul  
6 grain out of the Lewiston area, and you would not  
7 need the dams and the damage that they cause --

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time is up.

9 **MR. SCULLY:** -- the fish.

10 Thank you.

11 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

12 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

13 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next  
14 comment comes from Kristin Kemak.

15 Again, Kristin Kemak, your line is open.

16 **(No audible response.)**

17 **THE OPERATOR:** Ms. Kemeck -- or Kemak,  
18 your line is open.

19 **(No audible response.)**

20 **THE OPERATOR:** I think she took herself  
21 out of queue, so we'll move on to our next comment  
22 from Dan Ransom. Please go ahead, sir.

23 **DAN RANSOM:** Thank you.

24 We must keep all of the dams on the  
25 Columbia and Snake Rivers. My name is Dan Ransom.

1 I'm a power engineer, a senior member of the  
2 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers,  
3 and I'm a resident of Clarkston, Washington. I'm a  
4 licensed professional engineer in Washington, Idaho,  
5 and in many other states.

6 I understand the fragility of the wind  
7 power that is now prevalent in the area. Effective  
8 wind power needs the existing hydropower generation  
9 to remain viable. There is not a one-to-one  
10 replacement wind power for hydropower.

11 The electric power system requires a  
12 stable generation source to retain stable frequency  
13 and reactive power support. In addition, the system  
14 requires a strong, low-impedance base to supply  
15 heavy users like Keizer and Talco and other  
16 industrial customers.

17 It also needs a strong source to provide  
18 vast fault clearing. Wind farms are inverter-based  
19 resources that shut down quickly, leaving the system  
20 protection relays in sufficient quantities on which  
21 to act to clear faults, protecting the system from  
22 collapse. There is no such thing as surplus power  
23 from our dams.

24 Thank you. I yield the remainder of my  
25 time.

1           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

2           Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

3           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Madeleine

4 Cannamela, your line is open.

5           Madeleine Cannamela, your line is open.

6           **(No audible response.)**

7           **THE OPERATOR:** I think she took herself

8 out of queue.

9           If you -- Madeleine, if you'd like to  
10 requeue up, you will have to push the 1-0 again.

11           And we will move to the line of Toby  
12 Wyatt.

13           Mr. Wyatt, please go ahead.

14           **TOBY WYATT:** Hello. My name is Toby  
15 Wyatt. I'm from Clarkston, Washington. I've been a  
16 fishing guide for 30 years. I guide in Idaho,  
17 Oregon, and Washington all up and down the Snake and  
18 the Columbia River from the mouth all the way into  
19 Hells Canyon and all the way on the Clearwater up to  
20 Kooskia, Idaho.

21           I spent my whole life fishing. I've  
22 fished below each and every one of those dams, and I  
23 can tell you that you have created the ultimate  
24 breeding ground for predators. And those smolt  
25 don't have a chance. When the water stops moving,

1 the smolt stop, and predators move in and they eat  
2 them. I'll catch multiple wildlife. Lay in my  
3 coolers will have multiple PIT Tags in my coolers,  
4 and the wildlife are full of smolt.

5 The preferred alternative doesn't do  
6 enough. It provides incremental changes in the --  
7 these fish are facing extinction. We need positive  
8 changes. We don't need a Band-Aid. This is an open  
9 wound.

10 I realize that pulling dams out is a huge  
11 step, and it's not going to happen any time soon.  
12 But we can do more. Preferred alternative does not  
13 do enough. We need to do more. We need to reduce  
14 the predators. We need to just keep that water  
15 moving.

16 The flex spill alternative where you fill  
17 -- where you spill water at certain times of the day  
18 and then you don't spill any water, I'm not in  
19 agreement with that because when I see the water  
20 stop moving, I see what happens. The smolt get  
21 decimated by the bass, by the walleye, by the birds.  
22 You have to keep that water moving. We have to get  
23 those fish to the ocean as fast as possible.

24 This journey used to take those fish from  
25 Idaho to the ocean in a matter of days. And now on

1 the average, it's a 20-day journey, and it's full of  
2 predators. In fact, you know, 10 years ago, I could  
3 not operate a commercial walleye fishing business on  
4 the Snake. I could on the Columbia, but not on the  
5 Snake. There wasn't enough of them. Now it's the  
6 fastest-growing part of my business.

7 We need to make -- we need to put these  
8 fish first. It's just time that we need to recover  
9 these fish. The science is there, but it's just  
10 continually getting ignored. We can't go for  
11 incremental change; we need to go for positive --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
13 remaining.

14 **TOBY WYATT:** -- changes.

15 The preferred alternative just doesn't do  
16 enough. There are other alternatives. We don't  
17 have to do so little. We need to do more. These  
18 fish are running out of time.

19 I yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

21 Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
22 like to take a moment to acknowledge anyone who's  
23 joined the call since we began.

24 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
25 For those who have just joined us, this is a public

1 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft  
2 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please  
3 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.  
4 Pressing 1, then 0 again would remove you from the  
5 queue.

6 Agency officials remain on the line to  
7 hear all your comments. Though we are not  
8 responding to questions or comments during this  
9 meeting or providing another overview, the agencies  
10 welcome and will consider your comments in  
11 developing the final EIS, which will be released  
12 this summer.

13 All comments provided during this  
14 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
15 submitted to the record for the public record for  
16 the Draft EIS. Any personal information you share  
17 on the call will become public. If you do not wish  
18 to use your full three minutes, you may let us know  
19 that you would like to yield your remaining time.

20 Our operator will let you know when your  
21 line is open. Each speaker will have three minutes  
22 to provide their comments. I will notify you when  
23 you have 30 seconds remaining.

24 Right now, we have four people who have  
25 indicated they would like to provide comments.

1 We'll resume taking comments.

2 Operator, you can move to the next caller.

3 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And we return  
4 to the line of Madeleine Cannamela. Madeleine  
5 Cannamela, your line is open.

6 **MADELEINE CANNAMELA:** Hello. Can you hear  
7 me?

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes.

9 **MADELEINE CANNAMELA:** Oh, good. All  
10 right. I just have a short comment.

11 I just wanted to say that I believe humans  
12 are smart and adaptable. Yes, there are challenges  
13 to dam removal, but they are not unsolvable  
14 problems. If we have spent \$17 billion in just the  
15 last 20 years to watch salmon swim towards  
16 extinction, surely we can afford to mitigate  
17 shipping and irrigation issues to watch salmon bound  
18 up our rivers once more.

19 Breach works, period. There is actually a  
20 plethora of data from rivers like the Elwha that  
21 show that dam removal allows salmon populations to  
22 rebound, maybe not to the levels seen by Lewis and  
23 Clark, but no one is arguing that that is the goal.  
24 But at least we can hope for stable populations that  
25 can support the livelihoods of sport fishers as well

1 as a continuation of an icon of Idaho's culture. In  
2 fact, stable populations currently exist in areas  
3 below the lower Snake River dams.

4 We can do things differently, but we must  
5 be bold and we have to open ourselves to change.

6 Thank you. I yield back the remainder of  
7 my time.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

9 Operator, we can move to the next caller.

10 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And that comes  
11 from the line of Keith Cousins. Please go ahead.  
12 Keith Cousins, please go ahead.

13 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** This is Keith Kutchins.  
14 I'm a retired fish and wildlife biologist, a 40-year  
15 career. Thirty-two years of that was in the  
16 Columbia River Basin, primarily salmon biology.

17 Oh, boy. Where to start? As Judge Marsh  
18 said in 1993, we don't need little tweaks. We need  
19 some major action. And some of us were proponents  
20 of back then in '94. We were saying not another  
21 nickel.

22 The biological opinion at that time came  
23 out with a bifurcated decision framework. One path  
24 was screens, curtains, bypasses, and barges. The  
25 other path was normalizing the river flow, lower

1 Snake River, in a natural river condition. It chose  
2 for the last 25 years to go ahead and spend those  
3 nickels to the tune of over a billion dollars, and  
4 yet our salmon have not recovered.

5 This EIS states in the introductory  
6 material that the EIS will allow the co-lead  
7 agencies and the region to evaluate cost and  
8 benefits of the various alternatives. I'm still  
9 looking for where that occurred. And in the spirit  
10 of several of the other commenters working together,  
11 that needs to be done. Otherwise, this EIS as  
12 drafted is flawed.

13 As the first caller mentioned, Kurt  
14 Miller, Executive Director of Northwest River  
15 Partners, he mentioned -- I don't know if the number  
16 is right or not -- but if restoring the lower Snake  
17 to natural condition cost \$1 billion, that's yet but  
18 a drop in the hat compared to the value of the  
19 natural capital in the Columbia River Basin is \$198  
20 billion a year. We can't afford not to do this.

21 As was done in the mid-'90s, there was  
22 some analysis that showed by normalizing the river  
23 in that lower Snake, we end up with the water  
24 particle travel time velocities that the salmon need  
25 to make it to the ocean at a much more improved

1 rate. And also, what's lacking in the CIS is some  
2 of the benefits to that, which include leaving the  
3 storage reservoirs much fuller and more stable with  
4 their --

5 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
6 remaining.

7 **MR. COUSINS:** -- reservoir elevations.  
8 Coulee, Hungry Horse, Libby, Dworshak, and Brownlee  
9 can all maintain a much higher and more stable  
10 reservoir elevation if we allow velocities to be  
11 sparked by restoring the natural condition in the  
12 lower Snake.

13 I've got many more comments, but we've  
14 still got another, what, five more of these to go.  
15 So I'll keep in touch.

16 Thank you very much.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

18 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

19 **THE OPERATOR:** And we do have a comment  
20 from Kristin Kemak. Please go ahead, Kristin Kemak.

21 **KRISTIN KEMAK:** Good afternoon. I'm  
22 President of the Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of  
23 Commerce.

24 First, I'd like to thank everyone for all  
25 your work so far. Thank you for the opportunity to

1 submit these comments on this important issue.

2           So Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce  
3 represents 543 small and large business, employ  
4 nearly 18,000 Washingtonians and Idahoans located on  
5 both sides of the Snake River. Like many other  
6 organizations in our community, our chamber supports  
7 the continued operation of the lower Snake River  
8 dams for the carbon-free renewable and affordable  
9 electricity they provide as well as the access to  
10 water for our region's farmers.

11           Additionally, there are dozens of valley  
12 businesses supporting thousands of employees who  
13 rely on the Snake River Basin as it exists today.  
14 The Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce believes,  
15 as it did in 2015, that removal of the dams and  
16 increase flow augmentation of the lower Snake and  
17 Columbia Rivers would inflict on the citizenry of  
18 irreparable economic hardship, risk of floods, lost  
19 navigation, increase in electrical rates, loss of  
20 recreation, and impaired quality of life.

21           The many changes in operation and design  
22 features of the lower Snake River dams have had a  
23 positive effect on the survival rate of the Snake  
24 River salmon. There have been recent years with  
25 record numbers of salmon returning, and the Chamber

1 believes that salmon and steelhead can and should be  
2 preserved and enhanced in harmony with preserving  
3 the many uses of the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

4           The Chamber's vision is to create a united  
5 community, vibrant business environment, and quality  
6 way of life in the Lewis Clark Valley. That vision  
7 has always included the Snake River as it exists  
8 today, as a living component and important feature  
9 of our citizens' daily lives environmentally,  
10 socially, and economically.

11           As mentioned, the Lewis Clark Valley  
12 Chamber recognizes the critical need for maintaining  
13 the traditional agricultural. And industrial uses  
14 of Northwest water and the resulting loss of river  
15 transportation will increase truck and rail traffic,  
16 thereby increasing atmospheric carbon release. Dam  
17 removal or breaching would also greatly reduce tours  
18 in the area by making the river inaccessible to  
19 large cruise boats.

20           For these reasons, the others we have  
21 stated, the Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce  
22 continues its position of no dam breaching.

23           Thank you to all of the public and private  
24 folks who have worked so hard to find common ground  
25 and for giving us this opportunity to speak today.

1 I yield the rest of my time.

2 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

3 Operator, we can go to our next caller.

4 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

5 And that is the line of Gary Dorr. Mr.

6 Dorr, please go ahead.

7 **(No audible response.)**

8 **THE OPERATOR:** Mr. Dorr, your line is

9 open.

10 **GARY DORR:** I -- can I speak now?

11 **THE OPERATOR:** Yes, please.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes.

13 **GARY DORR:** Okay. My name is Gary Dorr.

14 I'm the former Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe  
15 General Council, and I'm a Nez Perce tribal member.

16 And I'm -- my comment today is that the  
17 Nez Perce Tribe has a greater stake in this than  
18 anyone else that's speaking here on the line today.

19 This is backed by the second clause of the sixth  
20 article of the Constitution, which states that  
21 treaties are the supreme law of the land. Our  
22 Treaty of 1855 with the Nez Perce retains -- it  
23 doesn't grant us -- it retains our right to continue  
24 to subsistence fish, hunt, and gather.

25 Right now, our impoverished people of the

1 Nez Perce Tribe are gathering and asking each other  
2 for meat in this time of coronavirus. We continue  
3 to be subsistence gatherers, hunters, and fishers  
4 and, therefore, maintain the same status as when the  
5 Treaty was signed in 1855.

6 Your dams are impeding our salmon,  
7 steelhead, and lamprey. Lamprey are the buffer zone  
8 species that predators used to prefer over  
9 fingerling salmon and steelhead traveling  
10 downstream. Lamprey, as we know it in this area, is  
11 an endangered species. Wild salmon are an  
12 endangered species. Steelhead are an endangered  
13 species. Hatchery fish are not an endangered  
14 species. They're subordinate to the superior  
15 species, the wild salmon, the wild fish.

16 Now, the Treaty of 1855 of the Nez Percés  
17 means that that treaty represents approximately  
18 4,000 tribal members who are all subsistence  
19 hunters, fishers, and gatherers. And we're all  
20 party to the Treaty of 1855. That Treaty is still a  
21 federal law, codified at 12 Stat. 597. You continue  
22 to break that federal law by impeding our salmon  
23 coming home, killing the young fingerlings going out  
24 to sea, and killing the critical buffer prey  
25 species, the lamprey. Lamprey are the key to

1 getting more fingerlings downstream. Removing dams  
2 is key to getting more fingerlings downstream.

3           So at this time, I would ask you remove  
4 the dams. You have a greater agreement that is  
5 older than any of those dams by hundreds of years.  
6 You need to, as a nation, stick to your word and  
7 remove that impediment to our way of life.

8           Thank you.

9           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

10           Currently, we do not have anyone else in  
11 the queue, so I'll take a moment to welcome anyone  
12 who might have joined us.

13           This is Maryam Habibi, your facilitator.  
14 For those who may have joined the call, this is a  
15 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
16 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment,  
17 please press 1 and then 0 to add your name to the  
18 queue. Pressing 1 and 0 again will remove you from  
19 the queue.

20           Agency officials remain on the line to  
21 hear all your comments. Though we are not  
22 responding to questions or comments during this  
23 meeting, the agencies welcome and will consider your  
24 comments in developing the final EIS, which will be  
25 released this summer.

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2 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
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4 personal information you share on the call will  
5 become public.

6 Each speaker will have three minutes to  
7 provide their comments. If you do not wish to use  
8 your full three minutes, you may let us know that  
9 you would like to yield your remaining time. I'll  
10 notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining, and  
11 our operator will let you know when your line is  
12 open.

13 We have one person who has indicated they  
14 would like to provide comments. A reminder again  
15 for anyone who would like to provide comments, you  
16 may press 1, then 0 now.

17 Operator, we can resume taking comments.

18 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. We do have a  
19 comment from Greg Smith. Mr. Smith, please go  
20 ahead.

21 **GREG SMITH:** Yeah. This is Greg Smith. I  
22 live in Shearing, Idaho. I'm on the Board of  
23 Directors for the Idaho County Light & Power  
24 Association in Grangeville, Idaho.

25 And thank you, Kurt Miller, for all you're

1 doing.

2           One comment: In 1855, hundreds of  
3 thousands of salmon were coming up the Columbia,  
4 Snake Rivers to Clearwater, Lochsa. They steadily  
5 declined, and they leveled out in 1935 to what they  
6 are today. The dams were not put in place until  
7 1937.

8           Is it ocean conditions? Predators? Over  
9 harvest? Habitat?

10           When I go through Grangeville to Boise, at  
11 Rapid River, I see tribal members selling salmon  
12 alongside the road. Okay. So they're not even  
13 getting to the hatcheries to be spawned.

14           The Pacific Northwest, we can't support  
15 wind or solar. We have very little wind, and the  
16 sun doesn't shine at night. So we can't support our  
17 power system. And do we want nuclear energy in the  
18 Pacific Northwest? People say, well, not in my  
19 backyard.

20           And also, in all respect to the grain  
21 growers, Port of Lewiston, one barge of wheat takes  
22 551 trucks off the road to deliver the wheat to the  
23 coast. So if they want grain, (indiscernible) grain  
24 is removing 551 trucks to fill one barge. Without  
25 the Port of Lewiston, we'd have to put that many

1 trucks on the road to transport wheat.

2           Fifteen cents out of everybody's dollar  
3 that pays their power bill goes towards salmon  
4 recovery -- fifteen cents. I was talking to a  
5 tribal member at one of the salmon workgroups in  
6 Lewiston. And he said, "We receive millions of  
7 dollars from you folks to restore habitat. Well, if  
8 we remove the dams, where is the money going to come  
9 now to restore habitat?"

10           So I will yield my time to the rest.

11 Thank you.

12           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

13           Currently, we do not have any other  
14 callers queued. I'll take this time to remind folks  
15 that may have joined us this is the public meeting  
16 for providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If  
17 you'd like to provide a comment, please press 1,  
18 then 0 to add your name to the queue. Pressing 1  
19 and then 0 again would remove your name from the  
20 queue.

21           I'll remind you that agency officials  
22 remain on the line to hear all your comments.  
23 Though we are not responding to questions or  
24 comments during this meeting, the agencies welcome  
25 and will consider your comments in developing the

1 final EIS, which will be released this summer.

2 If you'd like to provide a comment, please  
3 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

4 We'll pause and wait to see if somebody  
5 would like to provide a comment.

6 Operator, it looks like we have somebody  
7 queued. We can take their comment now.

8 **THE OPERATOR:** We haven't gotten their  
9 name yet. One moment, please.

10 One moment, please.

11 And we do have a question from Marvin  
12 Entel. Mr. Entel, please go ahead.

13 **MR. ENTEL:** Well, my question is related  
14 to the Ringold Chinook salmon fish hatchery down on  
15 the Columbia River above Pasco. That's been closed  
16 for three years. We used to fish the Columbia  
17 Reach, and I don't understand why the Chinook salmon  
18 hatchery there is closed.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you for your question.

20 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
21 Although agency officials remain on the line to hear  
22 all your comments, we are not responding to  
23 questions or comments during this meeting. But we  
24 are recording the comments, transcribing them, and  
25 submitting them to the record for the Draft EIS.

1 Do you have any additional comments to  
2 share?

3 **MR. ENTEL:** Well, the other comment that I  
4 have to share is my ancestors, the Batty family, all  
5 had the fruit orchards on the area above Lower  
6 Granite Dam between Wawawai and Steptoe Canyon. And  
7 of course, now there is no water allowed to be taken  
8 out of the Snake River of wherein there is a lot of  
9 areas that could be irrigated. I just don't  
10 understand that -- how people think if dam removal  
11 would add any benefit to the area because there  
12 would never be orchards back as they were. The  
13 landscape could never be replaced as it was prior to  
14 the dams.

15 There is still fish available. And if  
16 there was no fish, it would be a whole different  
17 story. But there is fish available. You can still  
18 fish. And 27 people that are the outfitters should  
19 not have the amount of influence that they're having  
20 on trying to remove the dams.

21 Thank you.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you very much.

23 Currently, we do not have anybody else in  
24 queue to provide comments. I'll remind anybody who  
25 may have joined us this is a public meeting for

1 providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you  
2 would like to provide a comment, please press 1,  
3 then 0 to add your name to the queue.

4 Agency officials remain on the line to  
5 hear all your comments. Although we're not  
6 responding to questions or comments during this  
7 meeting, the agencies welcome and will consider your  
8 comments in developing the final EIS, which will be  
9 released this summer.

10 All comments provided during this  
11 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
12 submitted but -- to the record for the Draft EIS.  
13 Any personal information you share on the call will  
14 become public. If you do not wish to use your full  
15 three minutes, you may let us know that you'd like  
16 to yield your remaining time. Again, if you'd like  
17 to provide a comment, please press 1 and then 0 to  
18 add your name to the queue.

19 We'll pause now to see if others joined  
20 the call where -- indicate that they'd like to  
21 provide comments.

22 **(No audio 01:22:31 to 01:22:51.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** In a few minutes, I'll come  
24 back on the line.

25 Oh, it looks like we have another caller

1 indicating they'd like to provide comment. We'll  
2 wait just a moment until we have their name.

3 Operator, when you're ready, you can open  
4 their line.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** All right. One moment,  
6 please.

7 And we do have a comment from Dave Hecker  
8 (phonetic). Mr. Hecker, please go ahead.

9 **DAVE HECKER:** Oh, yes, thank you.

10 Anyway, yeah, I want to say thanks,  
11 everyone, for getting together, as it's obviously an  
12 important issue for all parties.

13 I very much represent the -- from the  
14 perspective of support of free-flowing rivers and  
15 the importance of natural ecosystems. And for that,  
16 of course, the, you know, salmon and species in the  
17 Pacific Northwest.

18 A couple things really come to mind that I  
19 just want to speak to, and that being that it's  
20 really, like, you know, a short term and a very,  
21 very short amount of time in which we have gone from  
22 a nation and a, you know, really, you know, a whole  
23 globe of free-flowing rivers to the last 30 years  
24 of, you know -- of the dams and the amount of  
25 stoppage of free-flowing water we currently have.

1 I think removing these four dams in this  
2 area is not something that is detrimental to, you  
3 know, American philosophy and the ability to, you  
4 know, conserve water, you know, for irrigation. And  
5 certainly with this, being this is a realistic  
6 conversation in that we are not really viewing these  
7 as the most, you know, water-storing successful  
8 dams, nor are they dams that are producing, you  
9 know, all that much power.

10 And when you look at the -- you know, the  
11 benefits of them being removed, it's really quite  
12 striking. And when we speak to, you know, a lot of  
13 things that everyone can, you know, sympathize with  
14 and decide, regardless of your perspective,  
15 certainly, you know, economics is a big one. And  
16 people want to say, hey, there's these jobs that  
17 are, you know, engrained in this area. There's  
18 people that are -- you know, families relying on  
19 these -- on this -- these dams. And it's -- that's  
20 a good point.

21 But when you look at, you know, humanity  
22 as a species and look at what we've done in 30 years  
23 and what, you know, hundreds of years, I mean, well,  
24 hopefully, humans will be around for a couple  
25 hundred years, you know. It would be great. And I

1 think that, you know, in a thousand years, that,  
2 like, you know, if we didn't take these minor steps  
3 that we can do now to preserve these natural  
4 ecosystems, it's -- it would be a real shame not to  
5 have done that.

6 So I fully support a just EIS and one that  
7 listens to science and takes into account the  
8 benefits of economically of free-flowing rivers  
9 because while we may have 75 --

10 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
11 remaining.

12 **DAVE HECKER:** I'm sorry. What was that?

13 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
14 remaining.

15 **DAVE HECKER:** Okay. Thank you. Yeah. I  
16 think, though, that, you know, economics is huge.  
17 And though there's a lot of economic benefits to  
18 these having been removed, I respect all the folks  
19 that are working in that industry that are directly  
20 related to freight and transportation and the dams  
21 themselves. But there would be thousands of other  
22 individuals who could benefit and also, you know,  
23 find lucrative sources of income. And economically,  
24 it just really seems to make sense to not brush this  
25 off and to not let money dampen the voices of

1 the people speaking for, you know, what has taken  
2 millennia to produce the natural systems we have.

3 So thank you.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

5 Currently, we have no other callers queued  
6 to provide comments. So we'll pause for a minute.  
7 If there is anybody on the call who would like to  
8 provide comments, you can put your name in the queue  
9 by pressing 1-0. In another minute or two, I'll  
10 come on and provide a welcome to anybody else who  
11 has joined us.

12 **(No audio 01:27:13 to 01:28:42.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
14 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,  
15 this is the public meeting or providing comments on  
16 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
17 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to  
18 the queue.

19 Agency officials remain on the line to  
20 hear all your comments. Though we are not  
21 responding to questions or comments during this  
22 meeting, the agencies welcome and will consider your  
23 comments in developing the final EIS, which will be  
24 released this summer.

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4 become public.

5 Each speaker will have three minutes to  
6 provide their comments. If you do not wish to use  
7 your full three minutes, you may let us know that  
8 you would like to yield your remaining time.

9 If you would like to make a comment,  
10 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the  
11 queue.

12 **(No audio 01:29:41 to 01:30:30.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have two  
14 people in the queue to provide comments.

15 Operator, when you're ready, you can open  
16 the first line.

17 **THE OPERATOR:** All right. And we do have  
18 a comment from Michelle Andres. Ms. Andres, please  
19 go ahead.

20 **MICHELLE ANDRES:** Yes. I would like to  
21 honor and respond to my Native American friend.  
22 America in the 1840s through the 1850s, Indian  
23 treaties were executed, most of whom were Stevens  
24 Treaties, and they had a 25-year life. 1865 to  
25 1924, most Native Americans were full citizens. All

1 Native Americans were full citizens by 1924.

2           And the Dawes Act in 1887 was made for  
3 three purposes -- to end Indian reservation system,  
4 give all individual Indians land, and make all  
5 Indians landowners and citizens. We do not make  
6 treaties with our own citizens. The treaties are  
7 with foreign countries and foreign governments.

8           So I would like to honor him and help him  
9 understand that, by restoring the habitat in the  
10 Salmon River of Idaho, where 80 to 85 percent of the  
11 smolt don't even make it to the first dam, we give  
12 him more ceremonial fish and give the fisherman that  
13 do the fly fishing and the guiding service more fish  
14 as well.

15           The fish in the Yakima River do not face  
16 the same habitat threats, nor do they face that  
17 further down the Columbia in the Dalles. So they're  
18 different fish, different reasons.

19           And recent studies show that 80 to 85  
20 percent of the smolt taken from their natal waters,  
21 trapped it -- when they come in as a tributary to  
22 the Salmon River are eaten in the slower, shallower  
23 waters of the Salmon River, not the Snake River  
24 dams. The dams have enabled fish to get up and down  
25 the river far more with the dams in place than they

1 ever have without them.

2           And so I would like to honor my Native  
3 American friend, help him understand things a little  
4 further.

5           And thank you for the time. I yield.

6           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

7           Operator, we're ready for our next caller.

8           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And we have a  
9 comment from Amelia Gucker (phonetic). Ms. Gucker,  
10 please go ahead.

11           **AMELIA GUCKER:** Yes. I'm a former  
12 biologist who used to work on the Snake River and  
13 some of the hydroelectric dams. And I was surprised  
14 that the American shad, which was a migrant up from  
15 Southern California, was in direct competition with  
16 the juvenile salmon, being filter feeders. And  
17 there wasn't any control method involved or in place  
18 to try and control the production of the American  
19 shad in the Snake River system. They were allowed  
20 to come and go freely. There was no attempts at  
21 installing barriers to prevent the adult shad from  
22 migrating upstream in order to spawn and that the  
23 juveniles were in direct competition with the  
24 juvenile salmon for important food collection.

25           My second point is that the collection of

1 the mortality rate -- or the reporting of the  
2 mortality rate at the dams was significantly under-  
3 reported. According to biological standards of  
4 collection of fish mortality and (indiscernible),  
5 fish -- juvenile fish that are in stress or dying or  
6 dead migrate to the bottom of the raceways instead  
7 of floating to the top. It was standard practice to  
8 collect only the floating mortality of the juvenile  
9 salmon, at which point the juvenile salmon would  
10 only float if they've been dead for two to three  
11 days when the body organs began to bloat and causing  
12 the flotation.

13 In my work at the dam, when I attempted --  
14 made a action to collect the mortality of fish at  
15 the bottom of the raceways versus only the floating  
16 mortality, it was significantly higher by a factor  
17 of about 10 to 1. So that -- the methods used by  
18 the biologists at the dams were --

19 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
20 remaining.

21 **AMELIA GUCKER:** -- okay -- were  
22 significant to under-report the mortality of the  
23 juvenile salmon.

24 And now I yield.

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you very much.

1           We currently do not have any callers in  
2 the queue to provide comments. If there are any  
3 callers that have not yet provided comments and  
4 would like to, you may press 1-0 now to add your  
5 name to the queue.

6           **THE OPERATOR:** And we do have a comment  
7 from Marvin Entel. Mr. Entel, please go ahead.

8           **MR. ENTEL:** Well, I'm sorry to be a second  
9 because I didn't yield.

10           But anyway, the other question that I had  
11 is that the foreign fishing factories that are  
12 fishing off of our coast, it's my understanding that  
13 some of these foreign fishing ships take up to 600  
14 ton of fish from the ocean in their (indiscernible).  
15 I have never seen any documentation about the number  
16 of tons of fish that the foreign fishing factories  
17 take from the -- they're supposed to be on the 200-  
18 mile limit, but often they get into the 100-mile  
19 limit. But there's no indication of the number of  
20 tons of fish that these foreign fishing factories  
21 take from the ocean that are stealing our fish that  
22 we send there.

23           Thank you. And I now yield to anyone  
24 else.

25           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

1 Operator, it looks like we have another  
2 caller.

3 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And we go to  
4 the line of Dennis Harper. Mr. Harper, please go  
5 ahead.

6 **DR. DENNIS HARPER:** Hello, everyone. Dr.  
7 Dennis Harper from the great state of Orofino,  
8 Idaho, right on Dworshak Reservoir. I've been  
9 involved in this fishery issue since 1991 and took  
10 National Marine Fisheries into court, a federal  
11 court, in '97 over this issue.

12 And I read through the options you have.  
13 And if I were to pick an option, I would pick the  
14 last preferred option. And I just want to state  
15 that I would be aware of the spawning beds in  
16 Dworshak Reservoir, it dropping water out too late  
17 in the season, which harms our resident fishery.  
18 We've been fertilizing the reservoir for 10 years  
19 now to try to mitigate the damage, and we've had  
20 great results of the resident fishery.

21 With that said, I've got a question. The  
22 drawdowns from the point of view as to what were we  
23 trying to accomplish. We seem to have lost the fact  
24 that we were trying to restore fall Chinook,  
25 initially, which are in spawn streamers, which we

1 know the Hells Canyon complex up above eliminated 80  
2 percent of the habitat. So I think that should be  
3 considered in the formula of what we end up with.

4 Then I'm obviously concerned with someone  
5 mentioned earlier, is the drawdowns for temperature,  
6 which is a mild, mild, mild change even down to Ice  
7 Harbor (indiscernible) per degree. It needs to be  
8 better looked at.

9 But I think we need to take steps ongoing  
10 to reduce the harvest in the main river. And I say  
11 harvest. I mean we should reduce the seals and all  
12 the fisheries coming up and the nets coming up.  
13 Commercial fisheries should be eliminated on the  
14 river coming up. The tribal fisheries, we've seen  
15 impacts on our steelhead to a dramatic degree. By  
16 changing gill-size nets, we no longer have large  
17 fish on the Clearwater where they used to be here.  
18 That's an issue.

19 And then I also believe that the spawning  
20 grounds up above due to the lack of fish spawning  
21 has reduced the nitrogen-phosphorous trace mineral  
22 basis, so our fish are no longer healthy in the  
23 streams. And I would promote -- help promote a  
24 fertilization program in the streams to help the  
25 smolting, instead of two years to one year on those

1 fish. And I would look at a better evaluation of  
2 fall Chinook and also like to see the, again,  
3 mitigation of hatcheries and fish going out.

4 But beyond that, I want to tell you that  
5 I'll be running for the state Senate position. And  
6 I plan on really pushing the state to make some more  
7 dominant stand --

8 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
9 remaining.

10 **MR. HARPER:** Thank you.

11 So I want us to make -- that we make sure  
12 that we get fish back because we're the ones  
13 producing the fish for the whole system. And I  
14 think that needs to be taken into account. We  
15 produce probably 80 percent of the fish that go into  
16 the system, and we take the abuse of all the  
17 fisheries down below.

18 So I yield my time. Thank you very much.  
19 Any questions, you can get a hold of me pretty  
20 easily. So thank you. I appreciate your time at  
21 this.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

23 We'll take a moment. This is your  
24 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. For anyone who has  
25 joined us or has not yet provided comments for the

1 CRSO Draft EIS, if you would like to provide a  
2 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to  
3 the queue.

4 Agency officials remain on the line to  
5 hear all your comments. Though we are not  
6 responding to questions or comments during this  
7 meeting, the agencies welcome and will consider your  
8 comments in developing the final EIS, which will be  
9 released this summer.

10 All comments provided during this  
11 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
12 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any  
13 personal information you share on the call will  
14 become public.

15 Each speaker will have three minutes to  
16 provide their comments. If you do not wish to use  
17 your full three minutes, you may let us know that  
18 you would like to yield your remaining time. I'll  
19 notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining.

20 We currently do not have any callers in  
21 the queue to provide comments. We'll pause and  
22 remain silent for a minute or two to see if anyone  
23 joins the call.

24 **(No audio 01:41:40 to 01:44:39.)**

25 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,

1 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
2 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
3 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
4 comment and you have not already, please press 1,  
5 then 0 to add your name to the queue. Agency  
6 officials remain on the line to hear all your  
7 comments.

8 **(No audio 01:44:59 to 01:47:00.)**

9 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
10 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
11 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
12 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to make a --  
13 provide a public comment and you have not done so,  
14 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the  
15 queue. Agency officials remain on the line to hear  
16 all your comments.

17 **(No audio 01:47:20 to 01:50:38.)**

18 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
19 Maryam Habibi. For those who have just joined us,  
20 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
21 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
22 comment and have not done so, please press 1, then 0  
23 to add your name to the queue. Agency officials  
24 remain on the line to hear your comments.

25 **(No audio 01:50:57 to 01:52:45.)**

1           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
2 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
3 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
4 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
5 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to  
6 add your name to the queue. Agency officials remain  
7 on the line to hear your comments.

8           I'd like to remind our co-hosts to keep  
9 their phones on mute.

10           **(No audio 01:53:07 to 01:57:02.)**

11           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
12 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,  
13 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
14 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you have not made a comment  
15 and would like to provide one, please press 1, then  
16 0 to add your name to the queue. Agency officials  
17 remain on the line to hear your comments.

18           **(No audio 01:57:22 to 02:01:05.)**

19           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
20 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,  
21 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
22 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you have not provided a  
23 comment and would like to do so, please press 1,  
24 then 0 to add your name to the queue. Agency  
25 officials remain on the line to hear your comments.

1 (No audio 02:01:23 to 02:02:19.)

2 MS. HABIBI: This is your facilitator,  
3 Maryam Habibi. It looks like we have somebody in  
4 the queue who would like to provide a comment.

5 Operator, we're ready for their call.

6 THE OPERATOR: We haven't gotten their  
7 name yet. One moment, please.

8 MS. HABIBI: Okay.

9 THE OPERATOR: We do have a comment from  
10 Marvin Entel.

11 Mr. Entel, your line is open.

12 (No audible response.)

13 THE OPERATOR: So let's try that again.  
14 Mr. Entel, your line is open.

15 MR. ENTEL: Oh, I'm just -- I've already  
16 commented. I was just wanting to listen to the --

17 THE OPERATOR: Okay.

18 MR. ENTEL: -- comments.

19 THE OPERATOR: All right. Thank you.  
20 I'll return you to the main conference of -- at --

21 MR. ENTEL: Thank you.

22 THE OPERATOR: -- this time -- at this  
23 moment. One moment.

24 MS. HABIBI: This is your facilitator,  
25 Maryam Habibi. We currently do not have any people

1 in the queue who have indicated they would like to  
2 provide comments. We'll remain silent. And in a  
3 couple minutes, I'll come back on to check to see if  
4 we have anyone else who would like to provide  
5 comments.

6 **(No audio 02:03:34 to 02:05:38.)**

7 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
8 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,  
9 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
10 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
11 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to  
12 add your name to the queue. Agency officials remain  
13 on the line to hear all your comments.

14 Operator, we're ready for the next caller.

15 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And that -- we  
16 have a comment from David Medlock. Mr. Medlock,  
17 please go ahead.

18 **DAVID MEDLOCK:** Okay. My concern was what  
19 have they done about the ocean conditions out there  
20 on the fish and the seals and the terns for our  
21 fish. I don't think that dam breaching should ever  
22 be even on the table. But I live in Lewiston,  
23 Idaho. So we're at the end of the trail of all this  
24 stuff.

25 So anyway, that was part of my comment

1 there.

2 **MS. HABIBI:** You have two and a half more  
3 minutes of time remaining if you have additional  
4 comments. If you'd like to yield your time, that is  
5 also an option.

6 **DAVID MEDLOCK:** Oh, okay. If I have two  
7 more -- anyway, that and the -- I was wondering why  
8 we turned over all of our fish hatcheries to the  
9 tribe and then the reason they, from what I  
10 understand, haven't been releasing any smolts in the  
11 river for some reason. I don't know why.

12 We used to do the barging down around  
13 there for smolts. It seemed to work well over the  
14 years. But then, too, breaching the dam there, we'd  
15 lose an awful lot of fresh water. Draining the  
16 Dworshak, I don't think that is a good idea, but  
17 they do it anyway.

18 But anyway, that's the whole thing I've  
19 got to say. I'll yield my time to somebody else.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. It looks like we  
21 do not have any other callers currently queued to  
22 provide comments.

23 For those who may have joined us, this is  
24 the public meeting for providing comments on the  
25 CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd like to provide a comment

1 and have not already, please press 1, then 0 to add  
2 your name to the queue. Agency officials remain on  
3 the line to hear your comments.

4 While we wait for others that may join the  
5 call, we'll remain silent. And then in a couple of  
6 minutes, I'll come back on.

7 **(No audio 02:08:19 to 02:09:31.)**

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, we're ready for the  
9 next call.

10 **THE OPERATOR:** All right. And we do have  
11 a comment from Gary Dorr. Please go ahead, Mr.  
12 Dorr.

13 **GARY DORR:** (Inaudible) a question about  
14 who's the commissioners that we're speaking to. And  
15 if this is a public meeting, I'd ask you to leave  
16 their mic on so that we can hear what they're  
17 discussing.

18 Thank you.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

20 This is a public meeting for agencies to  
21 listen to public comments for the CRSO Draft EIS.  
22 And although agency officials do remain on the line  
23 to hear comments, we are not responding to questions  
24 or comments in this meeting. We're here to listen.  
25 So we'll continue to remain on the line to see if

1 others join the call and would like to provide  
2 public comments.

3 If you would like to provide a comment,  
4 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the  
5 queue.

6 **(No audio 02:10:31 to 02:12:28.)**

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, it looks like we  
8 may have another comment from Gary Dorr.

9 **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. Mr. Dorr, your line  
10 is open.

11 **GARY DORR:** Yeah. I want to ask and get  
12 this on the record. Are you -- are the  
13 commissioners there, and are they holding a meeting?  
14 And if they are, under open meeting laws of the  
15 State of Idaho, are we allowed to hear what they're  
16 discussing or not? If they're staying absolutely  
17 silent, then I have no objection. But I want to  
18 hear if they're discussing things, and I'd like the  
19 mic open.

20 You -- I'm sure you have an attorney there  
21 that can answer your questions. I'm not asking them  
22 to answer my questions. I want to hear what they're  
23 discussing.

24 **MS. HABIBI:** Mr. Dorr, this is Maryam  
25 Habibi, the facilitator for the meeting. No one is

1 speaking when there is silence on the line. There  
2 are no commissioners present, only agency leadership  
3 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of  
4 Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration.

5 This is a public meeting that we're  
6 hosting in order to hear public comments for the  
7 Draft EIS. And when there are no commenters dialed  
8 in wishing to provide comments, then we're remaining  
9 silent, but offering opportunities for people to  
10 sign up throughout the rest of the meeting.

11 **(No audio 02:13:50 to 02:18:19.)**

12 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
13 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,  
14 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
15 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
16 comment and have not done so already, please press  
17 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

18 Agency officials from U.S. Army Corps of  
19 Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville  
20 Power Administration are on the line to hear your  
21 comments. Though we currently do not have anyone in  
22 the queue, we'll remain on the line, and we'll check  
23 in again to offer an opportunity for people to join  
24 the queue.

25 **(No audio 02:18:56 to 02:22:07.)**

1           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your host, Maryam  
2 Habibi. It looks like we have a caller that would  
3 like to make a comment, Operator.

4           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And Mary Jane  
5 Oatman your live -- your line is open. Again, Ms.  
6 Oatman, your line is live.

7           **MARY JANE OATMAN:** Thank you. I  
8 appreciate you hosting an alternative forum to take  
9 comments for the CRSO Environmental Impact  
10 Statement.

11           I just want to go on record to say that I  
12 think that it's negligent and irresponsible to not  
13 have breaching of the dams on the table. As a Nez  
14 Perce mother, an indigenous Treaty holder of the Nez  
15 Perce people, the federal government, you know,  
16 still have the trust responsibility to not only  
17 myself, but unborn future Nez Perce generations, the  
18 plan as it currently is submitted does not fulfill  
19 those promises for generations to come. It's a  
20 Band-Aid on a bleeding artery the way that it's  
21 currently drafted to only suit the needs of cattle  
22 farmers, agriculture, and large water yield farming.

23           The economic positioning and the economic  
24 argument in favor of the EIS, again, do not  
25 recognize the trust responsibility of the federal

1 government and all U.S. citizens because all U.S.  
2 citizens are beneficiaries of the execution of the  
3 United States Treaty.

4           And so it's really disheartening to sit  
5 back on the line and listen to these comments from  
6 these, you know, people that have sat back and  
7 benefitted from the burdens that the indigenous  
8 people continue to face on our own landscape. I  
9 mean, quite frankly, hearing the ugly comments that  
10 are made out there, it's not a far-reaching comment  
11 to make that the members of federally recognized  
12 tribes should be listed under threatened and  
13 endangered species and protected under a special  
14 status because, you know, there's a lot of white  
15 power and privilege who operate under this paradigm.  
16 And I fear that our Treaty fishermen and our  
17 indigenous gatherers are -- when we're out there  
18 doing our traditional activities do so, usually,  
19 under gunpoint from people that live under pretend  
20 boundaries and, you know, behind their white picket  
21 fences.

22           And I fear for my unborn grandchildren and  
23 what they look forward to ahead under irresponsible  
24 plans like these co-lead agencies have developed,  
25 this U.S. Army Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation, and

1 BPA because they are only very clearly looking at  
2 the needs of economy and just giving lip service to  
3 the trust responsibility.

4 So I say -- I give it a big, fat F minus,  
5 if there is such a thing on the grading scale. And  
6 I think that it's negligent and irresponsible. And  
7 as a trust holder and descendent of --

8 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
9 remaining.

10 **MARY JANE OATMAN:** -- they need to go back  
11 to the drawing and start all over. The dams need to  
12 come down.

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. This is your  
14 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have  
15 joined us, I'd like to remind you this is a federal  
16 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
17 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment  
18 and have not done so, please press 1, then 0 to add  
19 your name to the queue. Agency officials from U.S.  
20 Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and  
21 Bonneville Power Administration are called in from  
22 remote locations to listen to your comments during  
23 this meeting. All comments provided during this  
24 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
25 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS.

1 We'll remain on the line to see if there  
2 are others that join us and wish to provide  
3 comments. Again, if you have not provided comments  
4 and would like to, you may press 1, then 0 to add  
5 your name to the queue.

6 **(No audio 02:26:34 to 02:31:41.)**

7 **MS. HABIBI:** -- public meeting for  
8 providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd  
9 like to provide a comment, please press 1, then 0 to  
10 add your name to the queue. Agency officials remain  
11 on the line to hear your comments.

12 **(No audio 02:31:55 to 02:35:43.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** This is Maryam Habibi, your  
14 facilitator.

15 Operator, it looks like we have another  
16 speaker.

17 **THE OPERATOR:** We do. One moment, please,  
18 as we gather their name.

19 And we do have a comment from Julian  
20 Matthews. Mr. Matthews, please go ahead.

21 **JULIAN MATTHEWS:** -- hunt, fish, and  
22 gather in this area and particularly along the Snake  
23 and Clearwater Rivers. And I really feel that dam  
24 breaching of the four lower Snake River dams, these  
25 should have been included in this DEIS because I

1 feel that our Treaty rights are really being  
2 violated.

3           And I think one thing with being a tribal  
4 member, we're not interested in how much money we  
5 can make off this resource off the water, off the  
6 dams, and the hydroelectric. And I think that's  
7 what they -- the Corps and the rest of them need to  
8 look at. Instead of who -- like, because I know  
9 I've attended other workshops or seminars where it's  
10 the wheat growers, the barge people, and the  
11 hydroelectric power. And all they -- to me, it  
12 seems like they just view this river as a commodity  
13 that they can all benefit and make money off of.

14           And I really don't feel it's equitable for  
15 the river and having those four lower Snake dams,  
16 particularly, that is helping us to continue our  
17 Treaty rights as we fish that river. And my  
18 ancestors fished it long before the wheat growers  
19 came here or the barge or the hydroelectric, the  
20 BPA, or even the federal government.

21           So I feel that breaching those four lower  
22 Snake River dams needs to be included in this DEIS  
23 and not to be catering to the people that are making  
24 money off this river, whoever they may be -- federal  
25 government, all the entities that are receiving BPA

1 revenues. I don't like that either because, to me,  
2 it's like selling off a piece of nature -- of mother  
3 nature that is being turned -- or has been turned  
4 into a commodity for entities to make money off it  
5 or use it as a money-making resource.

6 Thanks.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

8 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
9 For those who may have joined us, this is the public  
10 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft  
11 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment and  
12 have not done so, please press 1, then 0 to add your  
13 name to the queue. Agency officials from U.S. Army  
14 Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and  
15 Bonneville Power Administration are on the line to  
16 hear your comments.

17 Currently, there are no members of the  
18 public in line to provide comments. So we'll wait  
19 to see if anyone joins the call. I'll be back in a  
20 minute or two to check in.

21 **(No audio 02:38:46 to 02:40:43.)**

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, it looks like we  
23 have another caller.

24 **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. We do have a comment  
25 from Wanda Keefer. Ms. Keefer, please go ahead.

1           **MS. KEEFER:** Thank you. I'm offering  
2 comments as a private citizen of Clarkston,  
3 Washington. I want to thank the federal agencies  
4 and all their partners who worked so hard to  
5 complete this Draft EIS.

6           I am in full support of the preferred  
7 alternative. I have not studied the report fully,  
8 but I suspect that the detrimental economic impacts  
9 of dam removal are not fully addressed. I also  
10 suspect that the social impacts to communities like  
11 mine that have brought -- relied on river  
12 transportation may not be adequately factored in.

13           For over 100 years -- 150 years, excuse me  
14 -- people in my region have relied on the river for  
15 transportation, recreation, and irrigation, except  
16 for a short period of time of about 30 years.

17 Transport by steamers occurred continuously from the  
18 1860s to 1940. It was a short lapse, and dams began  
19 to be built and provided transportation in this area  
20 in the 1970s.

21           An important point I think that needs to be  
22 made: I do not think it was appropriate for Judge  
23 Michael Simon to mandate Snake dam removal as an  
24 alternative. The three federal agencies are being  
25 forced to address a much larger problem when their

1 mandate is to actually accomplish multiple  
2 objectives on a single river system. The agencies  
3 are not in a position to select which of those  
4 objectives or multiple purposes is important and  
5 which should be cast aside.

6 Reaching a goal of fish abundance requires  
7 solutions beyond the three agencies' authority. It  
8 requires climate change in the form of less, not  
9 more carbon emissions. And it requires cleaning up  
10 the ocean. The three agencies cannot require China  
11 to reduce carbon, nor can they keep third-world  
12 countries from casting plastics into the ocean,  
13 which eventually ends up in the food chains of all  
14 the iconic species that everyone wants to save.

15 We had outstanding fish returns in 2014  
16 when ocean conditions were better. These returns  
17 demonstrated that the fish can come and go, as they  
18 have since millennia. The lower numbers since 2014  
19 do not prove that passage got worse.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds  
21 remaining.

22 **MS. KEEFER:** The investments made since  
23 2014 should have improved the conditions. Something  
24 else is happening. That something else needs to be  
25 fixed. It needs to be fixed first. We can't bite a

1 silver bullet and say the dams are going to --  
2 removal is going to fix everything. It's only going  
3 to make it worse. Thank you.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

5 There are currently no other callers in  
6 the queue to provide comments.

7 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
8 For those who may have joined us, this is the public  
9 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft  
10 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment and  
11 have not done so, please press 1, then 0 to add your  
12 name to the queue. Agency officials from U.S. Army  
13 Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and  
14 Bonneville Power Administration are on the line to  
15 hear your comments.

16 We'll wait to see if others join and would  
17 like to provide comments.

18 **(No audio 02:44:40 to 02:49:46.)**

19 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
20 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
21 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
22 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
23 comment and have not already, please press 1, then 0  
24 to add your name to the queue. Agency officials  
25 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of

1 Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration  
2 remain on the line to hear your comments.

3           There are currently no callers listed in  
4 queue to provide comments. We'll remain on the line  
5 to see if anyone else joins.

6           **(No audio 02:50:22 to 02:54:53.)**

7           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
8 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
9 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
10 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
11 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to  
12 add your name to the queue. Agency officials from  
13 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation,  
14 and Bonneville Power Administration remain on the  
15 line to hear your comments.

16           **(No audio 02:55:16 to 02:57:30.)**

17           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
18 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
19 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
20 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
21 comment and have not done so already, please press  
22 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

23           It looks like we have one caller in the  
24 queue.

25           **THE OPERATOR:** All right. And we do have

1 a comment from Dr. Will Godfrey. Dr. Godfrey,  
2 please go ahead.

3 **DR. WILL GODFREY:** It's Dr. Will Godfrey,  
4 G-o-d-f-r-e-y. I'm from Lewiston.

5 I think the EIS, this bi-op, is totally  
6 inaccurate and totally useless. I can't believe  
7 that, after four years and some extensions, that we  
8 still have the same-old-same-old.

9 I have two points to make. The flex spill  
10 that they're talking about is something that's  
11 expanded in the EIS. Flex spills, I guess, we know  
12 do not do the job. Furthermore, as you look at the  
13 stages of the spill, we'll find that they will not  
14 do anything to improve the movement toward  
15 extinction of the salmon and steelhead. That -- I  
16 believe that's a true statement. I mean, we've seen  
17 that happen time and time again now. Furthermore,  
18 there's nothing to be said for what happens in 2021.  
19 That's wide open to spill or not to spill.

20 The bi-op, to me, is meaningless. It's  
21 kind of like doing the same thing over and over.  
22 And we've been doing it now, what, six times maybe  
23 since '94. If you do the same thing over and over  
24 and expect a different result, you must be crazy.  
25 And that's -- to me, this is doing nothing.

1 My second point in regard to the SARs and  
2 we know that they need to be taken very seriously  
3 because, if we don't get those SARs up in that 2 to  
4 6 percent on an annual basis that we are going to be  
5 in extinction mode. And we are, especially here in  
6 the upper Snake River area. We are because the SAR  
7 is 0.7 or even up to 1 percent. But when you have  
8 that kind of number, you know you're on your way up.

9 I don't say breaching dams is the only  
10 thing to do, but certainly it is the key thing to  
11 do. And I believe that we should do that. We have  
12 no other chance to save these fish. And in my  
13 lifetime, which is -- has only a short time to go,  
14 we're probably going to lose the fish. I'd hate to  
15 have my name attached to the fact that we lost  
16 salmon and steelhead. But the NOAA people, the NOAA  
17 fisheries people, and the management of the NOAA  
18 fisheries is headed in that direction. They will be  
19 known as the people that lost the steelhead and the  
20 salmon in the upper Snake River country. Thank you.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds.

22 All right. Thank you very much.

23 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
24 For those who may have joined us, this is a public  
25 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft

1 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment and  
2 have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to add your  
3 name to the queue. Agency officials from Army Corps  
4 of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville  
5 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your  
6 comments.

7 Currently, there are no people in the  
8 queue to provide comments. We'll remain on the line  
9 and check in shortly to see if anyone has joined.

10 **(No audio 03:01:45 to 03:05:58.)**

11 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
12 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
13 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
14 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
15 comment and have not done so already, please press  
16 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue. Agency  
17 officials from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau  
18 of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration  
19 remain on the line to hear your comments.

20 **(No audio 03:06:22 to 03:09:11.)**

21 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
22 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
23 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
24 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
25 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to

1 add your name to the queue. Agency officials from  
2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation,  
3 and Bonneville Power Administration remain on the  
4 line to hear your comments.

5 **(No audio 03:09:36 to 03:12:28.)**

6 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
7 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
8 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
9 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
10 comment and have not already, please press 1, then 0  
11 to add your name to the queue. Agency officials  
12 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of  
13 Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration  
14 remain on the line to hear your comments.

15 **(No audio 03:12:53 to 03:17:09.)**

16 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER:** Is anybody  
17 able to hear me?

18 **THE OPERATOR:** Your line --

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you,  
20 (indiscernible).

21 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER:** Okay. The  
22 chat function isn't working on the -- on Conference  
23 Monitor, for me, anyhow.

24 I'm going to go back on mute until you  
25 call me if you need me.

1                   **(No audio 03:17:32 to 03:17:53.)**

2                   **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
3 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
4 this is a public meeting for providing comments on  
5 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
6 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to  
7 add your name to the queue. Agency officials from  
8 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation,  
9 and Bonneville Power Administration remain on the  
10 line to hear your comments.

11                   We'll remain on mute until additional  
12 members join.

13                   **(No audio 03:18:26 to 03:24:22.)**

14                   **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
15 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,  
16 this is the public meeting for providing comments on  
17 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
18 comment and have not done so already, please press  
19 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue. Agency  
20 officials remain on the line to hear your comments.

21                   **(No audio 03:24:40 to 03:28:28.)**

22                   **THE OPERATOR:** And we do have --

23                   **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER:**

24 (Indiscernible).

25                   **THE OPERATOR:** And we do --

1           **PERRY JONES:** Hello?

2           **THE OPERATOR:** -- have a -- Perry Jones,  
3 your line is open.

4           **PERRY JONES:** Yes. I would like to share  
5 an experience my son and I had the year that the  
6 eclipse happened in Idaho. We went to an area of  
7 the Pahsimeroi Valley in Idaho, tributaries of the  
8 Salmon River. And we went to the hatchery, and I  
9 was quite stunned by the number of King salmon that  
10 were in that hatchery. And I -- you know, after  
11 listening to all the controversy over the dams, I'm  
12 thinking, well, they must be doing something right  
13 because there's a lot of salmon that are upstream of  
14 those dams. So I find it a little ironic that  
15 they're saying that there's no salmon getting  
16 upstream or very few in number. And the site we saw  
17 would fly in the face of that.

18           I run a fly fishing lodge in Montana, so  
19 I'm sensitive to fishing issues. And I can't -- I --  
20 - my picture is cut down the catch rate on the  
21 sports fishing, the commercial fishermen in the salt  
22 water, the tribes, and the take that they get, and  
23 let those fish go upstream utilizing the dams, the  
24 techniques that they're using on letting flow rates  
25 increase when the smolts are going up and just see

1 how good those runs can get before you start taking  
2 down dams and ruining the farming economy in Eastern  
3 Washington.

4           Anyway, that's my comment. Thank you so  
5 much for letting this happen.

6           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you for calling.

7           **PERRY JONES:** You bet.

8           **(No audio 03:30:21 to 03:32:07.)**

9           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
10 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who has joined us, this  
11 is a public meeting for providing comments on the  
12 CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd like to provide a comment  
13 and have not yet, please press 1-0 to add your name  
14 to the queue. Agency officials remain on the line  
15 to hear your comments.

16           **(No audio 03:32:26 to 03:33:20.)**

17           **THE OPERATOR:** And we do have someone that  
18 would like to share a comment, and that is Pamela  
19 Williams. Ms. Williams, please go ahead.

20           **PAMELA WILLIAMS:** -- full of salmon. And  
21 I think a lot of things have been tried along the  
22 same lines for decades now that are ineffective.

23           So I have to say that the only alternative  
24 that I can support is breach of all the dams. So  
25 what was identified as the preferred alternative is

1 pretty much business as usual, status quo. We know  
2 it's not going to solve the problem. Please revisit  
3 this.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

5 **PAMELA WILLIAMS:** Do you need any other  
6 information from me?

7 **MS. HABIBI:** No, thank you. Do you have  
8 any additional comments?

9 **PAMELA WILLIAMS:** Nope, just reiterations  
10 of what I just said. And I appreciate your taking  
11 the time to listen. Thank you.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

13 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
14 For anyone who may have joined us, this is a public  
15 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft  
16 EIS. If you'd like to provide a comment and have  
17 not yet, please press 1-0 to add your name to the  
18 queue. Agency officials remain on the line to hear  
19 your comments.

20 **(No audio 03:34:50 to 03:39:05.)**

21 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
22 Maryam Habibi. For those who have joined us, this  
23 is a public meeting for providing comments on the  
24 CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
25 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to

1 add your name to the queue. Agency officials remain  
2 on the line to hear your comments.

3 **(No audio 03:39:23 to 03:44:12.)**

4 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
5 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who have joined us, this  
6 is a public meeting for providing comments on the  
7 CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
8 comment and have not, please press 1, then 0 to add  
9 your name to the queue. Agency officials remain on  
10 the line to hear your comments.

11 **(No audio 03:44:29 to 03:48:18.)**

12 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
13 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who have joined us, this  
14 is a public meeting for providing comments on the  
15 CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a  
16 comment and have not yet, please press 1, then 0 to  
17 add your name to the queue. Agency officials remain  
18 on the line to hear your comments.

19 **(No audio 03:48:37 to 03:51:00.)**

20 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
21 Maryam Habibi. We have reached the end of our  
22 scheduled time. I'd like to thank all of you for  
23 your interest, time, and flexibility as we've  
24 listened to input today. We encourage you to share  
25 any additional comments you have through one of the

1 other methods described on the project website,  
2 www.crso.info.

3 I'll turn it over to Beth Coffey to close  
4 the meeting.

5 **MS. COFFEY:** Thank you to everybody that's  
6 called in this evening. We appreciate the feedback  
7 and your comments to our Draft EIS. And as we stated  
8 before, those comments will be incorporated into how  
9 we take this to the next step further with  
10 finalizing the EIS and addressing your comments and  
11 incorporating them into the final EIS. So thank you  
12 very much.

13 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** That concludes our -- go  
15 ahead, Operator.

16 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

17 And ladies and gentlemen, that does  
18 conclude our conference for today. Thank you for  
19 your participation and for using AT&T event  
20 conferencing service. You may now disconnect.

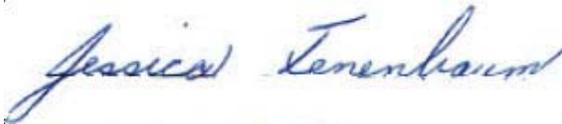
21 **(WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded.)**  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2  
3 I, Jessica Tenenbaum, do hereby certify that  
4 I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter  
5 and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a  
6 full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the  
7 best of my ability.

8  
9 I further certify that I am neither related  
10 to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any  
11 interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

12  
13 IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
14 hand this 8th day of April, 2020.

15  
16 

17  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Jessica Tenenbaum  
21  
22  
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25

\$	104:19	83:18	<b>02:54:53</b> 99:6
<b>\$1</b> 12:21	107:25	<b>02:01:05</b>	<b>02:55:16</b>
56:17	108:8	83:18	99:16
<b>\$17</b> 54:14	108:16	<b>02:01:23</b> 84:1	<b>02:57:30</b>
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<b>\$700</b> 28:17	<b>01:22:51</b>	<b>02:08:19</b> 87:7	<b>03:05:58</b>
	68:22	<b>02:09:31</b> 87:7	102:10
	<b>01:27:13</b>	<b>02:10:31</b> 88:6	<b>03:06:22</b>
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9:18	72:12	89:11	102:20
10:25	<b>01:29:41</b>	<b>02:18:19</b>	<b>03:09:36</b>
23:9	73:12	89:11	103:5
23:10	<b>01:30:30</b>	<b>02:18:56</b>	<b>03:12:28</b>
24:8	73:12	89:25	103:5
31:13 31:14	<b>01:41:40</b>	<b>02:22:07</b>	<b>03:12:53</b>
32:11 44:19	81:24	89:25	103:15
44:20 45:17	<b>01:44:39</b>	<b>02:26:34</b> 93:6	<b>03:17:09</b>
53:3 53:4	81:24	<b>02:31:41</b> 93:6	103:15
62:17 62:18	<b>01:44:59</b> 82:8	<b>02:31:55</b>	<b>03:17:32</b>
63:16 65:18	<b>01:47:00</b> 82:8	93:12	104:1
65:19	<b>01:47:20</b>	<b>02:35:43</b>	<b>03:17:53</b>
66:3 68:3	82:17	93:12	104:1
68:17 72:17	<b>01:50:38</b>	<b>02:38:46</b>	<b>03:18:26</b>
73:10	82:17	95:21	104:13
81:2 82:5	<b>01:50:57</b>	<b>02:40:43</b>	<b>03:24:22</b>
82:14 82:22	82:25	95:21	104:13
83:5	<b>01:52:45</b>	<b>02:44:40</b>	<b>03:24:40</b>
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85:11	<b>01:53:07</b>	<b>02:49:46</b>	<b>03:28:28</b>
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<b>03:32:26</b>	82:14 82:22	<b>127,000</b> 37:16	<b>1991</b> 78:9
106:16	83:5	<b>13</b> 26:14	<b>1992</b> 27:8
<b>03:33:20</b>	83:15 83:23	<b>14</b> 5:3	<b>1993</b> 47:6
106:16	85:11	<b>150</b> 96:13	47:16 55:18
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<b>03:44:12</b>	102:2	<b>1850s</b> 73:22	<b>2,000</b> 38:23
108:3	102:16	<b>1855</b> 60:22	<b>20</b> 21:7
<b>03:44:29</b>	102:25	61:5	26:7 54:15
108:3	103:10	61:16 61:20	<b>200</b> 77:17
<b>03:48:18</b>	104:6	64:2	<b>2000</b> 37:16
108:11	104:19	<b>1860s</b> 96:18	37:19 38:3
<b>03:48:18</b>	107:25	<b>1865</b> 73:24	<b>2001</b> 26:17
108:11	108:8	<b>1887</b> 74:2	26:19
<b>03:48:37</b>	108:16	<b>1900</b> 19:23	<b>2007</b> 37:12
108:19	<b>1,100</b> 35:21	<b>1924</b> 73:25	<b>2009</b> 37:17
<b>03:51:00</b>	<b>1,500</b> 18:15	74:1	37:20 38:3
108:19	<b>1.5</b> 26:13	<b>1935</b> 64:5	<b>2011</b> 19:12
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1	78:18	<b>1938</b> 37:15	24:18 26:11
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9:17 9:18	106:13	<b>1947</b> 37:15	<b>2015</b> 26:15
10:25 12:22	107:17	37:19	26:21 58:15
23:9	<b>100</b> 96:13	<b>1954</b> 37:4	<b>2016</b> 6:11
23:10	<b>100-mile</b>	<b>1955</b> 32:18	<b>2017</b> 36:7
24:8	77:18	<b>1970s</b> 96:20	<b>2019</b> 14:15
31:13 31:14	<b>10-county</b>	<b>1972</b> 19:15	<b>2020</b> 2:8 8:23
32:11 44:19	36:18		<b>2021</b> 100:18
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<b>20-day</b> 52:1	30:6 45:25	<b>85</b> 74:10	30:9
<b>24-hour</b> 14:21	<b>4,000</b> 61:18	74:19	<b>access</b> 58:9
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