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IN RE:

COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

PUBLIC MEETING

HELD BY
TELECONFERENCE ON
MARCH 18, 2020
4:00 P.M.



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8 **MARCH 18, 2020**

9 **4:00 P.M.**

10
11 **THE OPERATOR:** Welcome to the Columbia
12 River System Operations EIS Public Comments
13 Teleconference Call. Please go ahead.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Hello and welcome. I am
15 Maryam Habibi, and I will be your facilitator today.
16 We have scheduled these teleconferences to provide
17 opportunities for you to submit verbal comments
18 during the comment period for the Columbia River
19 System Operations Draft EIS. In a few minutes, I
20 will let you know how to indicate if you would like
21 to provide comments.

22 First, I'd like to introduce who will be
23 listening to your remarks today. We have deputies
24 representing the three agencies -- the U.S. Army
25 Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and

1 Bonneville Power Administration. We'll start with
2 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an overview of
3 the Draft EIS.

4 Beth?

5 **MS. COFFEY:** Thank you, Maryam.

6 My name is Beth Coffey, the Programs
7 Director for the Corps of Engineers Northwestern
8 Division. The Corps has the lead role on this
9 Environmental Impact Statement, and we appreciate
10 our working partnerships with the co-lead agencies,
11 Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of
12 Reclamation.

13 The Corps manages 12 out of the 14 dams
14 being analyzed in this Environmental Impact
15 Statement. These dams are operated for many
16 purposes, including flood risk management, power
17 production, and navigation.

18 We do understand the significance of this
19 Environmental Impact Statement on the individuals,
20 community, and the environment in the Pacific
21 Northwest. We appreciate you taking time to provide
22 verbal comments on the Environmental Impact
23 Statement over the phone.

24 Please know that, while you cannot see us,
25 my colleagues and I will listen to all of your

1 comments and consider all of them, whether verbal or
2 written, as we proceed to the final Environmental
3 Impact Statement.

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

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

22 Recognizing the system effects and the
23 many regional interests in the Columbia River
24 System, we made it a priority to listen to and
25 consider all the viewpoints. And from regional

1 input and analysis and other information, we
2 developed objectives focused on improvements for
3 fish migration, survival, power supply, greenhouse
4 gas emissions, operating flexibility, and water
5 supply.

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

12 One alternative is the no action
13 alternative. This is essentially the way the system
14 was running at the beginning of the EIS in 2016, and
15 it provides us with a baseline from which we can
16 compare the other alternatives.

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

23 Multiple Objective 2 was developed to
24 increase hydropower production and reduce regional
25 greenhouse gas emission with a focus on low-carbon

1 emissions, and it would provide spill at 8 dams to
2 110 percent total dissolved gas. It was also
3 intended to benefit lamprey and endangered salmon
4 while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to
5 other authorized project purposes.

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

12 Multiple Objective 4 focused on high-spill
13 operations (indiscernible) 25 percent total
14 dissolved gas to decrease migration time of juvenile
15 anadromous fish with measures for water management
16 flexibility, hydropower production, and additional
17 water supply for fish flows while avoiding or
18 minimizing adverse impacts to other authorized
19 purposes.

20 Our analysis show that while these
21 alternatives meet the purposes and objectives of the
22 system to varying degrees and with varying levels of
23 beneficial and adverse effects, to improve what we
24 learned, we selected a combination of measures from
25 the alternatives to develop the preferred

1 alternative. The operational, maintenance, and
2 structural measures in the preferred alternative
3 will allow us to meet the intent of the EIS, and it
4 balances multiple, sometimes competing river
5 resource needs, Congressionally authorized purposes,
6 and the agencies' mission.

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

21 We will review all comments and consider
22 substantive input as we develop the final EIS. We
23 will publish the final EIS, including responses to
24 the substantive comments, this summer, and we will
25 issue Records of Decision by September 30th of 2020.

1 I recognize this is a very brief overview
2 and encourage you to read the Executive Summary for
3 more detailed information and read the EIS chapters
4 to build a greater understanding of this work, the
5 outcomes, and to inform your comments. We
6 appreciate you taking time to join us on the phone
7 today, and we look forward to receiving your input.

8 I will turn this over to Roland Springer.

9 **MR. SPRINGER:** Thank you, Beth.

10 Good evening, everyone. My name is Roland
11 Springer. I am the Bureau of Reclamation's Deputy
12 Regional Director for Resources in the Columbia
13 Pacific Northwest Region.

14 Reclamation owns and operates two dams
15 that are being analyzed as part of the Environmental
16 Impact Statement, namely, Grand Coulee Dam in
17 Washington and Hungry Horse Dam in Montana. These
18 facilities are used for irrigation, power
19 generation, and flood control.

20 Reclamation's mission is to manage,
21 develop, and protect water and related resources in
22 an environmentally and economically sound manner in
23 the interest of the American public. This
24 Environmental Impact Statement is a very important
25 part of our mission. I appreciate this opportunity

1 to listen to your comments, and I thank you for
2 calling in this evening.

3 Now I will turn it over to Scott.

4 **MR. ARMENTROUT:** Thanks, Roland.

5 My name is Scott Armentrout. I really
6 appreciate everybody taking the time tonight to
7 provide us with some information. I am Bonneville
8 Power Administration's Executive Vice President for
9 Environment of Fish and Wildlife. The Bonneville
10 Power Administration transmits the power produced at
11 the Army Corps and Reclamation facilities. And I
12 really look forward to hearing your comments today.

13 At this point, I'm going to turn it back
14 over to our facilitator, Maryam.

15 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you, Scott.

16 We're now ready to begin hearing from
17 those who have called in. As you indicate -- if you
18 would like to provide a public comment, we'll pause
19 while we take your names and add your lines to enter
20 a queue. So if you would like to make a comment,
21 please press 1, then 0 now.

22 As a reminder, if you would like to make a
23 comment, please press 1, then 0. Pressing 1 and 0
24 again will remove you from the queue.

25 Agency officials that you just heard from

1 will remain on the line for the entire call to hear
2 all of your comments. Though we will not be
3 responding to questions or comments today or
4 providing any additional presentations, the agencies
5 welcome and will consider your comments in
6 developing the final EIS, which Beth mentioned will
7 be released this summer.

8 All comments provided during this
9 teleconference will be recorded, transcribed, and
10 submitted to the record for the Draft EIS. Any
11 personal information you share on the call will
12 become public. Everyone listening on the call will
13 be able to hear your remarks.

14 Our operator will state your full name
15 when your line is open. Each speaker will have
16 three minutes to provide their comments. I will
17 notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining. At
18 that time, you'll hear me interrupt and say 30
19 seconds remaining.

20 If you do not wish to use your full three
21 minutes, you may let us know that you would like to
22 yield your remaining time. When three minutes have
23 passed, I'll interrupt, and Operator will mute your
24 line to prepare for the next caller if you're not
25 wrapping up.

1 If you're sharing a phone with someone,
2 please let us know before you begin your comments so
3 that we can move the second speaker -- move to the
4 second speaker after the first is finished.

5 Currently, we have seven callers that have
6 indicated they would like to provide comments. As a
7 reminder, you may press 1-0 at any time to join the
8 queue to provide a comment.

9 Operator, we're now ready for the first
10 speaker.

11 **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. We will be making
12 adjustments as we go along, but our first question
13 comes from the line of Marcellene H. Please go
14 ahead.

15 **MARCELLENE H.:** Thank you.

16 My late husband, Terrill Davis, was on the
17 Grand Coulee Power Authority and on the South
18 Columbia Basin District Irrigation Board. His
19 father was on the original South Columbia Basin
20 Irrigation District Board, Vaughn Davis. My husband
21 went to Washington, D.C., and many other places, but
22 to Washington, D.C., to give testimony on this very
23 question of protecting our water and dams here in
24 the West.

25 I just want to say that, unless the desire

1 is to see all of us go back to natural, native
2 grasses and dirt and sagebrush and whatever, the
3 water is life. As one of the Bonneville Power films
4 earlier stated, water is life out here for us. This
5 provides jobs. It provides farms. It provides
6 water for wildlife as well as domestic animals.
7 This is not a cash cow for those that want to do
8 something else with it.

9 The dams have been important from the
10 beginning here. All of these farms in the Columbia
11 Basin Project came because of Grand Coulee Dam. And
12 all of the other dams have been needed for the areas
13 that they were in, and they are still needed.

14 I love salmon. I love to eat salmon. I
15 realize that salmon is very special to our Native
16 population. But if we have to do without salmon or
17 dams, then I would have to say we have to do without
18 salmon because this -- the dams provide life and
19 jobs and a whole spectrum of community that can't
20 just be covered by salmon.

21 I have a relative that works on the -- for
22 the Grant County dams and Bonneville dams and
23 whatever now. We have been very deeply involved in
24 this from the beginning. My father-in-law's brother
25 was with the Bureau of Reclamation.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
2 remaining.

3 **MARCELLENE H.:** I just say that the need
4 is as great for this water today as it was when they
5 built the dams.

6 Thank you for listening. I give the rest
7 of my time.

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

9 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
10 caller.

11 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
12 the line of Sam Mace. Please go ahead.

13 **SAM MACE:** Hello. Thanks for the time.
14 Yeah. My name is Sam Mace. I'm the Inland
15 Northwest Director for the Save Our Wild Salmon
16 Coalition, which represents conservation groups,
17 sport fishing businesses and groups, commercial
18 fishing associations all working to restore wild
19 salmon and steelhead into the Columbia and Snake
20 Rivers.

21 You know, I'd also mention I grew up in a
22 fishing town, rural fishing town here in the
23 Northwest, where salmon and steelhead are important
24 to our community for jobs, for food, and also for
25 recreation, family recreation. So I get how deeply

1 important these fisheries are to our rural
2 communities. You know, I've lived in Eastern
3 Washington now for 25 years and also understand the
4 value -- the importance that the lower Snake River
5 dam system plays for shippers and others that are --
6 depend on them.

7 But it's really disappointing how deeply
8 flawed this whole DEIS is, both in its baseline
9 analysis and assumptions, both on the science and
10 the economics, and its failure to put forward an
11 alternative that really -- and put as preferred
12 alternative one that looks at protecting all our
13 rural communities, maintaining and enhancing our
14 farming communities as well as our fishing-dependent
15 communities. And it really fails on that.

16 Instead, it's just kicking a can down the
17 road with actions and proposals that are the same
18 thing we've been doing for the last 20 years, 30
19 years that have not stored our salmon. And until we
20 solve that issue, our orcas are going to be at risk
21 as well as fishing communities and our farming
22 communities over here where I now live that are
23 relying on the current -- you know, the current
24 status quo.

25 You know, instead, what would be great to

1 see is some proposals put forward that look at
2 restoring the lower Snake River, bringing our salmon
3 and steelhead back to help those communities in
4 Idaho and elsewhere that have been hit so hard by
5 the loss of salmon and steelhead, jobs lost, you
6 know, economies hit down by the knees, and, instead,
7 put forth a proposal that looks at what could the
8 future be --

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

11 **SAM MACE:** There are other -- you know,
12 the fish only have one river to get up and down.
13 Science says that dam removal is the single best
14 action we can take to restore those fish, including
15 this EIS says that. You know, let's look at the
16 affordable options that are out there to keep
17 getting goods to market, to having affordable
18 energy, and maintaining our fishing economy here in
19 the Northwest.

20 Thank you.

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

22 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
23 commenter.

24 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next commenter -- and,
25 again, we apologize for not recording the last name

1 -- it's for Bob R. The next comment comes from Bob
2 R. Please go ahead.

3 **BOB REES:** Hi. My name is Bob Rees. I'm
4 representing the Northwest Guides and Anglers
5 Association as Executive Director.

6 Our association represents 58 professional
7 fishing guides and charter operations in the Pacific
8 Northwest. Collectively, we prosecute tens of
9 thousands of fishing trips every year in the waters
10 of Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho.

11 Our businesses have suffered a measurable
12 loss due to combined crushing blows of lethal water
13 temperatures, unprecedentedly poor ocean conditions,
14 and a river that is detrimental to the life cycle of
15 Pacific salmon. We are truly at a crossroads.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to comment
17 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for
18 Columbia River Operations. As you might interpret
19 from my introduction, Columbia River Operations are
20 failing fish and compromising the small rural
21 communities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho that
22 rely on sport fishing as a means of making a living.

23 There is no such thing as a full-time
24 fishing guide any longer, as I used to be for well
25 over two decades of my life. Once again, our sport

1 fisheries will be directly curtailed with Snake
2 River salmon, the most constraining stock of fish
3 that will keep our boats dry-docked for much of
4 2020. Our businesses will not sustain another
5 season of compromised opportunity.

6 I had to relocate to Portland from the
7 North Oregon Coast, upend my daughter's education,
8 and ask my wife to get a job to enable our ends to
9 meet. This has been a major upheaval in our lives
10 with no sign of reprieve.

11 As we've seen with the onslaught of the
12 coronavirus, our government's role is to bring
13 people together to find community solutions to deal
14 with the crisis at hand. The federal government has
15 had two decades and several federal lawsuits to get
16 it right, but the salmon crisis remains as an
17 obstacle to robust rural commerce and propagates an
18 adversarial environment between neighbors in our
19 rural communities.

20 The current DEIS does much of the same
21 and, most importantly, continues the trajectory of
22 extinction of wild salmon forever from the Columbia
23 River Basin. This is something we simply cannot
24 accept as a society.

25 In the case of this DEIS --

1 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
2 remaining.

3 **BOB REES:** -- it's clear that we need our
4 Northwest policymakers to foster a process that
5 brings together our region's stakeholders to have a
6 meaningful discussion and come to a collaborative
7 solution that works for farmers, fishermen, and
8 maintains a reliable energy grid for our
9 communities.

10 Thank you.

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

12 Before we move to our next caller, I'd
13 like to take a moment to welcome anyone who is new
14 to the call.

15 My name is Maryam Habibi. I'm your
16 facilitator for this meeting. This is a public
17 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
18 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
19 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.
20 Pressing 1-0 again would remove you from the queue.

21 Agency officials remain on the line to
22 hear all your comments. Though we are not
23 responding to questions or comments during this
24 meeting or providing additional presentations, the
25 agencies welcome and will consider your comments in

1 developing the final EIS, which is to be released
2 this summer.

3 If you do provide a comment, you are
4 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.
5 As a reminder, you may press 1, then 0 to add your
6 name to the queue to provide a comment.

7 We currently have six callers in the
8 queue.

9 Operator, we're ready to go to our next
10 caller.

11 **THE OPERATOR:** And our next comments come
12 from the line of Nicholas Garcia. Please go ahead.

13 **NICHOLAS GARCIA:** Hello. My name is
14 Nicholas Garcia. I'm here on behalf of the
15 Washington Public Utility Districts Association.
16 Members of my association provide low-carbon
17 electricity to about 2.5 million people in
18 Washington State.

19 We have a technical question about the
20 EIS. Specifically, we want to better understand the
21 criteria you used to evaluate whether an alternative
22 met the -- one of the fundamental objectives. And
23 for example, the preferred alternative was indicated
24 to meet -- that provides reliable and economic power
25 supply. But this is despite the fact that it has a

1 160-megawatt decrease in the amount of power
2 production, and we don't understand how the
3 conclusion was made that it met the standard,
4 despite the reduction in power production.

5 A similar question rolls around the
6 emissions of carbon. The -- it -- the EIS indicates
7 that it marginally met -- the preferred alternative
8 marginally met the carbon reduction goal. However,
9 carbon emissions would go up under the preferred
10 alternative. So we don't understand just how the
11 criteria was applied and that particular conclusion
12 was made.

13 Thank you.

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

15 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
16 caller.

17 **THE OPERATOR:** And our comments come next
18 from the line of Scott Simons. Scott Simons, your
19 line is open.

20 **SCOTT SIMMS:** Thank you.

21 It's actually -- good afternoon. My name
22 is Scott Simms, and I am the Executive Director of
23 the Public Power Council, or PPC. I was born,
24 raised, and educated in Washington State and come to
25 you today from Portland, Oregon.

1 PPC is the largest regional association of
2 nonprofit, consumer-owned utilities in communities
3 large and small across the Pacific Northwest States
4 of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and a portion
5 of Nevada, who are served by the Bonneville Power
6 Administration. A supplier of predominantly clean,
7 renewable hydropower to millions of Northwest
8 citizens, our member utilities serve a very diverse
9 population of people with differing backgrounds,
10 beliefs, ideals, and aspirations. In other words,
11 we view this Draft EIS not from a silo, or as a
12 single-issue group. We view this Draft EIS as a
13 collective that works to balance environmental
14 ideals, economic objectives, and what is fast
15 becoming a basic human service in our modern
16 economy, reliable and affordable electricity.

17 The Public Power Council believes that the
18 preferred alternative in the Draft EIS is an attempt
19 by the federal agencies to channel many societal
20 demands into actionable strategies for future
21 Columbia River Basin operations. Northwest Public
22 Power rate payers have a sterling track record of
23 paying for its fair share of federal hydro
24 mitigation responsibility. In fact, one can argue
25 these investments have included quality-of-life

1 benefits and positive environmental and commerce
2 benefits that reach beyond our mitigation
3 obligation. Yes, hatcheries, habitat, hydro, and
4 harvest -- we have funded, and are still funding,
5 all of the Hs.

6 We in Public Power remain committed to
7 upholding our fair share of the mitigation cost in
8 the Basin. But the key words here are "fair share."
9 The preferred alternative in this Draft EIS advances
10 a number of proposed changes in system operation.
11 Our comment is that any new costs resulting from
12 these proposed actions should be equitably allocated
13 and not borne exclusively by BPA's Public Power
14 customers.

15 Specifically, to the extent the preferred
16 alternative results in additional costs allocated
17 entirely to Public Power, it is time to find ways to
18 build on existing federal law to more broadly share
19 these regional costs. Not only is it appropriate to
20 equitably align cost responsibility with public
21 benefits, but doing so also recognizes the region's
22 shared stake in both fish recovery and the financial
23 health of BPA.

24 Again, the Draft EIS is a starting point,
25 and it creates an opinion for parties to find

1 tangible measures to fund the cost impacts of these
2 operation's changes rather than the usual default of
3 sending the cost straight to the hard-working men
4 and women who pay their bills to community-owned
5 Northwest Public Power utilities.

6 We also want to state for the record today
7 that the public comment process and opportunity to -
8 -

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

11 **MR. SIMONS:** -- yep -- for this Draft EIS
12 are sufficient, even with recent changes forced by
13 completely unforeseen impacts of the global
14 coronavirus pandemic. The federal agencies have
15 given sufficient notice and have been transparent
16 and available to all stakeholders in the period
17 leading up to the release of the Draft EIS as well
18 as after its release. There are a variety of
19 channels available for public comments to be shared,
20 whether parties are local, regional, national, or
21 international.

22 Thank you for the opportunity.

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

24 Before we move to our next caller, I would
25 just like to take this time to remind you how to

1 participate.

2 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
3 For anyone who may have joined us, this is a public
4 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
5 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
6 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.
7 Pressing 1-0 again will remove you from the queue.

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

15 If you do provide a comment, you are
16 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

17 We currently have four participants in the
18 queue to provide comments. Again, if you'd like to
19 provide a comment, you may press 1, then 0 to add
20 your name to the queue.

21 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
22 caller.

23 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
24 the line of Randy Haidus (sic). Again, our next
25 comment comes from the line of Randy Haidus. Mr.

1 Haidus, your line is open.

2 **RANDY HAYDEN:** Thank you.

3 It's Randy Hayden, and I am the Executive
4 Director of the Port of Pasco. The Port of Pasco is
5 a public Port authority in Washington State managing
6 industrial parks, multimodal transportation assets
7 to facilitate commerce, and promoting economic
8 development. We appreciate the opportunity to
9 provide comments and are in support of the preferred
10 alternative identified in the CRSO Draft EIS.

11 The preferred alternative provides a
12 balanced approach to the many important uses of our
13 river system and avoids the extreme measure of dam
14 breaching. Dam breaching would be devastating to
15 Franklin County and the Tri-Cities, which rely
16 heavily on the clean power, irrigation supply, and
17 navigable waters of the Columbia-Snake hydropower
18 system. Dams are essential to providing power that
19 runs the pumps that provide water for our crops and
20 power to run the plants that turn those crops into
21 food for people across the U.S. and the world. The
22 Tri-Cities, in particular, is heavily reliant on the
23 power supply by Ice Harbor Dam and would experience
24 seasonal brown-outs if the dam was removed.

25 Thank you for the chance to provide

1 comments.

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

3 Operator, we're ready to move to our next
4 caller.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes
6 from the line of David Ortman. David Ortman, your
7 line is open.

8 **DAVID ORTMAN:** Thank you.

9 My name is David Ortman in Seattle,
10 Washington. I'm still a dryland farmer with
11 farmland in South Dakota where my family has been
12 farming since before South Dakota or Washington was
13 even a state. And after moving here four decades
14 ago, I was astounded at the amount of taxpayer
15 subsidies that has gone into the Columbia Basin,
16 which is competitively running a disadvantage with
17 people who do not get those subsidies elsewhere in
18 the country.

19 The Corps, the Bureau, BPA have
20 continually been found to be in violation of the law
21 by failing to comply with the Endangered Species Act
22 or NEPA's requirements to consider alternatives.
23 This is not a partnership. It's a conspiracy. It's
24 the same conspiracy that Don Hodel and the BPA
25 foisted, or tried to foist, on this region in the

1 1970s by promoting 30 new nuclear coal-fire plants
2 for a never-ending supply of energy for nonexistent
3 needs.

4 I'm strongly supporting removal or
5 breaching of the lower four Snake River dams, which
6 are one of the principal impediments to restoring
7 Columbia River salmon. It's astounding how siloed
8 the Corps, the Bureau, and BPA continue to be. A
9 search of the DEIS chapters has not turned up any
10 analysis, for example, of the Columbia River Systems
11 Operation on the Yakima River. Yet we know that,
12 partially due to the lower Snake River dams,
13 excessively high temperatures of lower Columbia
14 killed off returning sockeye in 2015 as well as in
15 2018 when the lower Yakima River itself had observed
16 12 80-degree days in July.

17 Currently, the Bureau of Reclamation is
18 spending well over \$80 million on experimental fish
19 passage facilities at the Cle Elum Dam in the Yakima
20 Basin, which may be doomed if the Columbia River
21 Systems Operation maintains the status quo by
22 keeping fish-killing dams in place, which help raise
23 water temperatures to lethal levels.

24 According to a 2003 EPA study, the lower
25 four Snake River dams have a major impact on

1 temperature. Together, these four dams can raise
2 the Snake River's temperature by two to four degrees
3 Fahrenheit, which certainly does not help the
4 impediment of temperature down in the lower Columbia
5 either.

6 In summary, the Snake River dam removal
7 alternative should be selected, or the agencies will
8 face charges of wastage of millions of dollars of
9 taxpayer money for a fish passage project at Lake
10 Cle Elum that will fail to work for failure of
11 returning sockeye.

12 Thank you. And there will be written
13 comments submitted as well. End of my time. Thank
14 you.

15 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

16 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
17 caller.

18 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comments come from
19 the line of Michael Gonzalez. Michael Gonzalez,
20 your line is now open.

21 **MIKE GONZALEZ:** Thank you. My name is
22 Mike Gonzalez. I'm the Senior Public Affairs
23 Manager at Franklin PUD.

24 Before I begin, I want to say to the
25 Umatilla, Warm Springs, the Nez Perce, and Yakima

1 Tribes we know what the rivers mean to your people.
2 I use these words with the greatest respect to your
3 culture. Wy-kan-ush-pum. We are all salmon people.

4 I want you to know that Franklin PUD
5 stands with you. We are committed to being your
6 partners in finding ways to help restore healthy
7 fish populations to the Columbia River Basin.

8 For us in Franklin County, keeping those
9 dams in place is not just a matter of delivering
10 low-cost power for our customers. It's a matter of
11 social justice. This is not just about the here and
12 now. It's about our economic future as a county and
13 region.

14 As Washingtonians deal with the
15 coronavirus and the ripple effects it's having on
16 business, education, and daily life, reliable power
17 is needed more than ever to deal with this crisis.
18 As hundreds are quarantined in hospitals with COVID-
19 19 and thousands of school children are staying
20 home, the importance of all these dams becomes more
21 clear than ever.

22 If the dams were breached, we expect the
23 cost of power to increase as much as 30, 40 percent.
24 That would be devastating in a county where many
25 residents are on strict budgets and considered low

1 income. Seventy percent of our customers are
2 Hispanic. For nearly 30 percent, English is a
3 second language. Many have moved to our country and
4 county to follow their family members who are
5 pursuing the American dream.

6 The lower Snake River dams provide jobs,
7 economic vitality, and, most importantly,
8 opportunity. Our residents have a long history in
9 the farming industry. From the wheat fields of
10 Connell to the sprawling farms of Kahlotus, they
11 provide much-needed labor and economic stability to
12 Franklin County.

13 The downtown Pasco core is bustling with
14 small business owners where the margins are slim,
15 and stable energy prices are the key to a healthy
16 economy.

17 The Pasco School District is our fifth-
18 largest customer. They spend nearly \$2 million a
19 year on power. If rates rise 20 to 30 percent,
20 that's an additional 400 to \$600,000 not going
21 towards education in a school district where more
22 than 70 percent of the students are Hispanic and
23 nearly half are considered low income.

24 In my district, family-owned farms work
25 long hours to provide food for our nation while

1 thousands of hard-working Hispanic families strive
2 for a better life. We believe keeping the dams in
3 place gives our kids, our customers, and our
4 constituents a better chance at a brighter future.

5 Thank you very much.

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

7 Before we move to our next caller, I'd
8 like to take a moment.

9 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
10 For those who may have joined us, this is a public
11 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
12 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
13 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.
14 Pressing 1-0 again would remove you from the queue.

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

22 If you do provide a comment, you are
23 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.
24 Again, if you'd like to make a comment, please press
25 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

1 Currently, we have three callers queued.
2 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
3 caller.

4 **THE OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes
5 from the line of Kurt Miller. Kurt Miller, your
6 line is open.

7 **KURT MILLER:** Hi. Thank you so much for
8 this opportunity. My name is Kurt Miller. I'm the
9 Executive Director for Northwest River Partners.
10 We serve not-for-profit community-owned
11 utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and
12 Wyoming. And we proudly represent members who
13 support clean energy, low-carbon transportation, and
14 agricultural jobs. Our mission is to help the
15 Northwest reach its clean energy goals in an
16 affordable way that is inclusive of vulnerable
17 communities and affordable and accessible to all.

18 I, again, appreciate this opportunity to
19 comment, and I have some less formal comments that I
20 have made in the past. But I did want to address
21 some of the things that we've been hearing.

22 First of all, it's really important for
23 people to understand that the National Environmental
24 Policy Act does not call for just one factor to be
25 maximized -- for instance, to save salmon at the

1 expense of all other things. It actually requires
2 by statute a balanced approach that looks at fish
3 and wildlife, communities, and then the environment.
4 And we do appreciate that this need for process
5 which produced this Draft Environmental Impact
6 Statement does strive to balance those things.

7 It does -- you know, the DEIS does
8 demonstrate, or does say, that if one wanted only to
9 maximize salmon returns, that breaching the lower
10 Snake River dams would be the solution. But it also
11 rightly points out the tremendous societal and
12 socioeconomic cost of taking that route for some
13 uncertain benefits in terms of how much salmon would
14 actually benefit from those measures.

15 As we've talked about before, the DEIS
16 shows that there would be a billion-dollar a year --
17 that's a billion with a B -- per-year increase in
18 electricity cost if we tried to replace the lower
19 Snake River dams with a carbon-free portfolio that
20 would equate to, as Mr. Gonzalez said before,
21 perhaps as much as a 30 or 40 percent increase to
22 some utility customers. But on average, we're
23 guessing about 25 percent. So it's very important
24 to remember that balance is key in this analysis.

25 The other thing we definitely would like

1 to bring up is the issue of the climate crisis. A
2 person has to ask themselves does pulling out 1,100
3 average megawatts of carbon-free affordable
4 electricity make sense at a time of climate crisis
5 when the ocean actually is probably the biggest
6 enemy of salmon around the world.

7 I attended the North Pacific Anadromous
8 Fish Commission Scientific Conference in Portland
9 last year. And scientists from around the world
10 were saying that, other than pink salmon, that
11 salmon populations were falling at a precipitous
12 decline rate. They all agreed on this fact, and
13 we're seeing that bear out in other science. So if
14 --

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

17 **KURT MILLER:** If -- thank you.

18 If climate change is really the enemy,
19 then pulling out the lower Snake River dams is
20 actually short-sighted and possibly a step in the
21 wrong direction.

22 Lastly, we just want to address the issue
23 of river temperature, which there is one study from
24 the EPA that says that the dams raise river
25 temperatures. But there is a peer-reviewed science

1 study from 2002 developed by PNNL that says that the
2 dams actually --

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time is --

4 **KURT MILLER:** -- help mitigate
5 temperatures.

6 Thank you so much.

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

8 Operator, we're ready to move to the next
9 caller.

10 **THE OPERATOR:** And our next comments come
11 from the line of Laurie Goff (phonetic). Laurie
12 Goff, your line is open.

13 **LAURIE GOFF:** Hi. My name is Laurie Goff,
14 and I'm a citizen of the Tri-Cities, resident. And
15 I've also been a Washington State resident for over
16 32 years.

17 I come to this call requesting you to
18 breach the lower four Snake River dams for the main
19 reason that it is causing the salmon decline.
20 Breaching the dams offers the best opportunity to
21 recover Snake River wild salmon. There is neither
22 enough time, nor any more studies that is -- or need
23 of the southern resident orcas or salmon before
24 breaching begins. We know that the salmon need the
25 free-flowing Snake River and the orcas need food.

1 Many people in Eastern Washington don't
2 understand the impact that the dams have on limiting
3 the salmon runs and the impact that they have on the
4 orca population, which are starving and dying every
5 day.

6 The last opportunity for us to stop
7 wasting hundreds of millions of dollars each year in
8 futile fish recovery efforts in the Snake River
9 Basin, beginning recovery for the largest historical
10 source of prey for the Pacific Northwest endangered
11 southern resident orcas listed by NOAA in 2015 is
12 one of the eight species most in danger of going
13 extinct in the near future if action is not taken
14 immediately. The preferred prey is Chinook salmon,
15 historically coming from the Snake River Basin.
16 Creating the largest watershed restoration in North
17 America by breaching the dams is an incredible
18 environmental legacy of our state.

19 Governor Inslee has already supported the
20 breaching of the dams and has called together a task
21 force, which meant and -- met last year and
22 recommended the breaching of the dams. What's
23 holding this up is business and business as usual,
24 which just has to stop. This is ridiculous.

25 The real issue for BPA is no longer

1 whether threatened or endangered fish can avoid
2 extinction, but whether BPA can survive and, thus,
3 meet this vast public responsibilities, including
4 wild fish recovery. The Columbia and Snake
5 threatened the endangered salmon and steelhead and
6 the resident orcas of the Salish liver -- Salish
7 Sea. Only major changes will ensure BPA's survival.

8 I invite you, if you have not already, to
9 visit Sacajawea State Park in Pasco, Washington,
10 where you can observe the confluence of the Snake --

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

13 **LAURIE GOFF:** -- and Columbia Rivers. You
14 can visit the confluence of the Snake and Columbia
15 Rivers. And there's an interpretive center where
16 you can learn about the indigenous cultures and how
17 important of -- the salmon runs were to that
18 culture. There were hundreds and thousands of
19 salmon in the Snake River. Now there are very few,
20 and we have -- time is running out.

21 I applaud you for efforts to have this
22 task force, Governor Inslee, but it is time to act
23 and stop listening to the business people who are
24 only concerned about their jurisdictions.

25 Thank you.

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

2 At this time, I'll take a moment to
3 welcome anyone who has joined us since we began
4 taking comments.

5 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
6 For those of you who may have joined us, this is a
7 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO
8 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment,
9 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the
10 queue. Pressing 1-0 again would remove you from the
11 queue.

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

19 If you do provide a comment, you're
20 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

21 Currently, we have no callers queued. I
22 would ask if anyone likes -- would like to provide a
23 public comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your
24 name.

25 It looks like we have a few more people

1 who are queuing to speak.

2 Operator, when you're ready, we'll take
3 the next call.

4 **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. And we have
5 commenters who are queuing up right now. We'll have
6 somebody in just a moment.

7 Okay. And we have a comment from the line
8 of Amy Grondin. Amy Grondin, please go ahead.

9 **AMY GRONDIN:** Okay. Hello. My name is
10 Amy Grondin. I'm a commercial salmon fisherman, and
11 I live in Port Townsend, Washington, on the Olympic
12 Peninsula.

13 Salmon and steelhead has been in decline
14 since the four lower Snake Rivers went -- dams went
15 in. The same decline has been mirrored in the
16 coastal communities of Washington State. Commercial
17 fishermen that live there have been struggling for
18 decades as well. In the early '70s, there were
19 3,041 boats working in the -- in ocean salmon
20 fisheries. By 2018, that number had dropped to 102
21 boats.

22 In economic terms, the fishing communities
23 over that same time period lost 90 percent of their
24 economic opportunities. It's really, really been
25 difficult to make a living. There is nothing in

1 this industry that is a sure thing. It's something
2 that we share in common with farmers, is that we
3 deal with the winds and the weather and whatever it
4 gives us. Sometimes we can work, and sometimes we
5 can't.

6 Salmon fishing permits can only be owned
7 by individuals and not big business. We are all
8 small-scale family businesses that produce food for
9 other people. I think that people often forget that
10 there is a large pool of communities in west of
11 Seattle. And some of those places that are on the
12 coast, it takes six hours to get to from Seattle.

13 We don't have the option to work for
14 Amazon or Google. The salmon are the economic
15 drivers that our blue-collar communities need.
16 Timber was there a while ago, and now it's in a
17 limited access. There's not much of that going on.
18 So without having salmon jobs, we're really
19 struggling. And we only have those jobs probably
20 about six to nine months out of the year because,
21 when the weather's bad, we can't get out on the
22 water.

23 The latest EIS fails to protect salmon and
24 meet the needs of our community. So I think the
25 farming communities as well as our fishing

1 communities are really tired of farmers and
2 fishermen being pitted against each other. It's
3 like a reality TV show or something, and the media
4 has nothing better than to do than to, like, see who
5 they can, yeah, make the winner this week. We
6 really need to get to a place where we have winners
7 -- more winners and not a winner-lower scenario.

8 People need to come together to develop
9 real -- work for all of us, recover healthy salmon
10 populations, and meet the needs of all the
11 communities and support a reliable and affordable
12 energy system that, you know, doesn't block salmon.

13 We can do this if our Northwest
14 policymakers help us come together and lead us in
15 working with all the stakeholders and the sovereigns
16 to solve problems. We'll recover salmon. We'll
17 bring people forward together. Commercial fishermen
18 and farmers, you know, it sounds funny. It's like,
19 I catch salmon and we eat it, but I need wine and
20 vegetables and bread to make a meal. And I can't do
21 that because I'm out on the water. So I need
22 farmers.

23 And I think I heard someone on the line
24 say they like to eat salmon, too. We really have a
25 lot more in common than we do different. And it's

1 just about --

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

4 **AMY GRONDIN:** We need to come together,
5 break the bad cycle that the DEIS has put us in
6 because nobody's winning. We're just wasting money
7 and losing salmon. We need to make something happen
8 now. Our leaders need to help us get out of this.

9 Thank you.

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

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

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
13 the line of Ginger Wireman. Ginger Wireman, your
14 line is open.

15 **GINGER WIREMAN:** Thank you. And thank you
16 for conducting this online.

17 I'm glad I'm late in the queue because
18 I've had a lot to listen to. And the last caller
19 talked about the loss of nearly 3,000 commercial
20 fishermen, small fishing families from our
21 Washington coast. I live in Richland. I vacation
22 in Westport. Seeing the decline of the fleet has
23 broken my heart.

24 I imagine when the woman who first spoke
25 was a young woman, there may have been 3,000 farming

1 families in the Columbia Basin that were all
2 benefitting from the irrigation projects. But now
3 we have several hundred families, and they're all
4 part of giant agribusiness. And in the case of the
5 Snake River dams, I believe the total is 10
6 irrigators. And we can find a way to accommodate
7 those giant, giant farms. I don't care if they're
8 family-owned or corporate-owned. But to put 3,000 -
9 - or 2,800 fishing families out of business without
10 blinking an eye and claim that the farmers are
11 somehow sacrosanct is completely offensive to me.

12 Furthermore, we're not just talking about
13 fish. We are talking about the entire cultural
14 touchpoints, economic, diet, religious of the tribes
15 of the Northwest. And the Franklin County community
16 guy, yeah, that was -- I know you mean well. But
17 really?

18 You can't pit one low-income,
19 disenfranchised group against another. If you want
20 to talk about social justice, let's talk about what
21 we've done to our Northwest tribes and their
22 culture. If we let this line of fish go extinct, we
23 are engaging in cultural genocide. Let's use the
24 words that are the facts.

25 The power industry, the agribusiness

1 industry, the tugboat industry, and the barge
2 industry have controlled the narrative. They have
3 never talked about conservation -- never. I have
4 never heard a word about changing our behavior of
5 how we use power or trying to save electricity in
6 the hopes that maybe we can take these dams out.
7 I've never heard them promoting small modular
8 reactors, which we know we're researching and could
9 replace these dams.

10 Using that river is disgusting. I have
11 recreated in it. The water is filthy, it's warm,
12 and there's just -- it's unimaginable that the fish
13 could survive in that.

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

16 **GINGER WIREMAN:** Nobody is taking about --
17 nobody is talking about taking out (indiscernible)
18 dams. And the PUDs and their cronies have been
19 misinforming the public and making them think that
20 we're talking about all dams. We are not talking
21 about all dams. We are talking about the four lower
22 Snake River dams and improving the chance of salmon
23 and steelhead survival in the face of climate change
24 where they have access to higher elevations,
25 spawning ground, and may be able to survive and,

1 along with them, the orcas.

2 Thank you very much.

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

4 Operator, we're ready to go to the next
5 caller.

6 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next question --
7 comment comes from the line of Michael Kindall
8 (phonetic). Michael Kindall, your line is open.

9 **MICHAEL KINDALL:** Thank you. I appreciate
10 what you guys are doing today.

11 I have been a resident of the State of
12 Idaho for almost 70 years, and I have seen a lot of
13 changes during my life.

14 I applaud the lengths that the various
15 agencies have taken to become involved with trying
16 to sort out the problems associated with the
17 Columbia River Systems Operations. While it is hard
18 to get everyone to agree what the best solution to
19 undertake to resolve the inherent problems that have
20 arisen since the building of the dams began, I can
21 offer a solution that was not included in the
22 preferred plan for objective offered up from the
23 Executive Summary Columbia River Operation Systems -
24 - or Operations Draft Environmental Impact
25 Statement.

1 The dams have been built for a very good
2 reason, are being as they should be used. They need
3 to be kept up to operating standards that were used
4 when they were built, which includes any and all
5 necessary updates and upgrades when they become
6 unsavable.

7 That being said, problems have surfaced
8 since the construction of the dam. We have studied
9 these problems to death. We all know what the
10 problems are. We cannot control our weather. Let
11 the dams do that. That's what they were designed
12 for. Let the dams provide the best source of
13 electricity we have, and allow them to control the
14 water levels for the shipping lanes to remain open.

15 Also, they can be used as necessary to
16 release flows if and when condition warrant stagnant
17 water being present.

18 Last, but certainly not the least, we can
19 fix the problem with the fish. Let's fix this.
20 Current technology allows us to cool water. We do
21 not have to invent anything new. Current technology
22 allows us to speed the flow of water. Let's use
23 both of these existing technologies to create a path
24 for young fish to travel through the backwaters of
25 the dam system on their way to the ocean. Once

1 these young fish reach the ocean, these fish will
2 return in much greater numbers, and the problem of
3 managing our fish is done.

4 This is not a new idea. But the time has
5 come for this plan to be fully implemented.

6 Thanks for your time, and I appreciate the
7 time that you have taken to keep us out of the
8 public with this COVID-19 problem.

9 I'm done. I yield my time.

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

11 Before we take our next caller, I'd like
12 to take a moment to welcome anyone who has joined us
13 to the call. This is your facilitator, Maryam
14 Habibi. This is a public meeting for providing
15 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like
16 to provide a comment, please press 1, then 0 to add
17 your name to the queue.

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

25 If you do provide a comment, you are

1 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

2 Currently, we have one person in the queue
3 waiting to comment. So a reminder, if you would
4 like to provide a comment, please press 1, then 0 to
5 add your name to the queue.

6 Operator, we're ready to go to the next
7 caller.

8 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
9 the line of Keith Hutchins (sic). Keith Hutchins,
10 your line is now open.

11 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** My name is Keith
12 Cutchins. I'm a retired biologist from the Columbia
13 Basin.

14 Comments -- this EIS will provide for the
15 -- it says in this EIS its operating agencies in the
16 region will work together to evaluate the cost and
17 benefits of the four lower Snake dams, and I'm not
18 finding where that evaluation is or how it was
19 performed. There's a tremendous debate on whether
20 or not those four dams pay their own way, whether or
21 not their revenues, the amount of money they
22 generate, exceeds the amount of money it costs to
23 keep them in operation. There are studies, some
24 studies, that indicate it cost at least \$100 million
25 a year in excess of their worth, up to maybe closer

1 to \$200 million a year in excess of what their worth
2 is.

3 This was also indicated in the last system
4 operation review and the associated lower Snake
5 River juvenile salmon migration feasibility study
6 when even the very conservative taxpayers for common
7 sense supported the natural river alternative. So
8 this EIS fails procedurally and substantively if
9 this discrepancy is not resolved.

10 The impacts of alternative M03, the
11 impacts of that alternative to storage reservoir
12 elevations is not complete. In the mid-1990s, the
13 watershed equity team comprised of the Columbia
14 Basin tribes, four state fish and wildlife agencies,
15 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National
16 Marine Fisheries Service, including modeling from
17 the Northwest Power Planning Council, concluded that
18 water velocity travel times met the needs of
19 migrating spring salmon without needing additional
20 flow augmentation from the storage reservoirs, like
21 Grand Coulee, Dworshak, Hungry Horse, and Libby, if
22 the four lower Snake Rivers were bypassed. That
23 allows those storage reservoirs to remain relatively
24 full and stable for other needs, such as resident
25 fish, biological objectives, recreation, irrigation,

1 power production, and flood risk management.

2 So this EIS is flawed unless that
3 alternative MO3 includes this analysis and type of
4 modeling. This EIS should not have evaluated any
5 option other than the various --

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

8 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** -- decommissioning
9 alternatives regarding what to do with the concrete
10 spillway, navigation lops, and powerhouse once the
11 earthen portion of the dams are removed.

12 Should the concrete structures be
13 mothballed and maintained enough so that they can be
14 put back into service once if the natural river
15 alternatives proves to be a failure after 50 years?
16 Or should the concrete portion just be locked up and
17 walked away from and left to fall into disrepair?
18 Or should they maybe maintained as museums or other
19 uses? These are the types of alternatives that
20 should have been included.

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

22 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** Yep. Sorry. Thank you
23 for listening. That's all I've got.

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

25 Operator, we can go to the next caller

1 now.

2 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next
3 comment comes from the line of Kristin Meira.

4 Please go ahead, Kristin Meira.

5 **KRISTIN MEIRA:** Thank you.

6 My name is Kristin Meira. I'm the
7 Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest
8 Waterways Association, or PNWA. We're a nonprofit,
9 nonpartisan trade association that advocates for the
10 Northwest economy and also the environment. We have
11 over 135 organizations that are members of our group
12 in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, including public
13 ports, barge companies, steamship operators, grain
14 growers, ag producers, and many others.

15 We thank the federal agencies for their
16 effort in evaluating all of the different needs and
17 desires in the region and trying to achieve a
18 balance that protects our Northwest fish.

19 The river system that we operate on is a
20 465-mile federal waterway. It provides access to
21 international markets for Northwest farmers and many
22 others. And our ports who are operating on the
23 waterfront and our towboat companies and others who
24 are operating on the waterways, they take their
25 stewardship roles very seriously.

1 We know that barging is the most efficient
2 and environmentally friendly mode of cargo
3 transportation, and we've heard folks in the past
4 say that folks are leaving the river and that the
5 tonnage numbers are down when it comes to barging.
6 And I wanted to highlight the recent numbers that
7 have come out for 2018, the most recent year that's
8 now available. Tonnage has gone up on the Snake
9 River. And in fact, in 2018, there was over 3.8
10 million tons of cargo that moved just on that part
11 of our river system.

12 If you wanted to move the cargo that moved
13 on the Snake that year, if you wanted to take it off
14 of barges and put it on trucks instead, it would
15 have been over -- or nearly 150,000 trucks that
16 would have been required. And if you wanted to look
17 at railcars instead, it would have taken over 38,000
18 railcars to move just what moved by barge in 2018 on
19 the Snake River.

20 We also know that barging is the safest
21 way of moving cargo, meaning it has the lowest
22 number of injuries and fatalities. So again, if you
23 were looking at moving that cargo in a different
24 way, you're going to have environmental impacts, but
25 also very real human impacts.

1 So in closing, again --

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

4 **KRISTIN MEIRA:** Again, in closing, I just
5 wanted to thank the agencies for their efforts to
6 produce this document. We'll also be submitting
7 written comments, of course, and we appreciate the
8 opportunity to participate in this dialogue.

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

10 Before we move to the next caller, this is
11 your facilitator, Maryam Habibi. For those of you
12 who may have joined us, this is a public meeting for
13 providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you
14 would like to provide a comment, please press 1,
15 then 0 to add your name to the queue.

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

23 If you provide a comment, you are welcome
24 to remain on the line to hear from others.

25 We have one person queued to comment right

1 now. So we'll remind folks, if you would like to
2 add your name to the queue, you may press 1, then 0.

3 Operator, we're ready to go to the next
4 caller.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes
6 from the line of Bill Arthur. Bill Arthur, your
7 line is now open.

8 **BILL ARTHUR:** Thank you and thank the
9 agencies for hosting this.

10 My name is Bill Arthur. I'm the Chair of
11 a three-state task force for the Sierra Club that
12 focuses on salmon recovery in the Snake and Columbia
13 River Basins. Sierra Club has a long history of
14 working on these issues, also a long history on
15 advocating for clean energy and carbon reduction.
16 We have over 200,000 members and supporters in the
17 four Northwest states.

18 My first comment would be to recommend
19 that we extend the public comment period to at least
20 120 days and to reschedule the public meetings.
21 It's irrational and long to not extend the public
22 comment period, given the complexity and importance
23 of this work and, particularly, a -- in the midst of
24 a national, international emergency.

25 Turning to the EIS itself, the Draft EIS

1 preferred alternative, in our opinion, is inadequate
2 to protect and recover the endangered salmon and
3 steelhead of the Snake River, let alone achieve
4 abundant and harvestable populations of salmon. And
5 it would also benefit the starving orca, the
6 southern resident killer whale population.

7 Higher spill, which is the preferred
8 alternative, is helpful. We have supported the
9 flexible spill agreement. It was a step forward.
10 It helps buy time and some relief for young
11 migrating salmon. But it's not a long-term solution
12 that will work and recover the salmon itself.

13 The DEIS analysis showed that dam removal
14 would, in fact, provide the highest benefit for
15 recovering, you know, salmon and steelhead, and we
16 believe the dam removal is fundamental to any long-
17 term effective strategy that will work.

18 Our salmon and steelhead have simply run
19 out of options. We have tried everything that
20 people can think of for the last 40 years, and it
21 has simply not worked. Our salmon swim at the brink
22 of extinction, and they are rapidly running out of
23 time.

24 We do have options that can assure a clean
25 and affordable and reliable energy future, which is

1 something that we strongly support. We also have
2 options to assure that we can get crops to market in
3 a cost-effective manner.

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

6 **BILL ARTHUR:** We believe that there
7 should, in fact, be a comprehensive solution that
8 works for restoring abundant salmon runs that will
9 benefit our sport, commercial, and tribal fishing
10 communities and economies and meet our
11 responsibilities for tribal treaty rights and also
12 invest in assuring that we have clean, reliable
13 power for the future and invest to assure that we
14 can get our crops to market. We believe that we
15 need a win-win situation that works for all.
16 Unfortunately, the DEIS preferred alternative fails
17 to do that.

18 Thank you.

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

20 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
21 For anyone who may have joined us since we began
22 taking comments, this is the public meeting for
23 providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you
24 would like to provide a comment, please press 1,
25 then 0 to add your name to the queue.

1 Currently, we do not have any callers
2 queued. If anyone who has been listening would like
3 to provide a comment for the first time or an
4 additional comment, you may press 1 and 0 to put
5 your name in the queue.

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

13 If you do provide a comment, you're
14 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

15 At this time, we have zero participants
16 queued to comment. What we'll do for the remaining
17 time is, every couple of minutes, we'll check in,
18 and I'll provide the same guidelines for putting
19 yourself in the queue. In between, if we do not
20 have anyone queued to comment, the agencies will
21 remain on the line but silent.

22 **(No audio 01:07:16 to 01:10:19.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
24 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
25 this is the public meeting for providing comments on

1 the 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 your comments. Though we are not responding to
6 questions or comments during this meeting or
7 providing additional presentations, the agencies
8 welcome and will consider your comments in
9 developing the final EIS, which will be released
10 this summer.

11 If you provide a comment, you're welcome
12 to remain on the line to hear from others. I'll
13 remind folks that if you'd like to enter your name
14 into the queue to comment, please press 1, then 0.

15 I'll also remind our co-hosts to remain on
16 mute.

17 I'll check back in, in another couple of
18 minutes.

19 **(No audio 01:11:09 to 01:11:45.)**

20 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER:** Okay. So
21 what are you?

22 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:** I'm going to
23 (indiscernible).

24 **(No audio 01:11:47 to 01:13:15.)**

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, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
5 the queue.

6 Currently, we have zero callers in the
7 queue to provide comments. So if anyone is on the
8 line who has provided comments previously and would
9 like to provide additional comments, you are also
10 welcome to press 1, then 0 at this time. Agency
11 officials remain on the line to hear your comments.

12 **(No audio 01:13:46 to 01:14:56.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
14 Maryam Habibi. We have a new operator working with
15 us on this call.

16 Operator, we're ready for the caller that
17 is in the queue.

18 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

19 Our first comment comes from the line of
20 Michael Kindall. Michael Kindall has been -- first
21 comment. Go ahead.

22 **MICHAEL KINDALL:** Hello. I don't like
23 talking. This is my second call, and I don't like
24 talking when I was having the time limit. So I was
25 trying to rush through everything in my head as much

1 as I could.

2 That plan I was describing goes back to
3 when we had Governor Andrus within the State of
4 Idaho. And he and his friend that retired from the
5 Forest Service had come up with this plan to have a
6 floating tube that would facilitate moving the young
7 fish at the proper level, dependent -- all dependent
8 upon temperature so that the fish would not get
9 injured on their way to the ocean. This plan was
10 developed by the two of them that knew the -- this
11 was a solution to this ongoing problem that has been
12 discussed to death.

13 For some reason at that point in time,
14 this proposal that they came up with was not gone
15 ahead with. Perhaps all of you that are in charge
16 now have never even heard of this proposal. That is
17 the reason why I called. I want you to hear the
18 proposal, I want you to look it up, and I want you
19 to see if it is a solution now.

20 I see the steelhead and the salmon coming
21 to extinction without doing something proactive.
22 This is a very proactive plan, and I believe in this
23 particular case -- and so did Governor Andrus and
24 his friend that retired -- he was a biology guy. He
25 retired from the Forest Service or who knows where.

1 They came up with a great plan.

2 Please look back into history to see what
3 their plan was because, like I said before, we have
4 that technology. It shouldn't cost a lot just to
5 have the floating towers put in, in the river system
6 where they need to be put in at and then have them
7 thermostatically controlled and provide the pumps
8 that discharge the water through the tubes, or
9 whatever loading paraphernalia we need to have to
10 get those fish to the ocean.

11 I am so passionate about this because I
12 have seen the serious decline of the fish in my
13 lifetime. I was fortunate enough to fish the Salmon
14 Rivers in the State of Idaho. I've been fortunate
15 enough to fish the Snake River for these salmon. I
16 was fortunate enough to fish the Columbia River for
17 these salmon and steelhead. I was fortunate enough
18 to fish Buoy 10 and beyond during my lifetime. I'd
19 hate to see this go to waste when it seems to be
20 such an easy solution. Everyone wins. Please look
21 up this solution online or wherever it may be.

22 Thank you for your time again. I yield
23 the rest of it.

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

25 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

1 For anyone who may have joined us, this is a public
2 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
3 EIS. If you would like to provide a public comment,
4 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the
5 queue.

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

13 If you provide a comment, you are welcome
14 to remain on the line to hear from others.

15 Currently, we do not have any people in
16 the queue to provide comments. I'll remind folks
17 that you may press 1 and then 0 to add your name to
18 the queue. Agency officials will remain on the line
19 and will check in, in a couple of minutes.

20 **(No audio 01:19:50 to 01:22:38.)**

21 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
22 Maryam Habibi.

23 Operator, we're ready to take the next
24 caller in queue.

25 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from

1 the line of David Ortman. Mr. Ortman, your line is
2 now open.

3 **DAVID ORTMAN:** Well, thank you. Since we
4 have, apparently, a break, and I may have had 20
5 seconds left of my former comments, let me just
6 finish up by saying that, in Genesis, it says to be
7 fruitful and multiply. And most of us think that
8 that applies to us, and we've done pretty well,
9 given that our population on this planet is about 8
10 billion.

11 If you go back and look, you will find
12 that the first command to be fruitful and multiply
13 was actually given to the fish of the sea and the
14 birds of the air, and we haven't done a very good
15 job of doing either. So if we're going to tell the
16 fish of the sea and our salmon to be fruitful and
17 multiply, then taking out those lower Snake River
18 dams would be a great start. And since we're at the
19 50th anniversary of Earth Day, it seems appropriate
20 to do so.

21 Thank you.

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

23 Operator, it looks like we have another
24 caller that is being queued. When you're ready, you
25 can move to their line.

1 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

2 **(No audio 01:23:57 to 01:24:41.)**

3 **THE OPERATOR:** Just one moment, please.

4 **(No audio 01:24:44 to 01:26:03.)**

5 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
6 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,
7 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
8 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
9 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
10 the queue.

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

18 We currently have one caller in the queue.
19 If you would like to provide a comment, please let
20 the operator know as they open your line.

21 **THE OPERATOR:** I'm opening the line now.

22 One moment.

23 The line is open.

24 I do not have your name to announce. Will
25 you please announce your name to make your comment?

1 **(No audible response.)**

2 **THE OPERATOR:** They've withdrawn from
3 queue. Thank you.

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

5 If anyone would like to provide a comment,
6 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the
7 queue. Agency officials will remain on the line to
8 hear any comments.

9 We currently have one caller who has
10 entered the queue. If we receive a name, then we
11 can take their comment.

12 **(No audio 01:27:55 to 01:29:13.)**

13 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
14 the line of Michelle Andres (phonetic). Ms. Andres,
15 your line is now open. Michelle Andres.

16 **MICHELLE ANDRES:** Thank you.

17 I want to reiterate that they -- the year
18 that they are taking the data from is 2015. That
19 was the year that the juvenile fish were not
20 transported according to court order. And they
21 weren't -- the heat -- the scientific body of the --
22 NOAA, as the partner with the Snake River dam
23 operations and the fish hatchery center, urged them
24 to be moved twice. And ever since then, we've had
25 very low numbers.

1 Now, the habitat in Idaho is being
2 restored in some places, especially where there has
3 been flooding, which we've had again this year.
4 Additionally, in Idaho, they have a trout, a brook
5 trout, that is not native, very aggressive, stays in
6 the natal waters where the juvenile fish are being
7 spawned. And we have heard from fisherman after
8 fisherman and guide after guide on last night's call
9 talking about how much the juvenile fish have -- are
10 filling the walleye and the bull trout and the brook
11 trout.

12 The studies from NOAA and the fish
13 journals show that in the slower, shallower
14 movements of the Salmon River, there is not enough
15 habitat for the juvenile fish to even make it to the
16 first dam. It is an extreme measure to take out or
17 even do deep drawdowns on the top two dams when the
18 habitat and the aggressive predation that's going on
19 in the Salmon Rivers of Idaho, even though they're
20 beautiful and pristine, are not enough to combat
21 what man has already done.

22 And the manmade crisis in 2015 also
23 spawned a clean (inaudible) that has now been
24 claimed as climate change. And those numbers have
25 been debunked. They were 20 percent exaggerated in

1 the models in the Washington State Ecology
2 Department. And the empirical data from NOAA and
3 Washington Policy Center, an independent,
4 nonpartisan group, went and looked at the data, the
5 same data, and they were 20 percent exaggerated.
6 There is something not correct about the approach to
7 the EIS.

8 The preferred alternative does allow us to
9 study these things further, but they should not even
10 think about deep drawdowns or breaching whatsoever.
11 And there will be many more scientific studies, and
12 we urge the EIS to do deep analysis of the empirical
13 data on every single scientific admission to assure
14 us that the data is not confusing and is accurate
15 and not a model of science that skews the actual
16 information.

17 I appreciate the hard work that our
18 government does for us -- the Corps of Engineers,
19 the Bureau of Reclamation. But there is no reason
20 why those dams should be torn down. From 1957 to
21 2015, the adult fish returns grew every year after
22 year after year. And we have the highest adult
23 returns. We were on the right track until 2015 when
24 a manmade crisis became the sole source for ripping
25 open the 2014 biological opinion.

1 This should either go to the Supreme
2 Court, or it should be an ESA --

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

5 **MICHELLE ANDRES:** -- exemption. And that
6 is -- thank you for your time.

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

8 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
9 For those who may have joined us, this is a public
10 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
11 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
12 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

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

20 Currently, there are no callers in queue
21 to provide comments. The agencies will remain on
22 the line, and I will speak again to remind folks of
23 how to sign up for comments.

24 It looks like we have a caller that is
25 being queued.

1 Operator, when they're ready, you may open
2 their line.

3 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

4 **(No audio 01:33:45 to 01:34:31.)**

5 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
6 the line of Alan Brothers. Your line is open.

7 **(No audible response.)**

8 **THE OPERATOR:** We're showing that Mr.
9 Brothers' line dropped.

10 If you would like to ask a question,
11 please press 1 and a 0 to re-enter queue.

12 **(No audio 01:35:04 to 01:35:17.)**

13 **THE OPERATOR:** The line of Alan Brothers
14 is now open for comments. Please go ahead, Mr.
15 Brothers.

16 **ALAN BROTHERS:** Yes. My name is Alan
17 Brothers. I've lived in Pasco for 29 years, and
18 I've been following the news about the salmon for
19 all that time. And I'm not really convinced that
20 the dams are the cause of in declines, if there
21 really is any declines. It seems like there's a lot
22 of other factors going on out into the ocean with
23 regard to pollution that might be having some
24 detrimental impacts.

25 I feel that the benefits of the dams far

1 outweigh -- keeping the dams far outweigh any
2 benefits from breaching the dams. There -- we get
3 PUD in Franklin County. Eighty-five percent of our
4 electricity comes from hydropower. We benefit from
5 this. The climate benefits from this. The barging
6 that's done up and down the rivers, the irrigation,
7 all of these are benefits of keeping the dams. And
8 I don't think they should be breached.

9 That's all I have to say.

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

11 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
12 For any of you who may have joined us, this is a
13 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO
14 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment,
15 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the
16 queue. Agency officials remain on the line to hear
17 your comments.

18 Currently, there are no participants
19 queued to comment. Agency officials will remain on
20 the line and will check again in a couple of
21 minutes.

22 **(No audio 01:37:05 to 01:40:47.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
24 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
25 this is a public meeting for providing comments on

1 the 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 your comments. Though we are not responding to
6 questions or comments during this meeting or
7 providing additional presentations, the agencies
8 welcome and will consider your comments in
9 developing the final EIS, which will be released
10 this summer.

11 Currently, there are no callers in queue.
12 We'll continue to remain on the line and check in
13 occasionally.

14 **(No audio 01:41:25 to 01:42:42.)**

15 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
16 Maryam Habibi. It looks like we have one person in
17 queue who would like to provide a comment.

18 Operator, when they're ready, you can open
19 their line.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

21 **(No audio 01:42:54 to 01:43:31.)**

22 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
23 the line of Nanette Jones. Nanette, your line is
24 open for the next comment. Please go ahead.

25 **NANETTE JONES:** (Indiscernible) Nanette

1 Jones. (Inaudible) because I -- it seems like I
2 have to comment on the human hubris here. We're in
3 the middle of a global pandemic, and we're sitting,
4 discussing (indiscernible) conducting business as
5 usual on the river that is, you know, an ecosystem
6 for endangered species. We need to decide whether
7 we are going to operate the Columbia River System as
8 an ecosystem or as merely as an aquatic freeway, as
9 it has been said, to get products to market because
10 there's very different goals and operations have to
11 take.

12 And the -- I do not see that we continue -
13 - that we can continue to operate and run business
14 as before on the river, considering that the needs
15 of endangered cold-water fish are very different
16 than (inaudible). And it's a lot to ask (inaudible)
17 still on the backs of these endangered fish.

18 Now, the DEIS analysis states the damming
19 --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Pardon me, Nanette?

21 **NANETTE JONES:** Yes.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** We're having a little trouble
23 hearing your line. If you could speak just a little
24 closer to your microphone, that would be very
25 helpful.

1 **NANETTE JONES:** Can you hear me now?

2 **MS. HABIBI:** That's a little bit better.

3 **NANETTE JONES:** Can you -- is this better
4 now?

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes.

6 **NANETTE JONES:** That's better? You can
7 hear me okay?

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

9 **NANETTE JONES:** Okay. I -- my comment
10 would be in support of Alternative 3, breaching the
11 four lower dams in the Snake River. It's the only
12 thing that has not been done and needs to be done.
13 It's the best alternative the experts say that we
14 can do to protect these fish. It would open up
15 approximately 140 miles of cold-flowing water that
16 these cold-water fish need.

17 NOAA has discovered that there's a 20
18 percent conversion rate behind each passage
19 facility, okay? So salmon (inaudible) eight dams
20 twice in their lifetime. If there's a 20 percent
21 conversation rate behind each passage facility and
22 the dams' reservoirs are creating Olympic
23 (indiscernible) situation (inaudible), they will
24 (inaudible) in other (inaudible) to congregate
25 (inaudible).

1 **MS. HABIBI:** I'm sorry. Your time has
2 lapsed.

3 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
4 For those of you who may have joined us, this is a
5 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO
6 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment,
7 please press 1, then 0 to add your name to the
8 queue.

9 Currently, there are no callers queued.
10 Agency officials will remain on the line and will
11 check in again shortly.

12 **(No audio 01:48:12 to 01:49:12.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have two
14 commenters in the queue. Operator, you may go to
15 the next commenter.

16 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next
17 commenter is Jim Wendland. Mr. Jim Wendland, your
18 line is open for comment. Please go ahead.

19 **JIM WENDLAND:** Thank you very much.

20 I haven't read or heard too much about
21 what they've been doing. Have they considered fish
22 hatcheries as a dilemma of solving the salmon runs?
23 For the money it would take to tear down the dams,
24 they could put in an awful lot of fish hatcheries.
25 Has anybody ever studied that?

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Agency officials are on the
2 line to hear your comments, but we are not
3 responding to questions or comments during this
4 meeting.

5 **JIM WENDLAND:** What does that mean?
6 They're not -- they never talked about fish
7 hatcheries?

8 **MS. HABIBI:** We're not answering direct
9 questions on this -- during this public meeting.
10 This is a public comment meeting. So if you have --

11 **JIM WENDLAND:** Okay. Did you note my
12 comments?

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes. Your comment is being
14 recorded and transcribed for the record.

15 **JIM WENDLAND:** Okay. Thank you very much.

16 **MS. HABIBI:** (Inaudible).

17 **JIM WENDLAND:** That's it.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** All right. Thank you.

19 **JIM WENDLAND:** Thank you very much.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, you can move to the
21 next caller.

22 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next
23 commenter is a repeat from Nanette Jones. Ms.
24 Jones, your line is open. Nanette Jones is making a
25 comment.

1 **NANETTE JONES:** Thank you so much.

2 I wasn't sure how much you guys heard of
3 my last comment, so I just wanted to say that I'm in
4 support of Alternative 3 of breaching the four lower
5 dams on the Snake River, so return approximately 140
6 miles of flowing cold water back into the Snake
7 River that the wild cold-water fish need. They need
8 river and ocean temperatures below 68 degrees. If
9 not, we have no salmon -- have wild salmon recovery.
10 We have no -- wild salmon need habitat. They need
11 accessible habitat to cold-flowing water.

12 NOAA found a conversion rate of 20 percent
13 in each passage facility. (Inaudible) the lower
14 dams on the Snake River, it will put cold-flowing
15 water back into the system (inaudible) access to
16 habitat that these endangered species need
17 (inaudible) these cold-water fish returning to the
18 region. I mean, there's a lot at stake here.
19 There's 73 southern resident orca left, and they
20 cannot order pizza. They cannot build a subway.

21 So there is my message for today. We need
22 to breach those dams and take a look at what's
23 happening on the Elwha, the productivity coming back
24 into the river. That's proof that restoring habitat
25 and removing manmade obstacles that stun,

1 disorientate, and kill these migrating fish will
2 improve their numbers. It will protect and increase
3 their populations that leaving the dams in place
4 will not.

5 And that's my comment today. Thank you so
6 much for listening and coming together to discuss
7 this.

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

9 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
10 We have no callers in the queue to provide comment
11 at this time. For those who may have joined us,
12 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
13 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
14 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
15 the queue. Agency officials will remain on the line
16 to hear comments as people sign up.

17 **(No audio 01:53:41 to 01:54:18.)**

18 **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have one
19 caller in queue.

20 Operator, when they're ready, you can open
21 their line.

22 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

23 **(No audio 01:54:27 to 01:54:57.)**

24 **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from
25 the line of David Van Clede (phonetic). David Van

1 Clede, your line is open for comment. Please go
2 ahead.

3 **DAVID VAN CLEDE:** Hello. Basically, what
4 I just want to say is that the EIS that states that
5 the dams would recover the salmon, the vast removal
6 of the dams would recover the -- and the -- removing
7 the dams will create colder water for the salmon.
8 And there's over 5,000 miles of excellent river
9 above the dams. I've boated many of them in my
10 kayak and my canoe, and I want the salmon to be able
11 to get up there easily and efficiently.

12 All of the other items that are -- the
13 dams provide can be mitigated at a reasonable cost,
14 including power, irrigation, and transportation. I
15 really, really do not want the salmon and the orcas
16 that depend on them to go extinct during my
17 lifetime. So I recommend -- I wholeheartedly
18 recommend removing the dams from the lower Snake
19 River. That's the only comment I have.

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

21 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
22 For anyone who may have joined us, this is a public
23 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
24 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
25 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.

1 Agency officials will remain on the line
2 to hear your comments. Currently, no one is queued
3 to provide comments. So we'll remain on the line
4 silent, and we'll check in again shortly.

5 **(No audio 01:56:43 to 02:01:06.)**

6 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
7 Maryam Habibi. For those 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, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
11 the queue.

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

19 Currently, there are no callers in queue.
20 We will remain on the line and check in again
21 shortly.

22 **(No audio 02:01:44 to 02:04:05.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have one
24 caller in queue.

25 Operator, you may open their line when

1 they're ready.

2 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

3 We have a repeat comment from Nanette
4 Jones. Nanette Jones, your line is open for comment
5 now. Please go ahead.

6 **NANETTE JONES:** Thank you.

7 I feel compelled to call back (inaudible)
8 sitting here with nobody to talk to.

9 (Inaudible) and 20 other species who lives
10 are on the line here tonight, and I feel that I will
11 reach out for each meeting (inaudible) the time
12 because it is so important that those dams are
13 breached. Not only will it bring economical relief
14 to the area by jobs, by promoting jobs, it'll bring
15 ecological relief by putting cold-flowing water back
16 into the system (inaudible) endanger (inaudible)
17 quality and (inaudible) of cold-flowing water.

18 And then toxic remediation of our
19 waterways is a good investment considering that the
20 current administration has just overturned 90
21 environmental laws, you know, and protecting our
22 investment into our estuaries and to endangered
23 species. It is time to stop (inaudible) species
24 (inaudible).

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Nanette? We're having

1 trouble hearing you on the line again.

2 **NANETTE JONES:** Is that better?

3 **MS. HABIBI:** There we go. I can hear you
4 now.

5 **NANETTE JONES:** (Inaudible) there are --
6 was (inaudible) --

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

9 **NANETTE JONES:** -- (inaudible).
10 The time we are taking (inaudible), you
11 know, our oceans are (inaudible) in the last 20
12 years. The Blob, since 2013, has affected adult
13 returns and affected (inaudible), you know, on the
14 coast and upriver. And we need to remove those dams
15 and put cold-flowing water back into our system.
16 That's what (inaudible) --

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

18 **NANETTE JONES:** Thank you. (Inaudible).

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

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

1 on the line to hear all comments.

2 You're also welcome to submit comments in
3 many of the other ways that are listed on the
4 project website, www.crso.info.

5 Agency officials will remain on the line
6 and check in again shortly.

7 **(No audio 02:08:24 to 02:13:24.)**

8 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
9 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
10 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
11 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
12 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
13 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
14 hear your comments.

15 There are no commenters in queue, but
16 we'll remain on the line silent and check in again
17 shortly.

18 **(No audio 02:13:48 to 02:17:49.)**

19 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
20 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
21 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
22 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
23 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
24 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
25 hear any comments. We'll check back in again

1 shortly.

2 **(No audio 02:18:13 to 02:20:54.)**

3 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
4 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
5 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
6 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
7 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
8 the queue. Agency officials will remain on the line
9 to hear any comments. We'll check back in again
10 shortly.

11 **(No audio 02:21:16 to 02:25:13.)**

12 **MS. HABIBI:** This is the facilitator,
13 Maryam Habibi.
14 Operator, you can open the line for
15 Nanette Jones.

16 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Ms. Jones, your
17 line is now open. The line is open for comment from
18 Nanette Jones. Please go ahead.

19 **NANETTE JONES:** (Inaudible) --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Actually, Nanette, we're
21 still having trouble hearing you as you're calling
22 in. We do want to make sure that we receive your
23 comments. And since the phone is not working well
24 for us this evening, we would ask for you to submit
25 comments either in writing or online at

1 www.crso.info.

2 **NANETTE JONES:** Okay. Okay. I can do
3 that. Can you hear me better now?

4 **MS. HABIBI:** We're still not able to hear
5 you very well.

6 **NANETTE JONES:** Is that better?

7 **MS. HABIBI:** It's a little better, but the
8 connection is not great. So we would ask for you to
9 provide your comments in writing or online --

10 **NANETTE JONES:** Okay.

11 **MS. HABIBI:** -- crso.info.

12 **NANETTE JONES:** Okay.

13 **MS. HABIBI:** We want --

14 **NANETTE JONES:** I'll do that.

15 **MS. HABIBI:** -- that we can add your --
16 thank you. We want to make sure we can add your
17 comments to the record.

18 **NANETTE JONES:** Okay. Thank you.

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

20 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.
21 For anyone who may have joined us, this is a public
22 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO Draft
23 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
24 press 1, then 0 to add your name to the queue.
25 Agency officials will remain on the line to hear

1 your comments.

2 Currently, there is no one in the queue,
3 so we will remain silent and check back in shortly.

4 **(No audio 02:27:21 to 02:32:08.)**

5 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
6 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
7 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
8 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
9 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
10 the queue. Agency officials will remain on the line
11 to hear comments from anyone who joins the queue.
12 Until then, we'll remain silent and check in
13 shortly.

14 **(No audio 02:32:32 to 02:37:54.)**

15 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
16 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
17 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
18 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
19 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
20 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
21 hear your comments. We will check back in shortly.

22 **(No audio 02:38:14 to 02:42:26.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
24 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
25 this is a public meeting for providing comments on

1 the 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. Agency officials remain on the line to
4 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
5 shortly.

6 **(No audio 02:42:47 to 02:48:47.)**

7 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
8 Maryam Habibi. For anyone 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, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
12 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
13 hear your comments. No one is in the queue at this
14 time. We'll check back in shortly.

15 **(No audio 02:49:10 to 02:53:16.)**

16 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
17 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
18 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
19 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
20 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
21 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
22 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
23 shortly.

24 **(No audio 02:53:36 to 02:56:37.)**

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

1 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
2 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
3 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
4 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
5 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
6 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
7 shortly.

8 **(No audio 02:56:58 to 03:00:15.)**

9 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
10 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,
11 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
12 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
13 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
14 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
15 hear your comments. There are no people in the
16 queue right now. We'll check back in again shortly.

17 **(No audio 03:00:38 to 03:04:51.)**

18 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
19 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,
20 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
21 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
22 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
23 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
24 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
25 shortly.

1 **(No audio 03:05:11 to 03:09:52.)**

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, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
7 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
8 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
9 shortly.

10 **(No audio 03:10:10 to 03:14:48.)**

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, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
16 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
17 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
18 shortly.

19 **(No audio 03:15:07 to 03:22:47.)**

20 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
21 Maryam Habibi. For those who have just joined us,
22 this is the meeting for providing comments on the
23 CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
24 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
25 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to

1 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
2 shortly.

3 **(No audio 03:23:06 to 03:28:06.)**

4 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
5 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
6 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
7 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
8 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
9 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
10 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
11 shortly.

12 **(No audio 03:28:26 to 03:35:47.)**

13 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
14 Maryam Habibi. For anyone who may have joined us,
15 this is a public meeting for 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. Agency officials remain on the line to
19 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
20 shortly.

21 **(No audio 03:36:05 to 03:41:11.)**

22 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
23 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
24 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
25 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a

1 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
2 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
3 hear your comments. We'll check back in again soon.

4 **(No audio 03:41:29 to 03:46:29.)**

5 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
6 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
7 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
8 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
9 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
10 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
11 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
12 shortly.

13 **(No audio 03:46:49 to 03:49:00.)**

14 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
15 Maryam Habibi. For those who may have joined us,
16 this is a public meeting for providing comments on
17 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a
18 comment, please press 1, then 0 to add your name to
19 the queue. Agency officials remain on the line to
20 hear your comments. We'll check back in again
21 shortly.

22 **(No audio 03:49:21 to 03:52:26.)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,
24 Maryam Habibi. At this time, we do not have any
25 others in the queue. I'll offer a last call. If

1 anybody would like to provide public comment, you
2 may press 1-0 now to add your name to the queue.

3 **(No audio 03:52:40 to 03:52:50.)**

4 **MS. HABIBI:** I'd like to thank everyone
5 for your interest, time, and flexibility as we've
6 listened to input today. We encourage you to share
7 any additional comments you have through one of the
8 other methods described on the project website,
9 www.crsso.info.

10 I'll turn it over to Roland Springer to
11 close the meeting.

12 **MR. SPRINGER:** Thank you, Maryam.

13 On behalf of agency leadership from all
14 three action agencies, I thank you for calling in,
15 and I thank all of those who provided comments and
16 especially those with -- those of you that stuck it
17 through to the end, thanks for being with us.

18 This will conclude the call now, and I
19 will turn it back over to the operator.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen, thank
21 you for joining our conference today and for your
22 participation and for using the AT&T conferencing
23 services. You may now disconnect.

24 Speakers, hold for transfer. One moment.

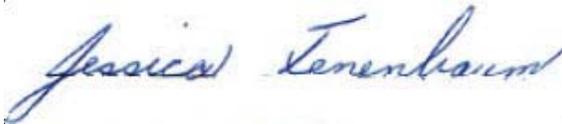
25 **(WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded.)**

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
23
24
25

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