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IN RE :

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

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**HELD BY  
TELECONFERENCE ON  
MARCH 26, 2020  
4:00 P.M.**



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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
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**MARCH 26, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**THE OPERATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for standing by and welcome to the CRSO public meeting.

As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. I would now like to turn the conference over to Amy Nichols.

Please go ahead.

**MS. HABIBI:** Actually, my name is Maryam Habibi and I will be your facilitator today. We've scheduled these teleconferences to provide opportunities for you to submit verbal comments during the comment period for the Columbia River System Operations Draft EIS.

In a few minutes, I will let you know how to indicate if you would like to provide comment.

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

6 We'll start with the Bureau of Reclamation  
7 and an overview of the draft EIS.

8 Roland.

9 **MR. SPRINGER:** Good evening. My name is  
10 Roland Springer. I'm the Bureau of Reclamation's  
11 deputy regional director for resources in the  
12 Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region.

13 Reclamation owns and operates two dams  
14 that being that are being analyzed as part of the  
15 environmental impact statement. They are Grand  
16 Coulee Dam in Washington and Hungry Horse Dam in  
17 Montana.

18 These facilities are used for irrigation,  
19 power generation and flood control. Our mission is  
20 to manage, develop, and protect water and related  
21 resources in an environmentally and economically  
22 sound manner in the interest of the American public.  
23 This environmental impact statement is an important  
24 part of our mission.

25 Please know that while you cannot see us,

1 my colleagues and I will listen to all of your  
2 comments and consider all of them this evening,  
3 whether verbal or written as we proceed to the final  
4 environmental impact statement.

5           Now, I will share a short overview of the  
6 EIS. The goal of the EIS is to analyze the impacts  
7 of operating, maintaining, and configuring 14  
8 federal dams, reservoirs and related facilities that  
9 make up the Columbia River system. Based on this  
10 analysis, we identified, in accordance with the  
11 National Environmental Policy Act, a preferred  
12 alternative that seeks to balance the many  
13 obligations of the Columbia River system.

14           While the region derives many benefits  
15 from the Columbia River system, the dams, even those  
16 with fish ladders and downstream passage routes have  
17 adversely impacted fish and wildlife and Native  
18 American tribes.

19           Construction of the dams directly impacted  
20 many of the region's tribal communities, including  
21 inundation of tribal homes, villages, resource  
22 gathering locations and traditional fishing sites.  
23 These dams also inundated salmon and steelhead  
24 habitat.

25           Recognizing the system effects and the

1 many regional interests in the Columbia River  
2 system, we made it a priority to listen to and  
3 consider all viewpoints. And from regional input  
4 and analysis and other information, we developed  
5 objectives focused on improvements for fish  
6 migration and survival, power supply, greenhouse gas  
7 emissions, operating flexibility, and water supply.

8           We narrowed the analysis to five  
9 alternatives for operating the system. Each  
10 alternative is made up of a combination of measures  
11 or actions that were deliberately designed to meet  
12 all or most of the eight EIS objectives to the  
13 greatest extent possible. One alternative is the  
14 no-action alternative. This is essentially the way  
15 the system was running at the beginning of the EIS  
16 in 2016, and it provides us with a baseline from  
17 which we can compare the other alternatives.

18           Now, let me briefly describe the multiple  
19 objective alternatives or MOs as we call them.

20           Multiple Objective 1 focused on designing  
21 an alternative to improve conditions for ESA listed  
22 fish, including both life stages of anadromous fish  
23 and resident or non-migrating fish.

24           Multiple Objective 2 was developed to  
25 increase hydropower production and reduce regional

1 greenhouse gas emissions with a focus on low carbon  
2 emissions. It would provide spill at eight dams to  
3 110 percent total dissolved gas.

4 It was also intended to benefit lamprey  
5 and endangered salmon while avoiding or minimizing  
6 adverse impacts to other authorized project  
7 purposes.

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

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

21 Our analysis shows that these alternatives  
22 meet the purposes and objectives of the system to  
23 varying degrees and with varying levels of  
24 beneficial and adverse effects. To improve on what  
25 we learned, we selected a combination of measures

1 from the alternatives to develop a preferred  
2 alternative. The operational maintenance and  
3 structural measures in the preferred alternative  
4 will allow us to meet the intent of the EIS. It  
5 balances multiple, sometimes competing, river  
6 resource needs, congressionally authorized purposes,  
7 and the agencies' missions.

8           Specifically, actions in the preferred  
9 alternative will accomplish the following: First,  
10 improve conditions for ESA-listed anadromous and  
11 resident fish, and providing a plan to address  
12 uncertainty related to anadromous fish model  
13 outputs.

14           They will continue to provide for reliable  
15 economic and carbon-free power. They will continue  
16 to provide for authorized water supply.

17           They will improve water management  
18 operations, including spill that maintain  
19 congressionally-authorized flood-risk protection  
20 while providing flexibility for current and future  
21 climate variability and other purposes.

22           And finally, they will continue Fish and  
23 Wildlife programs and mitigation commitments that  
24 were in place or planned at the start of this  
25 process.

1           We will review all comments and consider  
2 substantive input as we develop the final EIS. We  
3 will publish the final EIS, including responses to  
4 substantive comments, this summer and we will issue  
5 Records of Decision by September 30th, 2020.

6           I recognize this is a very brief overview  
7 and I encourage you to read the executive summary  
8 for more detailed information and read into some of  
9 the EIS chapters to build greater understanding of  
10 this work, the outcomes, and to inform your  
11 comments.

12           We really appreciate you taking the time  
13 to join us on the phone today, and we look forward  
14 to receiving your input.

15           I will now turn this over to Jim  
16 Fredericks.

17           **MR. FREDERICKS:** Thanks, Roland.

18           My name is Jim Fredericks. I'm the Corps  
19 of Engineers Chief of Planning, Environmental  
20 Resources and Fish Policy for the Northwestern  
21 Division.

22           The Corps has the lead role on this  
23 environmental impact statement and we appreciate our  
24 working partnership with the co-lead agencies;  
25 Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of

1 Reclamation.

2           The Corps manages 12 of the 14 dams being  
3 analyzed in the environmental impact statement.

4 These dams are operated for many purposes, including  
5 flood risk management, power production, and  
6 navigation. We do understand the significance of  
7 this environmental impact statement on individuals,  
8 communities and the environment in the Pacific  
9 Northwest.

10           We appreciate you taking time to provide  
11 verbal comments on the environmental impact  
12 statement over the phone.

13           I'll now turn it over to Scott.

14           **MR. ARMENTROUT:** Appreciate it, Jim.

15           My name is Scott Armentrout. I'm  
16 Bonneville Power Administration's Executive Vice  
17 President for Environment, Fish and Wildlife.

18           Bonneville Power Administration transmits  
19 the power produced at the Army Corps and reclamation  
20 facilities. I look forward to hearing your comments  
21 this evening.

22           With that, I'll turn it back over to our  
23 facilitator, Maryam.

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

25           We're now ready to begin hearing from

1 those who have called in. As you indicate you would  
2 like to provide public comment, we will pause for a  
3 few moments to take your names and add your lines to  
4 enter a queue.

5 So if you would like to make a comment,  
6 please press 1 then zero, now.

7 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Okay. They're are  
8 queuing up and it'll be a moment while we gather the  
9 names.

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

11 Agency officials will remain on the line  
12 for the entire call to hear your comments. Though  
13 we will not be responding to questions or comments  
14 today or providing additional presentations, the  
15 agencies do welcome and will consider your comments  
16 in developing the final EIS, which Roland mentioned,  
17 will be released this summer.

18 All comments provided during this  
19 teleconference will be recorded, transcribed and  
20 submitted to the record for the draft EIS. Any  
21 personal information you share on the call will  
22 become public. Everyone listening on the call will  
23 be able to hear your remarks.

24 That's a reminder to please keep your  
25 phones muted. Our operator will state your full

1 name when your line is open. Each speaker will have  
2 three minutes to provide their comments. We will  
3 notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining. At  
4 that time, you will hear me say you have 30 seconds  
5 remaining.

6           If you do not wish to use your full three  
7 minutes, you may let us know that you would like to  
8 yield your remaining time. When three minutes have  
9 passed, I'll interrupt and let you know your time  
10 has lapsed, and if needed, the operator will mute  
11 your line if you're not wrapped up, so that we can  
12 prepare for the next caller.

13           If you're sharing a phone with someone,  
14 please let us know before you begin your comments so  
15 we can move to the second speaker after the first is  
16 finished.

17           Currently, we have 17 callers that have  
18 indicated they would like to provide comments.

19           Operator, we're now ready for the first  
20 speaker.

21           **THE OPERATOR:** Certainly. Terry Teigen,  
22 your line is open.

23           **TERRY TEIGEN:** Good afternoon. My name is  
24 Terry Teigen. Can you hear me?

25           I've been a resident of the Puget Sound

1 region for almost 66 years, almost my whole life.

2 I'm a clergy person by profession and now retired.

3           Currently, I'm active as a volunteer in  
4 the work of the faith-based organization Earth  
5 Ministry.

6           I've decided that among the things that I  
7 might do in these last years, trying to bring health  
8 to our waters, preserve wildlife habitat, and trying  
9 to strengthen healthy communities for our grandkids,  
10 mine and yours, is my privilege and duty. And so I  
11 want to pass along a measure of the quality of life  
12 I, myself, have enjoyed in any way I can.

13           I'm not a scientist, but I'm a keen  
14 observer of the beauty and diversity of this region.  
15 I grew up fishing on the sound with my father and  
16 others. And I can still remember the times when  
17 we'd go out early on Saturday morning and catch our  
18 limit of silvers or kings before lunch.

19           On a couple of occasions, I remember dad  
20 saying, Oh, no, there are blackfish out here. There  
21 go the salmon. But seeing the Orca, even from a  
22 distance, was a thrill. And I grew up aware of the  
23 need to balance sport for some, livelihood for  
24 others, and appreciating the intrinsic beauty and  
25 wonder of salmon runs and the sleek swimming giants

1 who feed on them.

2           As the decades have passed, I've witnessed  
3 the incremental but rapid diminishment of this once  
4 vital natural resource. With habitat destruction,  
5 chemical pollution and pressure of all kinds, the  
6 ecosystems of Puget Sound, the Columbia River and  
7 connecting rivers and streams have all suffered, and  
8 here we are today.

9           What will it take to wake us up? If it's  
10 clear that removal of the four lower Snake dams will  
11 give the salmon, the orcas, our northwest  
12 environment the best chance of recovery, why would  
13 we hesitate? How do we put a price on that?

14           On the other hand, as the salmon increase,  
15 as orcas potentially recover, won't that be a boon,  
16 an invaluable benefit to those who fish for sport or  
17 livelihood in the communities that enjoy the salmon  
18 as a food source?

19           At the same time, we will continue to feed  
20 the souls of locals and visitors who come to our  
21 region to witness one of the most amazing wonders in  
22 this world of wonders. As salmon spawn, as life  
23 renews and the web of the divine gift of natural  
24 diversity is on full display.

25           All over the world people are mourning

1 what has been lost in the places where they live;  
2 forests, wildlife, what humans need to sustain  
3 quality of life. If this is in our hands right now,  
4 this decision to defend and preserve this legacy,  
5 our legacy, right here by taking the steps we need  
6 to take, as challenging as they may be, why would we  
7 hesitate?

8 Thank you. I yield my time.

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

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

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Certainly.

13 And the next comment comes from Keith  
14 Kutchins. Your line is open.

15 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** This Keith Kutchins.

16 My name is Keith Kutchins. I'm a retired  
17 biologist, Spokane, Washington.

18 Tonight I'd like to talk about the  
19 electricity production and try to elucidate a little  
20 bit of fact that might be skewed in this analysis.

21 Justification of the four lower Snake dams  
22 are essential because of their flexibility in  
23 producing electricity for peaking and for filling  
24 gaps and load demands contradicts the  
25 congressionally-mandated purpose of the dams. Only 5

1 percent of their purpose is mandated for electricity  
2 production.

3           Conversely, 80 percent of their purpose is  
4 to provide commodities transportation via barging,  
5 to make ocean ports far inland along the lower Snake  
6 River, culminating at Idaho's only ocean port  
7 corner, 65 miles from the ocean at Lewiston.

8           Congress wouldn't approve these four dams  
9 at first because the only purpose was for  
10 navigation. So finally, Congress did end up  
11 mandating that 80 percent of the purpose is for  
12 navigation, which is a very heavily skewed  
13 unilateral purpose that was rare by the  
14 congressional standards of the late '60s and early  
15 '70s. By that time, Congress had started to only  
16 authorize multipurpose projects, 20 percent  
17 navigation, 20 percent recreation, 20 percent  
18 irrigation, 20 percent electricity, and flood  
19 control.

20           But no, not these dams; 80 percent  
21 navigation, only 5 percent for electricity.

22           I felt profound sadness and guilt when I  
23 learned yesterday from the Nez Perce traveler during  
24 this hearing when he said the then Governor Cecil  
25 Andrus lamented the coming end of the wild Idaho

1 salmon in his comments at the ceremony commemorating  
2 the 1975 Bicentennial. Some folks saw this coming  
3 with the authorization of the dams and  
4 appropriation.

5           Anyway, back to my point. Only 20 percent  
6 of the congressional mandate for the four lower  
7 Snake dams is for recreation, irrigation,  
8 electricity production. Bypassing the four dams  
9 which provide recreation opportunities that would  
10 equal or exceed existing levels.

11           Existing irrigation on the lower Snake  
12 River is all pumped water that could still be  
13 provided by simply extending the pumps from the  
14 (indiscernible) river pool, the natural river lowers  
15 with no loss of irrigation -- the entire 35,000  
16 irrigable acres.

17           The flawed draft EIS should be corrected  
18 so that the importance of electricity produced by  
19 the four lower Snake dams is based on fact.

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

22           **KEITH KUTCHINS:** Fact, only 5 percent of  
23 the congressionally-mandated purpose of the four  
24 dams is for electricity production. Fact, the dams  
25 combined generation capacity is only 5 percent of

1 the Columbia River Power system. And the EIS needs  
2 to consider the percentage of total electricity  
3 produced in the EIS project area, not just the  
4 portion of the Federal Columbia River Power System,  
5 but the entire Columbia River power system.

6 And, again, that 5 percent is capacity  
7 when its real production is 1.8 to 2.6 production.  
8 This small amount can very economically be replaced  
9 with conservation to help the river production.

10 Thank you.

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

12 Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
13 caller, please.

14 **THE OPERATOR:** Yes, ma'am.

15 Karen Davis, your line is open.

16 **KAREN DAVIS:** Thank you.

17 My name is Karen Davis. I'm a concerned  
18 citizen.

19 I wanted to start with the governmental  
20 report from 1949 talking about the Snake River dams.  
21 They were proposed at that time, not built yet.

22 Here's the quote: Another serious threat  
23 to the Columbia River Fishery is the proposed  
24 construction by the U.S. Army Engineers of Ice  
25 Harbor and three other dams on the lower Snake River

1 between Pasco, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho, to  
2 provide slackwater navigation and a relatively minor  
3 block of power. The development would remove part  
4 of the cost of waterborne shipping from the shipper  
5 and place it on the taxpayer, jeopardizing more than  
6 half of the Columbia River salmon production in  
7 exchange for 148 miles of subsidized barging route.  
8 The transportation savings to the shipper would  
9 amount to about \$2 million annually, while salmon  
10 runs having a wholesale value of about \$9 million  
11 would be threatened with destruction, end quote.

12           So we have known for over 70 years what  
13 the destruction (sic) of these dams would do to our  
14 environment, and it has turned out just as they  
15 predicted. We taxpayers are subsidizing the barging  
16 of wheat for a handful of farmers while we watched  
17 in horror the complete collapse of this once robust  
18 and lucrative salmon industry and all that relies on  
19 it.

20           There is rampant, shameful misinformation  
21 being spread about the importance of these dams by  
22 our own governmental agencies; NOAA, EPA, Army Corps  
23 of Engineers. Their FAQs are full of misinformation  
24 to justify the existence of these dams.

25           The bottom line is these dams are

1 benefiting few and harming multitudes. There is a  
2 reason they've been controversial since they were  
3 first proposed. There's a reason they've been  
4 identified as the best way to save our dwindling  
5 salmon runs. There is a reason that the Army Corps  
6 of Engineers said that breaching these dams would  
7 save the salmon in their own environmental impact  
8 statement of 2002.

9           The damage these dams do to our  
10 environment far outweighs the meager benefits  
11 enjoyed by a very few. There are other ways that  
12 already exist to get wheat to market. There are  
13 other ways that already exist to provide power to  
14 our region. There is no other way to save these fish  
15 that are a critical component to our ecosystem and  
16 are the lifeblood to our communities, our commercial  
17 and recreational fishermen, our tribes, and our  
18 people. They need to be breached now.

19           Thank you.

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

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

23           **THE OPERATOR:** Sean O'Leary, your line is  
24 open.

25           **SEAN O'LEARY:** Thank you very much.

1 I'm Sean O'Leary with the Northwest Energy  
2 Coalition. We're glad the DEIS assessment of MO-3,  
3 the dam removal alternative, confirmed the ability  
4 of new renewable resources and customer site  
5 resources to reliably replace the power and grid  
6 services currently provided by the dams.

7 However, the DEIS analysis greatly  
8 overestimates the cost and the amount of new  
9 generating resources required to do so. This  
10 exaggeration of costs and resources arose because,  
11 first, the DEIS makes several inaccurate assumptions  
12 regarding the cost to replace -- or to acquire the  
13 replacement resources. It also assumes an  
14 impractical and wholly arbitrary implementation date  
15 of the year 2022.

16 Then, in considering replacement  
17 resources, it failed to consider the full range of  
18 available technologies, including wind power and  
19 additional demand-side and storage resources. It  
20 also assumes the EPA will shoulder the full cost of  
21 power replacement and that these costs will be  
22 recovered only from public utility customers.

23 In addition, the DEIS assessment fails to  
24 meet even the minimum standards to which utilities  
25 and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council

1 adhere when they do resource planning. Under that  
2 standard, the DEIS should have first examined energy  
3 and capacity needs and resource costs over a span of  
4 years rather than just as a snapshot of the year  
5 2022.

6 Second, it should have fully explored  
7 demand requirements and resource options.

8 Third, it should have tested and optimized  
9 combinations of those options. Then it should have  
10 considered the interaction of the federal Columbia  
11 River System resources with the Western Regional  
12 resources and markets, and it should have analyzed  
13 the cost incidents of the replacement alternative to  
14 determine how costs would have been allocated among  
15 Northwest customers.

16 Had the DEIS done these things, the  
17 projected cost of the clean power replacement  
18 scenario would come down in concert with ongoing  
19 declines in costs for wind power, solar power, and  
20 storage. The amount of required replacement power  
21 would have been significantly reduced because demand  
22 response and energy efficiency would have made a far  
23 larger contribution.

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

1           **SEAN O'LEARY:** The enhanced cost  
2 efficiency of the replacement resources would have  
3 further reduced costs. And the cost of power  
4 replacement would have been shared by public and  
5 private utilities, thereby reducing the impact on a  
6 per-customer basis.

7           We're especially disappointed that the  
8 energy replacement analysis within the dam removal  
9 alternative has these shortcomings because the DEIS  
10 shows it's the only alternative that restores return  
11 rates to the level required to restore the  
12 endangered species.

13           The coalition is still examining the DEIS  
14 analysis and will provide a more detailed critique  
15 before the end of the comment period. Thank you.

16           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

17           Operator, before we move to the next  
18 caller, I'd like to take a moment to welcome those  
19 who may have joined us since we began taking  
20 comments.

21           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
22 This is a public meeting for providing comments on  
23 the CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd like to provide a  
24 comment, please press 1, then zero, to add your name  
25 to the queue.

1           Anonymous comments are also accepted if  
2 you prefer not to hear your name. You may state  
3 that you'd like to remain anonymous and will assign  
4 a number to you so that you know when your line is  
5 open.

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 this  
12 summer.

13           If you do provide comments, we welcome you  
14 to remain on the line to hear from others.

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

17           **THE OPERATOR:** Whitney Neugebauer, your  
18 line is open.

19           **WHITNEY NEUGEBAUER:** Hi. Thanks for  
20 taking comments today.

21           My name is Whitney Neugebauer and I'm the  
22 director of Whale Scout. We are a nonprofit based  
23 out of Bothell, Washington.

24           The majority of our work is focused on  
25 protecting whales through education, advocacy, and

1 on-the-ground salmon habitat restoration projects.  
2 Our volunteers spend close to 1,000 hours every year  
3 directly working to plant trees and otherwise  
4 reverse environmental damage to benefit salmon and,  
5 therefore, salmon-eating orcas.

6 Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force launched  
7 a stakeholder process looking at the lower Snake  
8 River dam issue and found that local communities are  
9 wanting to engage in constructive dialog outside of  
10 a cycle of back-and-forth litigation. This federal  
11 report is too constrained to reach the creative  
12 solution our region, both the people and the fish  
13 and wildlife, really need. We need leadership from  
14 our elected officials to move through this together.

15 That being said, the DEIS preferred  
16 alternative does not set us up for salmon recovery,  
17 nor does it make meaningful benefits to federally  
18 listed killer whales.

19 The DEIS under-represents the importance  
20 of Columbia-basin salmon in the diet and fitness of  
21 endangered southern resident killer whales. These  
22 whales need salmon from a variety of river systems  
23 throughout the entire west coast. They cannot  
24 depend on the three river systems or seasonal  
25 periods of abundance to provide adequate prey

1 resources.

2 Southern resident killer whales spend over  
3 half of the year in coastal waters. During that  
4 time, Columbia-basin salmon comprise over half of  
5 their diet. These spring chinook are of particular  
6 importance for southern resident killer whales.

7 We'll follow up with additional written comments  
8 providing sources of scientific information that  
9 were not cited in the DEIS.

10 Dam breaching, or the MO-3, give salmon  
11 the best chance of recovery of the alternatives  
12 presented in the DEIS. However, agencies should  
13 also consider another option to breach the four  
14 lower Snake River dams and utilize spill at the  
15 Columbia River dams up to 125 percent TDG.

16 This results in the best scenario for  
17 salmon recovery. This management option is outlined  
18 in detail as the MO-3/4, alternative, proposed by  
19 the Fish Passage Center in Chapter 2 of their  
20 Comparative Survival Study 2019 report.

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

23 **WHITNEY NEUGEBAUER:** Thank you.

24 Regional communities, including coastal  
25 towns, Oregon and Washington, can and should benefit

1 from breaching of the four lower Snake River dams.  
2 Tribes have been unfairly impacted by these  
3 projects, the loss of resources, including salmon.

4 Investments in clean energy can address  
5 the needs of the energy grid moving forward. As  
6 well as investments in transportation and irrigation  
7 can help offset potential losses for local farms.

8 We can solve all these issues by working  
9 together, but the endangered killer whales just  
10 can't wait. Thank you very much.

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

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

14 **THE OPERATOR:** Now, we go to a line of  
15 Gloria Pancrazi. Please go ahead.

16 **GLORIA PANCRAZI:** Hi. So I want to say  
17 just that I've just walked 14 days from Portland to  
18 the John Day dam with people from France, Canada and  
19 the United States. And we were walking to ask that  
20 the four lower Snake River dams be breached this  
21 year.

22 We had to stop our walk short because the  
23 Coronavirus, and so now I'm calling from here. And  
24 I'm on the line with twelve people that believe the  
25 same thing that I do, and that is that this draft

1 environmental impact statement has a lot of false  
2 facts in there. There's a lot of lobbyists  
3 spreading misinformation throughout the state. And  
4 this isn't just to save the orcas or the salmon,  
5 it's also to save ratepayers money.

6           So I want the federal agencies to address  
7 the Columbia River system in a two-tiered process.  
8 Tier 1 is an emergency response action for the  
9 immediate drawdown and breach of the Lower Granite  
10 and Little Goose dam, followed by the remaining two  
11 dams in subsequent years.

12           Tier 2 is addressing system operations and  
13 further mitigation activities in the rest of the  
14 Columbia River basin using the new EIS, assuming  
15 that the four lower Snake River dams are breached.

16           The southern resident killer whales, and  
17 the salmon, and steelheads will not survive this EIS  
18 study process and you know that because it's also  
19 filled with all of those lies. People across the  
20 world know the truth and they need you to do right  
21 by the orcas, by the salmon and by the ratepayers  
22 money.

23           We're not going to stop fighting. We're  
24 going to finish this march as soon as we can, and we  
25 need you to do the right thing and review EIS

1 statement afterwards. First, focus on the two-tier  
2 process and breaching the four lower Snake River  
3 dams this year.

4 And also one last thing. In the draft  
5 environmental impact statement, you are focusing on  
6 all of the dams on the Columbia River as well. And  
7 that's not what we're asking. We're literally just  
8 asking for the four lower Snake River dams, which  
9 lose money every year.

10 And another thing is that you used climate  
11 change as an excuse to not breach these four dams.  
12 And so many people out there, when we talk to them  
13 about the dams, they're like, what are we going to  
14 do instead, more carbon, that's so stupid.

15 And the truth is that nothing will change  
16 if these four dams are breached, except that  
17 ratepayers will loose --

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

20 **GLORIA PANCRAZI:** I'm done. Thank you.

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

22 Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
23 like to take a moment to allow one of our deputies  
24 to come on and acknowledge that they're still with  
25 us on the line.

1           **MR. FREDERICKS:** So, yeah, this is Jim  
2 Fredericks with the Corps of Engineers. Thank you,  
3 Maryam.

4           And I appreciate all the comments that we  
5 have so far. I appreciate the people listening and  
6 we are we are on the line and we are listening. So  
7 thank you for taking the time and I'll turn it back  
8 over to you Maryam.

9           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
10 Maryam Habibi. This is a public meeting for  
11 providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS.

12           If you would like to provide a comment,  
13 please press 1, then zero, to add your name to the  
14 queue.

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

22           If you do provide comments, we encourage  
23 you to remain on the line to hear from others.  
24 Currently, there are 17 people in the queue.

25           Operator, we're ready to move to the next

1 caller, please.

2           **THE OPERATOR:** John Rosenberg, your line  
3 is open.

4           **JOHN ROSENBERG:** My name is John  
5 Rosenberg, I'm a retired Lutheran pastor from  
6 Tumwater, Washington, and I'm an avid steelhead  
7 angler, and I volunteer with several local and  
8 regional salmon recovery efforts. I have a master's  
9 degree in Pacific Northwest History from Portland  
10 State University, where the subject of my research  
11 was Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead.

12           Someone said that one definition of  
13 insanity is to keep repeating the same action over  
14 and over and expecting a different result. By that  
15 definition, the latest draft EIS could be fairly  
16 described as an exercise in insanity.

17           A reasonable person might think that after  
18 five rejections by the federal court, each more  
19 scathing than the previous one, the agencies might  
20 consider a different approach. However, they seem  
21 to be so locked into preserving the status quo that  
22 apart from minor tinkering, they keep producing the  
23 same worn-out plan over and over again.

24           Something needs to change if Columbia and  
25 Snake River salmon and steelhead are to survive. The

1 urgency has never been greater. Not only are salmon  
2 and steelhead threatened with extinction, but so are  
3 the orcas that depend upon them as a primary food  
4 source; so are coastal communities in Oregon and  
5 Washington that depend upon them as a primary source  
6 of income; so are the outfitters in Idaho that  
7 depend on abundant salmon and steelhead for their  
8 livelihood; so are tribes who have a treaty right to  
9 catch salmon and steelhead and for whom they are  
10 integral to their self-understanding and way of  
11 life.

12           The only economic impacts the draft EIS  
13 takes into consideration are to the barging  
14 industry, a small number of farmers who rely on the  
15 Snake River for transportation and irrigation, and  
16 utilities who are rapidly developing alternative  
17 energy sources to replace their need for power from  
18 the four dams on the lower Snake.

19           If we want a different outcome, Congress  
20 needs to take the process out of the hands of  
21 federal agencies who have repeatedly demonstrated  
22 their unwillingness to take the necessary steps to  
23 address this crisis. Instead, Congress should give  
24 it back to Pacific Northwesterners who can come up  
25 with real solutions; sovereign tribes, all

1 stakeholders, not just barge operators, farmers and  
2 utility executives, and regional citizens who can  
3 craft inclusive creative solutions that are lawful,  
4 science-based, and address the concerns of the  
5 people of the region today, and not just the open  
6 river boosters who promoted the dam 70 years ago.

7 If we want different outcomes --

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

10 **JOHN ROSENBERG:** -- we need a different  
11 process with different players.

12 If the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of  
13 Reclamation and BPA have demonstrated anything over  
14 the past 30 years, it's that they're incapable of  
15 addressing this crisis in a meaningful way. How  
16 about letting some other folks have an opportunity?  
17 Thanks.

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

19 Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
20 caller, please.

21 **THE OPERATOR:** Amanda Hoey, your line is  
22 open.

23 **AMANDA HOEY:** Thank you.

24 My name is Amanda Hoey and I am the CEO  
25 for Oregon Wheats, which encompasses the Oregon

1 Wheat Commission, Oregon Wheat Growers League, and  
2 Oregon Wheat Foundation. Today, I speak  
3 representing the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

4           The importance of the Columbia River  
5 system cannot be understated for Pacific Northwest  
6 wheat growers. In Oregon, we produce between 50 and  
7 70 million bushels of wheat annually. That equates  
8 to 1.36 to 1.9 million metric tons of wheat, of  
9 which 85 to 90 percent is exported.

10           Our Oregon wheat growers have access to a  
11 global marketplace by moving grains through the  
12 Columbia Snake River system to Portland and  
13 Vancouver, and then on to international ports. We  
14 depend on the navigation provided by the river  
15 system to move our product. It is essential for the  
16 ability to continue commercial farming operations.

17           And those wheat farming operations are  
18 significant, not just to the individual producers  
19 and the rural communities in which they reside, but  
20 also to the state as a whole. The direct value of  
21 wheat harvest to Oregon is nearly \$300 million for  
22 just that raw product. Average total economic  
23 output is over \$815 million, and we are supporting  
24 over 5600 jobs on approximately 1400 farms.

25           Without the navigation provided by the

1 Columbia and Snake River system, our transportation  
2 costs are expected to double. With wheat prices  
3 already near the break-even point, increasing  
4 transportation costs by removing barges would create  
5 an untenable situation for many of our farmers. It  
6 would endanger the livelihoods of our farmers and  
7 their employees.

8           We need to ensure that projects all along  
9 the Columbia River system are maintained and  
10 enhanced with continual improvements in fish passage  
11 and for system navigability. The navigation offered  
12 by the system provides for the most fuel-efficient  
13 transportation option for wheat.

14           There are many other benefits of this  
15 system that directly impact our farmers from a  
16 reliable energy supply to water for irrigation and  
17 I've submitted written comments outlining the  
18 importance of each of those.

19           I applaud the approach taken in the study  
20 to analyze options. And I strongly support the  
21 preferred alternative identified in the draft EIS.  
22 Critically, the preferred alternative avoids the  
23 extreme measure of dam breaching. Dam breaching  
24 would clearly destroy the resource purpose of this  
25 system related to providing waterway transportation

1 capability. It would also run counter to the  
2 objectives of providing water supply, minimizing  
3 greenhouse gas emissions, and providing a reliable  
4 and economic power supply.

5           Instead, the preferred alternative has a  
6 balanced approach which takes into account the  
7 importance of healthy salmon and steelhead  
8 populations with the multiple purposes of the  
9 Columbia River system and helps support our rural  
10 communities and our farmers.

11           Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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

13           Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
14 caller, please.

15           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Colin  
16 Dersey (phonetic). Your line is open.

17           **COLIN DERSEY:** Thank you.

18           Hello. My name is Colin. I manage a law  
19 firm here in northeast Portland. I'm calling  
20 because after listening to many talking points on  
21 both sides yesterday, I think it'd be good to take a  
22 step back and see this issue as a whole.

23           We're currently in the middle of the sixth  
24 mass extinction. In our lifetimes, we have and will  
25 continue to see the extinction of species that have

1 lived on this planet for millions of years, species  
2 that live on this earth much longer than humans.

3 And I ask, is it worth it?

4           Are people happier and living more  
5 fulfilling lives because of increased profit margins  
6 or economic growth? Or, are people sadder because  
7 of their detachment from nature? Sadder because  
8 they'll never get to witness so many spectacles of  
9 the natural world?

10           We know that the southern resident orcas  
11 will go extinct in our lifetimes if these dams are  
12 not breached. We know breaching the dams is our  
13 best option because Army Corps of Engineers told us  
14 so when they carried out the seven-year, \$33 million  
15 study suggesting that breaching the dams was the  
16 best option for restoring salmon populations.

17           Yesterday, multiple commenters said  
18 things, like, there has to be a better way to  
19 restore salmon runs without ever offering a proven  
20 solution.

21           People also blame other environmental  
22 issues as if two wrongs make a right. Yes, climate  
23 change and pollution threaten the survival of salmon  
24 and orcas, but that's not what we're here to  
25 address. The subject is breaching these dams and

1 the effect it will have on salmon runs in the Snake  
2 River.

3 Flood risk management was another concern  
4 people brought up. However, Congress did not  
5 authorize flood control as a purpose and the dams  
6 were not designed for it. The Lower Granite Dam  
7 actually creates a flood risk to Lewiston due to  
8 sediment buildup.

9 I also heard support of killing species  
10 like cormorants and sea lions that prey on salmon.  
11 Instead of using history to learn from our mistakes,  
12 we just repeat them with different subjects and we  
13 now look to exterminate species for living a life  
14 that comes natural to them.

15 We come up with crazy false justifications  
16 for our actions as if it is the fault of cormorants  
17 and sea lions or salmon population declines, despite  
18 the fact that these species preyed on salmon long  
19 before we arrived.

20 I'll tell you one thing. Cormorants and  
21 sea lions didn't choke off the Snake River by  
22 building four huge dams to block its path.

23 So how much longer can we keep our boot  
24 pressed against the throats of other species on this  
25 planet? How much more do we have to exploit others,

1 including other humans who were forcibly removed  
2 from this land so the dams could be built in the  
3 first place?

4 Another point people brought up yesterday  
5 was how much of a shame it would be to lose these  
6 engineering marvels. Last I checked, it would be a  
7 much greater shame to lose one of the earth's most  
8 intelligent, beautiful species, the southern  
9 resident orcas, than it would be to lose four large  
10 pieces of concrete that block one of the world's  
11 most diverse ecosystems.

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

14 **COLIN DERSEY:** Even if these engineering  
15 marvels were not so costly to maintain to a point  
16 that they're actually profitable, what kind of world  
17 would it be without the spectacles of nature? Who  
18 wants to live in a world where there are no fish and  
19 species that depend on them?

20 Maybe the people with direct economic  
21 interests tied to these dams want a world like that,  
22 but I don't think anyone else does. So instead of  
23 blaming other species like sea lions and cormorants,  
24 look in the mirror and ask yourself what kind of  
25 world you want to create? Because from what I can

1 tell, we don't have much time left before we cause  
2 the extinction of even more species that live life  
3 the way it was meant to be, wild and free. So  
4 breach the dams now. Thank you.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

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

8 **THE OPERATOR:** Lynn Herring, your line is  
9 open.

10 **LYNN HERRING:** My name is Lynn Herring.  
11 Regarding the Columbia River system operations DEIS,  
12 I support the comments of the Audubon  
13 Society of Portland. The final plan must  
14 focus on the following: Removal of the four  
15 obsolete Snake River dams, increased flows over  
16 Columbia River dams, habitat restoration,  
17 persecution of native wildlife and natural predators  
18 like the double-crested cormorant, caspian terns and  
19 other natural predators must be eliminated from this  
20 plan because it's time to address the real cause of  
21 salmon decline, the dams. Thank you.

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

23 Operator, we're ready to move on to the  
24 next caller, please.

25 **THE OPERATOR:** Harry Jakeman (sic), your

1 line is open.

2           **HARRY JAGEMAN:** Hello. My name is Harry  
3 Jageman. I'm 70 years old. And the perspective  
4 where I'm calling from is I have two grandsons. One  
5 is 1 year old. One is 3 years old. I would like to  
6 see those young fellows someday catch a steelhead  
7 here in the Clearwater River. I live in Moscow,  
8 Idaho. It's right in my backyard.

9           And I've looked into the EIS -- the DEIS.  
10 The best recovery is given with the MO-3, which is  
11 removing the Snake River dams.

12           Just a few facts from the Idaho  
13 Conservation League, which talks about SARs. I'm  
14 sure most of the people that worked on the EIS knew  
15 about SARs. The Deschutes River with two dams has  
16 the SARs of 5.94. You need at least a SARs of 2 to  
17 at least maintain the population, and 4 would be  
18 better.

19           The John Day Dam, with three dams in the  
20 way, has a SARs rate of 6.06. The Yakima River,  
21 with four dams, has a SARs of 4.58.

22           The Snake River Basin above Lower Granite  
23 Dam, where we have eight dams, the SARs rate is  
24 1.84. That is a curve towards extinction.

25           We cannot tolerate this. There's a very

1 simple solution that all the other problems -- the  
2 economic problems can be fixed.

3           We need to work on those. They're all  
4 solvable. We can have solar. We can do railroad.  
5 We can generate electricity by wind. The wheat  
6 farmers can move their wheat from Pasco. It's a  
7 little bit farther. They'd have to drive. And they  
8 can make out all right. I'll be willing to pay an  
9 extra nickel for a loaf of bread to get the save the  
10 salmon.

11           So let's get rid of the dams and quit our  
12 procrastinating because we know what we need to do.

13           Thank you very much. I yield the rest of  
14 my time.

15           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, we're  
16 ready to move to the next call, please.

17           **THE OPERATOR:** The next comment comes from  
18 Line 34. Line 34, your line is open.

19           **JOE LUKAS:** Yes, I believe this is me.

20           This is Joe Lukas with Western Montana  
21 G&T. I think the draft EIS appropriately rejected  
22 the extreme measures of Objective 3, dam breaching,  
23 and 4, spill up to 125 TDG.

24           These extreme measures only serve to  
25 divide us in the region. For far too long, we've

1 just battled over these issues and we see people  
2 continually grasping for silver bullet solutions  
3 that simply don't exist.

4 If we're going to solve this salmon  
5 recovery problem, our only choice -- our only choice  
6 is to work together. That's going to require  
7 sacrifice across the ages, across the life cycle,  
8 and an end to the nonstop finger-pointing.

9 Demonizing our clean energy infrastructure  
10 will do nothing to address this problem. We need to  
11 stop it. All it will do is create a reliability  
12 problem in the region as shown by the draft EIS that  
13 showed the reliability and blackout risks would  
14 double with dam breaching.

15 These extreme measures are simply not  
16 helpful. The draft EIS appropriately dismissed  
17 them. People should end the silver bullet thinking  
18 and figure out how we can get to work. Thanks.

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

20 Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
21 call, please.

22 **THE OPERATOR:** And the next call is from  
23 Caitlin Straubinger. Please go ahead.

24 **CAITLIN STRAUBINGER:** Hi, this is Caitlin  
25 Schr?dinger. I hope everyone is doing okay out

1 there.

2 I'm a resident of Idaho, and I'm a  
3 lifelong river enthusiast and recreator, and I work  
4 for Idaho Rivers United.

5 The DEIS, in the preferred alternative,  
6 falls short of providing comprehensive solutions  
7 that address all parties. It fails our community of  
8 guides and outfitters who rely on bountiful fish  
9 returns for their livelihood.

10 And it fails salmon and steelhead. These  
11 iconic endangered fish deserves every chance to  
12 thrive in the wild as they have for hundreds of  
13 thousands of years before we got involved.

14 Salmon returns to the Snake and Columbia  
15 Rivers are dreadful. Current wild returns are just  
16 1 to 3 percent of historic returns. In Idaho, that  
17 number is even lower.

18 Scientists tell us that the single best  
19 action we can take to recover salmon and steelhead  
20 is to restore the lower Snake River by breaching the  
21 four dams. Small river towns like Salmon, Riggins  
22 and Orofino rely on outdoor recreation and fishing.

23 Outdoor guiding and recreation in Idaho  
24 provides over 70,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in direct  
25 and indirect salaries and wages. The DEIS doesn't

1 account for this. The DEIS should include a  
2 comprehensive economic analysis of Idaho's salmon  
3 sport fishery and its great potential should wild  
4 salmon and steelhead return in abundance.

5           The DEIS furthers an approach that isn't  
6 working. Salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and  
7 Snake Rivers are endangered and threatened. We've  
8 spent over \$17 billion on recovery, and yet wild  
9 salmon and steelhead throughout the Columbia and  
10 Snake River basins are still on the endangered  
11 species list.

12           We need collaborative solutions that meet  
13 the needs of all interest groups in the Pacific  
14 Northwest, and DEIS and the preferred alternative,  
15 don't do this. We must meet the needs of all;  
16 farming communities, clean energy and restored  
17 salmon and steelhead stocks.

18           If current events haven't reminded us of  
19 this already, please keep in mind that all  
20 stakeholders must come together and work together to  
21 find solutions that are inclusive, science-based and  
22 economically viable.

23           Finally, and especially in light of these  
24 unusual circumstances, the DEIS comment period  
25 should be extended. At a minimum, the comment

1 period should be 120 days.

2 Thank you for listening. I yield the rest  
3 of my time.

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

5 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
6 please.

7 **THE OPERATOR:** Christina Wyatt your line  
8 is open.

9 **CRISTINA WYATT:** Hello. My name is  
10 Christina Wyatt and I work for a small rural  
11 electric cooperative in eastern Washington.

12 Thank you for the DEIS. We appreciate the  
13 comprehensive analysis that was done. We feel that  
14 it was inclusive of all the comments and the dam  
15 breaching. We feel that it was very comprehensive.

16 And we want to thank you for acknowledging  
17 that if the dams are removed, that there will be a  
18 loss of load probability that doubles. That means  
19 that the farmers in our area that depend on the  
20 irrigation will not be able to grow their crops and  
21 not send them out to feed the world.

22 And we also want to acknowledge the fact  
23 that we need that clean energy to support newer  
24 clean energy, such as solar and wind that are coming  
25 online because the coal plants are all going to be

1 retired and we will not be able to provide the  
2 electricity that everybody is depending on,  
3 especially now that everybody is working from home.

4 I want to also say that we would like to  
5 work with everybody because we do need a  
6 comprehensive solution, but I think this is a very  
7 good start.

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

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

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

15 Agency officials from the U.S. Army Corps  
16 of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville  
17 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your  
18 comments. Though we are not responding to questions  
19 or comments during this meeting or providing  
20 additional presentations, the agencies do welcome  
21 and will consider your comments in developing the  
22 final EIS, which will be released this summer.

23 We encourage you to remain on the line if  
24 you provide comments. Currently, we have 10 callers  
25 in queue.

1 As a reminder, if you would like to  
2 provide comments, please press 1 then zero.

3 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
4 please.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Jack  
6 Glass. Your line is open.

7 **JACK GLASS:** Hello. My name is Jack  
8 Glass. I'm a full-time fishing guide. I've been a  
9 resident in Oregon all my life.

10 I started guiding in 1983 when the  
11 Columbia River opened to the retention of steelhead.  
12 It was closed to steelhead fishing -- retention of  
13 steelhead since 1974 because the numbers were down  
14 so severely. It was less than 100,000 fish return  
15 over Bonneville, so they had closed it for a number  
16 of years.

17 When it reopened is about the time I  
18 started guiding. It was open to salmon as well.  
19 There was about 200,000 steelhead and some salmon.  
20 1987 had a record run of salmon and steelhead. Some  
21 of the biggest returns in the history of Bonneville  
22 Dam.

23 In 1994, the fall salmon and steelhead  
24 dropped to a third lowest in history. Steelhead  
25 were also in reduction. 1998 and 2000, I visited

1 Capitol Hill and met with legislators and promotion  
2 of spill and removal of Snake River dams and how  
3 important it would be to bring these fish runs back.  
4 Judge Redden mandated spill was necessary to provide  
5 for these fish. 2001, spring and summer chinook open  
6 to sport and commercial harvest in the Columbia.  
7 The first time in 27 years of that closure. 2015,  
8 we had robust runs of adult fall king salmon with  
9 robust spring-summer salmon and steelhead. What  
10 made the difference was spill was mandated. So  
11 spill made a huge difference on the returns.

12 Now, here we are 2019 in some of the worst  
13 fall, spring, summer chinooks and steelhead returns  
14 since 1994. It's just crazy how these runs have  
15 diminished in such huge numbers.

16 Spill has obviously been a key component  
17 to it. The removal of Snake River dams would bring  
18 the cold water that's necessary.

19 The runs are definitely cyclical. But  
20 with global warming, things are happening quickly.  
21 We know that it's not going to return without some  
22 serious help.

23 Also, back in 1987, I remember people  
24 campaigning about legalizing marijuana and I thought  
25 that would never, ever happen. In 1998 when I was

1 campaigning removal of Snake River dams, I thought  
2 that would probably never happen. But look at now,  
3 marijuana is legal. I see this happening in the  
4 future of Snake River dams.

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

7 **JACK GLASS:** Thank you.

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

9 Operator, you can move to the next caller,  
10 please.

11 **THE OPERATOR:** William Putnam, your line  
12 is open.

13 **WILLIAM PUTNAM:** Hi, there. My name is  
14 William Putnam. I'm a private citizen and I have a  
15 criticism.

16 Your draft EIS is missing a vital piece of  
17 context that must be included. I'm going to get  
18 into that right now.

19 On May 4th, 2016, in a federal district  
20 court ruling, three U.S. government agencies deeply  
21 involved in the Columbia River system were found to  
22 be in violation of the Endangered Species Act and  
23 the National Environmental Policy Act. I think this  
24 can be referred to as National Wildlife Federation,  
25 et alia vs. National Marine Fisheries Service, et

1 alia.

2           And I want to read a portion of that, page  
3 five, from Judge Michael Simon. He states, and I  
4 quote: In this lawsuit, plaintiffs raised two  
5 primary questions. First, did defendant, NOAA  
6 Fisheries act arbitrarily and capriciously when it  
7 issued its latest biological opinion (the '2014  
8 BiOp') concluding that the operations of the Federal  
9 Columbia River Power System do not violate the  
10 Endangered Species Act of 1973, based on the 73  
11 'reasonable and prudent alternatives' described in  
12 the 2014 BiOp?

13           Second, did Defendants U.S. Army Corps of  
14 Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation violate the  
15 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 by failing  
16 to prepare an environmental impact statement in  
17 connection with their records of decisions  
18 implementing the 73 reasonable and prudent  
19 alternatives described in the 24 BiOp. The answers  
20 to both questions are yes. End quote.

21           As it is in your draft, on the first page  
22 of your executive summary, you state -- and this is  
23 the first paragraph, we prepared this document in  
24 response to the need to review and update management  
25 of the CRS. I find that that's inaccurate and that

1 it fails to disclose the true circumstances of the  
2 inception of this EIS.

3 The purpose of this report is to fulfill  
4 the demands of the court order that ruled against  
5 NOAA, and the Corps, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

6 The context of this court order must be  
7 included on the first page of that executive summary  
8 as well as the full report, any explanations for  
9 making alternative decisions as well as any other  
10 conclusions. This must be included because the  
11 public and everyone who encounters this report,  
12 including employees and contractors of these federal  
13 agencies, they all need to know whether the actions  
14 based on this report are in continued violation of  
15 the laws of which these agencies were previously  
16 found to be in violation.

17 By failing to disclose those ongoing  
18 violations and the court order, this EIS hides the  
19 criminal negligence, if not criminal recklessness,  
20 of NOAA, the Corps and BOR. I would Bonneville  
21 Power to that list as well. They have all failed to  
22 rectify the violations.

23 These agencies have published information  
24 that prove that the river system --

25 **MS. HABIBI:** You have thirty seconds

1 remaining.

2 **WILLIAM PUTNAM:** -- will not reduce the  
3 damage to salmon and other endangered species.

4 I propose the need for an unbiased third-  
5 party team of experts, scientists of all types,  
6 biologists, environmental science and financial  
7 experts and economists to analyze the information.  
8 Otherwise, there's no government accountability  
9 here. And the need for government accountability is  
10 why DEIS started.

11 Since this DEIS -- introduced major  
12 changes, this DEIS does not rectify the criminal  
13 negligence or the criminal recklessness of the  
14 violation of both the Endangered Species Act and  
15 National Environmental Policy Act.

16 In order to --

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

18 **WILLIAM PUTNAM:** -- endangered species and  
19 to stop violating the Endangered Species Act and  
20 NEPA, the evidence is clear that the federal  
21 agencies must immediately drawdown and breach the --

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, we need to move on  
23 to the next call, please. Thank you.

24 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Kurt  
25 Miller. Please go ahead.

1           **KURT MILLER:** Hi. My name is Kurt Miller.  
2 I'm the executive director of Northwest River  
3 Partners. We represent over 60 not-for-profit  
4 community-owned utilities in the northwest. These  
5 utilities represent roughly 4 million electric  
6 customers.

7           Most of the rest of our members are also  
8 not-for-profit organizations, some are ports and  
9 others represent agriculture.

10           We have only two private enterprise  
11 members and we're proud to represent them. But we  
12 only get a very small fraction of our funding from  
13 them.

14           I'm spending more time than usual on  
15 talking about our membership because it's important  
16 for me that you know that hydroelectricity isn't  
17 synonymous with big business. If your electricity  
18 service comes from a co-op, a public utility  
19 district or a municipality in the northwest, the  
20 chances are that you get most of your electricity  
21 from hydropower.

22           These not-for-profit utilities are spread  
23 throughout the northwest. They often serve very  
24 diverse communities, including some of the most  
25 vulnerable populations.

1           Whether in major urban centers, suburbs or  
2 in rural areas, public power utilities have no  
3 profit motive. Everything they do is for the good  
4 of the communities they serve.

5           We advocate for hydroelectricity because  
6 our members want everyone in their communities to be  
7 able to afford clean electricity for their homes and  
8 businesses. The challenge of keeping energy  
9 affordable will be even more critical as hundreds of  
10 thousands of northwesterners have already lost their  
11 jobs even before the COVID-19 Pandemic had made its  
12 impact fully felt.

13           The DEIS is very clear and detailed that  
14 breaching the four lower Snake River dams and  
15 replacing them with carbon-free resources will cost  
16 electricity customers in the northwest and added \$1  
17 billion annually. Billion With a B.

18           That would raise Bonneville Power  
19 Administration's wholesale power rates by 50  
20 percent. And the average co-op customer would see a  
21 25 percent monthly increase in their electric bills.

22           The reason for this huge increase is that  
23 the dams have capabilities unlike any other  
24 generating resource. Though they are considered  
25 run-of-river dams, they can store and release water

1 quickly, which enabled them to fill in the gaps that  
2 are left by wind and solar power. To replace the  
3 dams means not just replacing their renewable  
4 energy, but also their storage capabilities.

5           So when you hear that the lower Snake  
6 River dams are not cost-effective, that is a  
7 misunderstanding. It ignores how the dams are used  
8 to help keep the grid in perfect balance and to  
9 avoid blackouts.

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

12           **KURT MILLER:** We hope this information  
13 helps the agencies to understand that while our  
14 member utilities and the communities they serve  
15 believe the dams are critical to a clean and  
16 equitable energy future.

17           My organization is ready to partner to  
18 find practical ways to help salmon and orcas that  
19 don't threaten so many communities and so many  
20 people across the northwest.

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

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

24           Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
25 call, please.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** The next call is from John  
2 Francisco. Please go ahead.

3           **JOHN FRANCISCO:** Thank you.

4           My name is John Francisco and I'm the CEO  
5 for Northwest Requirements Utilities or NRU.

6           NRU is the trade association that  
7 represents 53 nonprofit public utilities who are  
8 customers of the Bonneville Power Administration.  
9 These utilities collectively serve over 650,000 end-  
10 use retail electricity consumers.

11           Most of NRUs member utilities receive the  
12 entirety of their wholesale electricity from BPA.  
13 NRU will be submitting detailed written comments in  
14 addition to these oral comments.

15           NRU would like to extend our appreciation  
16 to the many agencies who collaborated on the  
17 extensive effort necessary to produce the  
18 comprehensive and well-balanced draft EIS. NRU is  
19 especially to see the engagement of the agencies  
20 with the Northwest Tribal Leaders and that their  
21 interests were often and appropriately cited in the  
22 draft.

23           The lead agency set clear objectives under  
24 comprehensive public input for the need for the  
25 process. Those objectives endeavored to improve

1 endangered fish stocks -- four of the eight  
2 objectives addressed this -- while also providing  
3 for a reliable and economic power supply, minimizing  
4 greenhouse gas emissions, maximizing adaptable water  
5 management, and providing water supply. All of  
6 these goals are things that we believe  
7 northwesterners should feel good about supporting.

8           NRU agrees with the critical importance of  
9 helping fish populations, and also with the  
10 assertion that it is crucial we do this without  
11 creating hardships for vulnerable communities across  
12 the northwest.

13           NRU encourages the agencies and  
14 stakeholders to consider all options that will  
15 benefit endangered species, including those not  
16 explicitly included in the multiple objective  
17 alternatives or the preferred alternatives.

18           The draft speaks extensively to concerns  
19 around the losses related to avian predation, and we  
20 must all consider what can be done to mitigate these  
21 losses and others.

22           Every variable that contributes to lower  
23 than expected salmon and steelhead returns must be  
24 put under the microscope. Only when we all agree  
25 that every factor that contributes to salmon

1 population is on the table for discussion, will we  
2 be able to collaboratively address salmon returns  
3 without choosing winners or losers. Durable  
4 solutions will take compromise from each of us and a  
5 willingness to embrace the issues that are important  
6 to other stakeholders as well as our own.

7           Thank you again for the tremendous effort  
8 it took to produce this holistic and balanced draft  
9 EIS. Please don't waver when considering comments  
10 that push back on a preferred alternative in favor  
11 of alternatives that are not well balanced or do not  
12 meet all objectives of the agencies.

13           And as the previous commenters said, NRU  
14 stands ready to collaborate with anyone in the  
15 northwest to work on this pressing issue.

16           That's the end of my comments. I will  
17 yield my remaining time.

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

19           Operator, we can move to the next call.

20           **THE OPERATOR:** Brett Haverstick, your line  
21 is open.

22           **BRETT HAVERSTICK:** Yeah, all right. Thank  
23 you.

24           Let's see here. My name is Brett  
25 Haverstick, and I live on the Palouse here in

1 Moscow, Idaho. I spend a lot of time in the  
2 Clearwater basin of north-central Idaho. And  
3 unfortunately, I've been witnessing the precipitous  
4 drop or decline of fish returning to the region for  
5 about the past 15 years.

6           As fish returns grows smaller and smaller,  
7 the negative impacts to my region certainly grow  
8 larger and larger. Communities like Lewiston,  
9 Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, not to mention others in  
10 Idaho like Regan, Salmon and Stanley, all these  
11 communities are losing tens of millions of dollars  
12 every year in revenue due to shortened and/or closed  
13 fishing seasons, all resulting in the loss of local  
14 dollars spent on things like gasoline, food,  
15 lodging, fishing licenses, other recreational  
16 expenditures.

17           Certainly, the Nez Perce Tribe has  
18 suffered and continues to suffer greatly from the  
19 poor return of fish to our region.

20           Even the town where I live, Moscow, Idaho,  
21 is negatively affected by the status quo approach to  
22 the management of the Snake Columbia hydropower  
23 system. Moscow is about 25 miles north of Lewiston,  
24 Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington.

25           There are two major state universities on

1 the Palouse; the University of Idaho, as well as  
2 Washington State University.

3 I truly feel that a free-flowing lower  
4 Snake River, in conjunction with the free-flowing  
5 Clearwater River, could make the Palouse even more  
6 desirable place to enroll in college and/or raise a  
7 family.

8 I truly believe that a free-flowing lower  
9 Snake River could increase student enrollment and  
10 attract even more highly qualified faculty and staff  
11 to these universities because of the great quality  
12 of life.

13 I truly believe that a free-flowing lower  
14 Snake River would offer excellent fishing and  
15 hunting opportunities, as well as great white-water  
16 rafting and kayaking opportunities, along with the  
17 return of the sandy beaches that families certainly  
18 once visited and would love to visit again.

19 A free-flowing lower Snake River could  
20 also attract more industry and better paying jobs to  
21 the Palouse, as well as an increase in property  
22 values and tax revenues. I really think that the  
23 Palouse, even more so than it is now, could be a  
24 highly sought after destination to live, work, play  
25 and raise a family.

1 I want to talk about the agricultural  
2 component of the Palouse.

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

5 **BRETT HAVERSTICK:** The agricultural  
6 component of the Palouse is also a vital piece of  
7 the fabric that holds our community together. We  
8 currently don't have any unit trained on the  
9 Palouse, however, where if we do, we need a lot  
10 more. Because trucking grain to Lewis and Clarkston  
11 and putting it on a barge to go down river is  
12 certainly a thing of the past. Barging from the  
13 port of Lewiston is all but dead. And overall  
14 shipping on the lower Snake has declined over 70  
15 percent the past 15, 20 years.

16 We need to face the fact that the lower  
17 Snake is not a major artery of commerce --

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

19 **BRETT HAVERSTICK:** Thank you.

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

22 **THE OPERATOR:** Next, we'll go to the line  
23 of Mark Johnson. Please go ahead.

24 **MARK JOHNSON:** Good evening. My name is  
25 Mark Johnson. I'm the general manager of Flathead

1 Electric Cooperative in Kalispell, Montana. I will  
2 submit written comments, but wanted to take this  
3 opportunity to express my support for the federal  
4 Columbia River system and under the circumstances,  
5 my explicit support for the four lower Snake River  
6 dams.

7           Members of our cooperative have supported  
8 the Northwest Hydro System for generations. Through  
9 paying their electric bills, they continue to fund  
10 and support the greatest carbon-free and renewable  
11 generation system in the world.

12           However, all of us here at Flathead  
13 Electric are concerned when we hear that there is a  
14 movement toward breaching or removing any of the  
15 federal hydro projects. The draft environmental  
16 impact statement shows that the lower Snake River  
17 dams can be replaced, but only at an extreme cost.

18           The cost can be either to the environment  
19 by replacing the dams with fossil fuel generation  
20 and putting thousands more vehicles on the road, or  
21 to communities by replacing the dams with a clean  
22 energy portfolio that would add a billion dollars  
23 annually to electricity costs. For millions of  
24 people across the northwest, that would equate to a  
25 25 percent increase in their monthly electric bills.

1 Many of my members already struggle to pay  
2 their monthly bills. In Lincoln County and Flathead  
3 County, where we serve, 16 percent and 14 percent of  
4 the population, respectively, lives below the  
5 poverty line. Both numbers are higher than the  
6 national average.

7 We also cannot ignore the fact that we  
8 need a dependable electric grid. We live in a  
9 region that can have below zero temperatures for  
10 days on end.

11 In the I-5 corridor, a blackout would be a  
12 serious and bothersome nuisance. But in my service  
13 territory, with below zero temperatures, people can  
14 die.

15 It is very important to recognize that the  
16 CRSO Draft EIS shows that losing the lower Snake  
17 River dams would double the risk of region-wide  
18 blackouts.

19 All of us at Flatted Electric support a  
20 strong and viable salmon population in the  
21 northwest. But salmon alone cannot be the sole  
22 decision criteria when considering the fate of the  
23 lower Snake River dams. Nor can these dams be the  
24 sole blame for changing salmon populations.

25 More emphasis needs to be put on ocean

1 conditions, predator control and other factors  
2 impacting salmon numbers and a comprehensive shared  
3 solution should be developed that recognizes the  
4 important need for clean and reliable power service  
5 for this modern world.

6 We ask you, the federal agencies, as you  
7 finalize the EIS and record of decision, that you  
8 support the draft findings that are rooted in sound  
9 science and provide a long-term, meaningful solution  
10 to the region's energy and environmental challenges.

11 Thank you, and I yield the rest of my  
12 time.

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

14 Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
15 like to take a moment to welcome anyone who's joined  
16 us since we began taking comments.

17 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
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 zero, to add your name  
21 to the queue.

22 Agency officials from the U.S. Army Corps  
23 of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville  
24 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your  
25 comments.

1           Though we're not responding to questions  
2 or comments during this meeting or providing  
3 additional presentations, the agencies do welcome  
4 and will consider your comments in developing the  
5 final EIS, which will be released this summer.

6           We encourage you to remain on the line if  
7 you've provided comments so that you may hear from  
8 others.

9           Currently, there are eight callers queued.  
10 Again, as a reminder, you may press one, then zero,  
11 to add your name to the list.

12           Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
13 please.

14           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Eloise  
15 Ketchum, please go ahead.

16           **ELOISE KETCHUM:** Thank you for this  
17 opportunity to speak, share the principle which I'm  
18 against keeping these dams on the Snake River.

19           First, there are 72 southern resident  
20 orcas left. It's nothing. They're starving to  
21 death as the four lower Snake River dams cut off  
22 salmon runs.

23           Second, every year some 8 million salmon  
24 are killed by this dam.

25           These two species are going to extinct.

1 Even with all the money spent on estuaries and  
2 (indiscernible) have not solved the problem, so that  
3 now the salmon return to the Snake River system are  
4 only 5 percent of the historical number.

5           There is no recovery from extinction. And  
6 if we don't address this now, all of the North  
7 American West Coast will be affected by this  
8 extinction of salmon and the southern residents.

9           This area is not okay. (Indiscernible),  
10 you're violating Endangered Injured Species Act.

11           Thirdly, these old dams produce less than  
12 3 percent of power surplus. You're misleading the  
13 citizen in the value of these dams and misspending  
14 millions of (indiscernible) dollars every year. This  
15 is not responsible to your ratepayers.

16           Fourth, there remains the moral obligation  
17 to act in good faith. We start to (indiscernible)  
18 people of the ancestral lands that were confiscated  
19 from them, then sold it for these dams.

20           Oregon Governor Kate Brown, in her letter  
21 of February 11, 2020, to Governor Jay Inslee  
22 concerns our support for removing the earthen  
23 portion of the lower four Snake River dam. She  
24 offers to work with the state of Washington to help  
25 reduce potential harm to the economic sector and she

1 offers to partner with Washington State to ensure  
2 that any study be fully funded and sustainable  
3 during the necessary interim period while long-term  
4 solutions are addressed.

5 It is clearly time to make change for our  
6 collective future. It is irresponsible for us to  
7 continue funding these four dams.

8 For more insight, please, everyone, watch  
9 the documentary Damned to Extinction to be fully  
10 aware of the choice you're making right now.

11 (Indiscernible) I challenge all of us to reevaluate  
12 the economic decision of your old past. When the  
13 four lower Snake River dams --

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

16 **ELOISE KETCHUM:** -- were built, the  
17 economic drivers were different in the reality of  
18 our current time. You must now include an  
19 alternative planning ecological solution.

20 Tonight, think about it. Go to bed. Wake  
21 up tomorrow and ask you which person you want to be,  
22 save the world or destroy it?

23 Breach the dams, save the salmon, save the  
24 orca, please. Thank you.

25 **MR. MILLER:** Thank you.

1 Operator, please move to the next caller.

2 **THE OPERATOR:** Jill Heine, your line is  
3 open.

4 **JILL HEINE:** Hi. This is Jill Heine. I'm  
5 a concerned resident and I live in the Puget Sound  
6 area.

7 From what I can see, the DEIS, as written,  
8 doesn't represent the importance of the Columbia  
9 Basin salmon for the southern resident killer  
10 whales. They need salmon from a variety of rivers  
11 throughout the entire West Coast. They can't depend  
12 on two to three river systems or seasonal periods of  
13 abundance to provide adequate prey resources.

14 The southern resident killer whales spend  
15 over half the year in coastal waters. Columbia  
16 Basin salmon make up more than half of their outer  
17 coast diet. Spring chinook are of particular  
18 importance for these whales and dam removal gives  
19 salmon and steelhead the best chance of recovery.

20 This report and previous models find that  
21 breaching the four lower Snake River dams and  
22 utilizing spill at the Columbia River dams results  
23 is the best scenario for salmon and steelhead  
24 recovery.

25 Even NOAA's own recovery plan starts with

1 "Perhaps the single greatest change in food  
2 availability for resident killer whales since the  
3 late 1800s has to be the decline of salmon in the  
4 Columbia River Basin."

5           The communities around these four dams  
6 have benefited from breaching these dams. Tribes  
7 have been unfairly impacted by the hydropower  
8 projects. And the opportunities for renewing  
9 recreational opportunities on the uninhibited river  
10 are countless; fishing, rafting, kayaking, camping,  
11 increased tourism. Even coastal towns in Oregon and  
12 Washington would and could -- could and would  
13 benefit from breaching the four dams.

14           Investments in transportation and  
15 irrigation can help offset potential losses for the  
16 local farmers. We need to all work together and  
17 make this happen. Let's remove the dams sooner  
18 rather than later because extinction is forever and  
19 that's just not an option.

20           Thanks for the opportunity to voice my  
21 concerns.

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

23           Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
24 please.

25           **THE OPERATOR:** Judy Todd, your line is

1 open. Judy Todd, Please go ahead.

2 **JUDY TODD:** Thank you.

3 Hello. My name is Judy Todd. I'm a  
4 lifelong Oregonian, an elder activist and  
5 grandparent. I have a lot invested in what happens  
6 on the rivers.

7 I'm also the founder of a small nonprofit,  
8 Interconnect Northwest and a member of the Great Old  
9 Broads for Wilderness in the Portland area.

10 I want to just offer something that has  
11 been said a long time ago by a rather visionary  
12 genius. And that's Buckminster Fuller who said you  
13 never change things by fighting the existing  
14 reality. To change something, build a new model that  
15 makes the existing model obsolete.

16 I think that we're at that kind of time  
17 and in that kind of place in the historical  
18 perspective of the Columbia, the Snake and -- that's  
19 two of the primary rivers in the west.

20 It's time probably to not only look at the  
21 materials that have been studied for 20 to 40 years  
22 about the famine and the dams, but also the way that  
23 we move crops, the way that irrigation takes place  
24 and the long battle between the takers of the  
25 available water in a water shrinking world.

1           This isn't the way it was. And we won't  
2 really effectively be able to backtrack or hold on  
3 to the good old days. And that probably will  
4 challenge many of us, if not all of us.

5           We're experiencing that now. There are  
6 lives that will be changed forever as a result of  
7 the Corona virus. Generations are being affected  
8 today.

9           That's also true of our salmon, our orcas,  
10 all the waters in all of our rivers, and even our  
11 agencies, like the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army  
12 Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power  
13 Administration. What we thought we needed and how  
14 it has actually played out are kind of coming to a  
15 head.

16           We're going to have to re-imagine a lot of  
17 what is in front of us. I'm very clear, as a  
18 grandparent, that this work will be carried on  
19 mostly by your and my grandchildren. Beyond the  
20 human family, of course, by those who follow in the  
21 salmon family --

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

24           **JUDY TODD:** -- in the families of all the  
25 creatures that are affected in the larger habitat.

1           So I don't have an answer, but I know we  
2 need to come together, talk and resolve, and forgive  
3 us our positions.

4           Thank you very much for listening, and for  
5 your time.

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

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

9           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Pat  
10 Finnegan. Please go ahead.

11           **PAT FINNEGAN:** Hello. My name is Pat  
12 Finnegan. I reside in north-central Idaho. I am in  
13 favor of breaching the four lower Snake River dams.

14           I'm a fisherman and president of the  
15 Clearwater Snake River Chapter of Trout Unlimited,  
16 although my comments are made strictly on my  
17 personal behalf.

18           I've only lived in north-central Idaho for  
19 the last 17 years, but my kids grew up here. And  
20 during that time, I've watched steelhead and salmon  
21 runs dwindle, while the cost for maintaining power  
22 and river transportation infrastructure have risen.

23           Salmon returns to the Snake and Columbia  
24 River system today are at near record lows. From  
25 historical numbers of 10 to 20 million to barely 2

1 million today. Just 20 percent of these 2 million  
2 fish are wild and naturally spawning. Wild returns  
3 today are just 1 to 3 percent of historic returns.

4 Scientists estimate the Snake River Basin  
5 holds approximately 70 percent of the wild salmon  
6 and steelhead recovery potential for the entire  
7 Columbia River Basin due to high habitat quality.

8 But smolt to adult ratios and return rates  
9 for wild fish remain well below population  
10 maintenance threshold for Snake River sockeye, Snake  
11 River spring/summer chinook and Snake River  
12 steelhead. That's three of the four listed Columbia  
13 Basin stocks.

14 Although increased spill and favorable  
15 ocean conditions have brought slight increases in  
16 SARs at times with higher wild adult return numbers,  
17 the only cost-effective action identified to date,  
18 including by this draft EIS, with the potential to  
19 yield the survival improvements necessary to recover  
20 wild Snake River salmon and steelhead is breaching  
21 or removal of the four Snake River dams.

22 And I believe that breaching these dams is  
23 a significant compromise because the rest of the  
24 Columbia River hydropower system would be maintained  
25 for power generation and transportation.

1 Fish mortality related to migration  
2 through the lower Snake River dams is compounded by  
3 warming temperatures due to global --

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

6 **PAT FINNEGAN:** Thank you.

7 Scientists agree that reservoirs impounded  
8 by dams absorb and retain more heat than free-  
9 flowing rivers and considerable habitat is inundated  
10 into lake habitat rather than river habitat that's  
11 so necessary to maintain healthy salmon smolt and  
12 steelhead smolt as they move down river.

13 Spill increase is sufficient to aid salmon  
14 and steelhead migration without --

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

16 **PAT FINNEGAN:** Okay. Thank you.

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

18 Before we move on to our next callers, I'd  
19 like to take a moment and open up the line for  
20 Roland to make a quick statement.

21 **MR. SPRINGER:** Hi. This is Roland  
22 Springer from Bureau of Reclamation. I just wanted  
23 to let all our callers know that we are still  
24 listening as agency leadership and we appreciate  
25 your continuing to give these verbal comments and

1 participate with us in this meeting.

2           So, again, thank you for being here and I  
3 will pass that back to Maryam.

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

5           As many of you are, all of us on this call  
6 are calling in from our own home offices. This is  
7 your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

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

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

20           If you do provide comments, we encourage  
21 you to remain on the line to hear from others.  
22 Currently, there are six callers in queue. Again,  
23 to provide a comment, you can press one, then zero,  
24 to have your name added to the list.

25           Operator, we're ready to move to the next

1 caller, please.

2           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Romina  
3 Yamashiro. Please go ahead.

4           **ROMINA YAMASHIRO:** Hi. This is Romina.

5           And I want to say that there are only 72  
6 southern resident killer whales left. They're  
7 starving to death, dying as the lower Snake River  
8 dams cut off the salmon runs and reduce their access  
9 to food. The southern resident killer whales and  
10 Snake River salmon and steelhead will not survive  
11 this EIS study process.

12           As a first step, the federal agencies can  
13 and need to begin breaching the four lower Snake  
14 River dams this year. As a parallel step, the  
15 agency can use this new EIS process to undertake  
16 future actions. The federal agencies can no longer  
17 afford to drag the process out with another EIS that  
18 will take years, while the salmon and orca go  
19 extinct. There is no recovery from extinction.

20           We have tried extensive bypass systems and  
21 more steel from steel. 2019 was another year of  
22 costly efforts to recover Snake River salmon with no  
23 results. Federal agencies need to begin the  
24 breaching of the Snake River dams this year.

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

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

2           Operator, we can move to the next call,  
3 please.

4           **THE OPERATOR:** And we go to the line of  
5 Amy Daugherty. Please go ahead.

6           Amy Daugherty, can hear us?

7           Okay. We'll move on.

8           Jim Waddell, your line is open.

9           **JIM WADDELL:** Hi, this is Jim Waddell.

10           I'm a civil engineer and I spent 35 years  
11 with the Army Corps of Engineers and notably I was  
12 the deputy district engineer in Walla Walla,  
13 Washington, where I was in charge of the lower Snake  
14 River dams, among other dams on the Columbia River  
15 and so forth. I'm also a public utility  
16 commissioner here in the state of Washington and I  
17 don't represent them in any way. I'm just offering  
18 my personal comments as an analyst and engineer.

19           I would like to point out some specific  
20 comments in the EIS that are wildly inaccurate.

21           First off, in terms of irrigation on page  
22 3-1270, the EIS gives impacts for the breaching of  
23 the lower Snake dams in terms of \$313 million lost  
24 land value, \$232 million in lost labor income, \$460  
25 million in lost output, and a loss of 4,800 jobs.

1           They say this because the EIS drafters  
2 accepted the 2002 EIS assumption that irrigation  
3 modifications would cost far more than the land  
4 values. While this is true, these modification  
5 estimates were revised by water supply engineers who  
6 showed that all irrigation systems on the lower  
7 Snake Ice Harbor pool can be modified with extended  
8 pipes and additional pumps for \$20 million. That's  
9 correct, a \$20 million fix versus a billion dollars  
10 in impact claimed in this EIS is just another  
11 egregious example of gross exaggerations.

12           Indeed, breaching will allow reclamation  
13 of orchards, vineyards in the lower Snake Valley  
14 that existed before the dams, along with the  
15 recreation and synergistic development, such as  
16 wineries, hotels, restaurants, etc., this, according  
17 to economists, can generate 3- to 4,000, jobs,  
18 yielding \$200 to \$300 million in annual benefits to  
19 the six-county area in eastern Washington along the  
20 Snake.

21           This DEIS has this one absolutely  
22 backwards. Another area, transportation. MO-3  
23 breach impacts that indicate the rail rates will  
24 increase by 50 percent are not based on any kind of  
25 modeling or transportation movements. And I talked

1 to a Corps of Engineers planner today that I  
2 verified this with. But what they did is they  
3 basically both based these increases on opinions  
4 from a few individuals.

5 This wonky, unprofessional set of  
6 assumptions leads to a fatally flawed impact. The  
7 DEIS further says there is a concern over lost --

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

10 **JIM WADDELL:** -- (inaudible) while not a  
11 legitimate rationale according to engineer planning  
12 guidance.

13 There are two Class I railroads, five  
14 short lines, and the infrastructure is supported by  
15 the state of Washington.

16 I think this leads, again, to the point  
17 that the impacts provided in the EIS for breaching  
18 are essentially wrong and grossly in error. And,  
19 basically, they're so fatally flawed and of such a  
20 magnitude that this makes this DEIS unusable at this  
21 point in time and it should be withdrawn  
22 immediately.

23 Thank you.

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

25 Operator, we can move to the next caller,

1 please.

2           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Mava  
3 Sayag (phonetic). Please go ahead.

4           **MAVA SAYAG:** Hi, my name is Mava.

5           I just want to say the southern resident  
6 killer whales and Snake River salmon and steelhead  
7 will not survive this EIS (indiscernible) process.

8           As a first step, the federal agencies can  
9 and need to begin breaching the four lower Snake  
10 River dams this year. As a parallel step, the  
11 agencies can use this new EIS process to undertake  
12 future actions.

13           The federal agencies can no longer afford  
14 to drag the process out with another EIS. That will  
15 take years while the salmon and orca go extinct.

16           We have tried extensive bypass system and  
17 more steel and steel. 2019 was another year of  
18 costly efforts to recover Snake River salmon with no  
19 results. Federal agencies need to begin the  
20 breaching of the Snake River dams this year. So  
21 breach the four lower Snake River dams now. Thanks  
22 for listening.

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

24           Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
25 please.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** Tom Crawford, your line is  
2 open.

3           **TOM CRAWFORD:** This is Tom Crawford.

4           I support retaining the Snake River dams  
5 in place as they are. Thank you for your time.

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

7           Operator, we can move to the next call,  
8 please.

9           **THE OPERATOR:** Rex Griffin, your line is  
10 open.

11           **REX GRIFFIN:** Thank you for the  
12 opportunity to speak.

13           I would like to state that the Snake River  
14 dams are vital, particularly into the future,  
15 because of their ability to blend the renewables  
16 into the power grid.

17           And the salmon issue is very little  
18 affected by the Salmon River. All of the rivers on  
19 the West Coast, United States and Canada, are having  
20 problems with the salmon.

21           The ocean temperatures have a huge effect  
22 to it. And it's vital that those dams remain for  
23 their value in generation. Thank you.

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

25           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

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

6 Agency officials from the U.S. Army Corps  
7 of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville  
8 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your  
9 comments. Though we're not responding to questions  
10 or comments during this meeting. We're providing  
11 additional presentations. The agency is welcome and  
12 will consider your comments and developing the final  
13 EIS, which will be released this summer.

14 If you do provide comments, we encourage  
15 you to remain on the line to hear from others.  
16 Currently, there are five callers in queue. As a  
17 reminder, you may press 1, then zero, to have your  
18 name added to the list.

19 Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
20 call, please.

21 **THE OPERATOR:** Next, we go to Kristin  
22 Meira. Please go ahead.

23 **KRISTIN MEIRA:** Hi there. My name is  
24 Kristin Meira, the executive director of the Pacific  
25 Northwest Waterways Association.

1 First, we thank the federal agencies for  
2 their work on this plan for the operation of dams in  
3 our region for many purposes that benefit our;  
4 growing northwest population. My association  
5 supports a balanced approach for the river system,  
6 which ensures reliable power, navigation on our  
7 federal waterways, water supply for high-quality  
8 crops, recreational opportunities for those of us  
9 who live here, and protection and enhancement of  
10 salmon recovery efforts.

11 Our group is very active in the navigation  
12 and shipping sphere, and so my comments will focus  
13 on that area, and we'll also be submitting written  
14 comments.

15 Many folks don't know that the Columbia  
16 Snake River system is the top wheat export gateway  
17 for the United States, and fewer still are aware  
18 that 10 percent of all U.S. wheat exports are moved  
19 by barge on the Snake River. It gives you a sense  
20 of just how much high quality, soft white wheat and  
21 other wheat products we're growing in the Palouse  
22 region.

23 At a time when worldwide food security is  
24 more important than ever and likely will be in the  
25 months to come, we feel it's critical to ensure

1 northwest farmers are able to safely and reliably  
2 get their products overseas.

3           And while we do appreciate the significant  
4 work that's gone into this draft EIS, we do want to  
5 highlight some areas where we feel there could be  
6 some improvement. We are concerned with some of the  
7 analysis that was performed regarding barging on the  
8 Snake River.

9           In particular, we're concerned that only  
10 wheat shipments on the Snake River were modeled when  
11 it comes to characterizing the increased cost as  
12 well as the increased carbon emissions, which would  
13 occur if barging is taken away as a mode of cargo  
14 transport. And when you only take into account  
15 wheat shipments, you end up underestimating the  
16 transportation impacts of dam breaching by at least  
17 38 percent.

18           And then when it comes to capturing the  
19 air pollution impacts that would occur if the dams  
20 are breached and barging is taken away, this DEIS  
21 also only looks at truck trips as being one way,  
22 when, of course, the trucks would return empty back  
23 to the farms with carbon emissions all along the  
24 way.

25           And in contrast with a previous caller, we

1 believe that the real rate increases that are  
2 presented in the DEIS are actually low. As most  
3 people know, when two modes of transportation  
4 compete, rates are typically kept in check. When  
5 you take away a mode, you turn people in those areas  
6 into captive shippers with no other options and --

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

9 **KRISTIN MEIRA:** We have additional  
10 suggestions to better capture the true impacts that  
11 would occur if barging were lost on the Snake and so  
12 we'll include those in our comment letter.

13 Bottom line, I did want to just again say  
14 thank you for all of the work that's gone into this  
15 analysis. We know that this is a huge undertaking  
16 and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

18 Operator, we can move on to the next  
19 caller, please. Bob Rees.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Bob Rees, your line is  
21 open.

22 **BOB REES:** Good afternoon. My name is Bob  
23 Rees. I'm executive director of the Northwest  
24 Guides and Anglers Association. I have supplied  
25 public comment during two different hearings and I

1 appreciate the opportunity to provide some  
2 additional thoughts.

3           It continues to be befuddling to me that  
4 breaching the dams is categorized as an extreme  
5 measure in this conversation. There have been  
6 several dam removal projects in the Pacific  
7 Northwest and while fish have responded tremendously  
8 upon removal. The Elwaha, Sandy and White Salmon  
9 Rivers are now free-flowing and wild fish  
10 utilization and restoration has responded  
11 predictably astonishingly.

12           Accordingly, most citizens in the Columbia  
13 Basin would be astonished to learn that while Snake  
14 River salmon and steelhead are now less than 3  
15 percent of their historical abundance. Human  
16 encroachment has dramatically compromised the range  
17 of wild salmon, steelhead. And populations the  
18 farthest away from the Pacific Ocean are in the  
19 greatest danger.

20           Wild Snake River salmon and steelhead are  
21 next on deck for extinction, especially if harmful  
22 ocean and river conditions continue on their current  
23 path.

24           As fishermen, we're often the first to  
25 take drastic sacrifices in our opportunity to pursue

1 salmon or steelhead in our region. Factually, here  
2 are some figures that should be considered when  
3 pursuing solutions to the crisis of salmon recovery  
4 in the Columbia Basin. These facts come from state  
5 agencies and an economic study conducted by the  
6 American Sport Fishing Association.

7           In particular, mortality rates of wild  
8 spring chinook by source, hydropower kills 42  
9 percent of wild chinook juveniles. Hydropower kills  
10 18 percent of adults spring Chinook. Predatory  
11 birds kill 6 percent of juveniles. Predatory fish  
12 kill about 6 percent of juveniles. Marine mammals  
13 kill about 4 percent of adults. And both in river  
14 and ocean fisheries harvest about 10 percent of  
15 spring Chinook adults.

16           Fall chinook mortality is even more  
17 telling. Hydropower kills about 88 percent of  
18 juveniles. Hydropower kills about 29 percent of the  
19 adults. Predatory fish kill about 10 percent.  
20 Predatory birds kill about 5 percent.

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

23           **BOB REES:** -- kill about 2 percent. And  
24 the ocean and in-river sport and commercial  
25 fisheries kill about 45 percent.

1           The economics of the region, sport fishing  
2 in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, counting the  
3 multiplier effect is worth about \$3.8 billion and  
4 produces about 34,500 jobs in the region.

5           Finally, I'm encouraged to learn that  
6 several utility co-ops, farmers and shipping  
7 companies are supportive of salmon and steelhead  
8 recovery. The fishing and conservation communities  
9 know that this crisis can only be solved through  
10 collaborative community conversations.

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

12           **BOB REES:** Thank you.

13           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

14           Operator, we can move to the next call,  
15 please.

16           **THE OPERATOR:** The next call is Amy  
17 Daugherty. Please go ahead.

18           **AMY DAUGHERTY:** Hi. My name is Amy  
19 Daugherty. I'm the executive director for Alaska  
20 Trollers Association and I live in Juneau, Alaska.

21           We represent all power in hand trollers  
22 who fish in Alaska. Most years, there's less than  
23 850 active permit holders working spread out along  
24 700 plus miles of coastline up to Yakutat, not  
25 including the islands. We are the smallest

1 commercial boats, the ones that bring fish aboard  
2 one at a time.

3 As a sidebar, at least 15 percent of our  
4 permit holders live in Washington and Oregon. It's  
5 no secret that Washington and Oregon play a  
6 significant role in the Southeast Alaska fishing  
7 economy. So make must make no mistake, what you do  
8 affects trollers and the folks who enjoy our  
9 carefully harvested fish.

10 We ask that you protect salmon stocks and  
11 reverse the current population trend. It is dire.  
12 The fish we catch and sell know no boundaries and  
13 the stocks that return to the Columbia need help  
14 now. We believe the only way to bring about  
15 meaningful protections of the existing stocks is dam  
16 removal.

17 Accordingly, this DEIS should be revamped  
18 or we are all looking at further imperil of Columbia  
19 River salmon. Small communities and many small  
20 businesses.

21 I am always surprised when I see existing  
22 small business infrastructures being taken for  
23 granted. We all like the concept of creating small,  
24 local and clean small economic engines, which salmon  
25 troll businesses are. But when it comes to

1 protecting what we have in place, there's always a  
2 lack of appreciation in most cases,  
3 Alaska trollers, including our Washington and Oregon  
4 resident troll participants, urge you to reformulate  
5 and write a new plan to foster both farms and fish.  
6 Yes, it can be done. This DEIS as written will do  
7 very little. The time is now.

8 Thank you very much.

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

10 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
11 please.

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Kevin Hawkins, your line is  
13 open.

14 **KEVIN HAWKINS:** Hello. My name is Kevin  
15 Hawkins. I'm a sportfishing guide in Oregon and  
16 Idaho and I have my own business and represent  
17 another family business that's been in business for  
18 98 years.

19 The current DEIS, I don't feel, is  
20 effective at all in solving our urgent situation for  
21 these fish. The dams are, without a doubt, the  
22 biggest killer of our native salmon.

23 And those salmon are key (indiscernible)  
24 species. There's a lot of other animals that depend  
25 on them. There's a lot of livelihoods, a lot of

1 small rural economies that depend on them. Our  
2 sportfishing business represents an enormous  
3 transfer of money from populated areas to small  
4 rural towns further upriver. And this current plan  
5 just does not effective in solving this problem.

6 We're way too close to losing this fish  
7 and I think we need to reconsider other options.  
8 That's it about. Appreciate your time. Thank you.

9 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on  
10 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to  
11 welcome anyone who's joined us.

12 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
13 And this is a public meeting for providing comments  
14 on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like to provide  
15 a comment, please press 1, then zero, to add your  
16 name to the queue.

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

24 If you do provide comments, we encourage  
25 you to remain on the line to hear from others.

1           Currently, there are eight callers in  
2 queue. As a reminder, you may press one, then zero,  
3 to add your name to the queue, pressing it again  
4 would remove you from the queue.

5           Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
6 caller.

7           **THE OPERATOR:** And we go to the line of  
8 Kenneth Balcombe. Please go ahead.

9           **KENNETH BALCOMBE:** Hi. My name is Kenneth  
10 Balcombe. I'm the senior scientist at the Center  
11 for Whale Research. We've been studying the  
12 southern resident Killer Whale since 1976 and  
13 provide our data to the U.S. government and Canadian  
14 government for their management programs.

15           There's no question that the southern  
16 residents are following the salmon to extinction.  
17 And what we're witnessing right now is a serious  
18 lack in reproductive capability. There are probably  
19 only six females producing calves at five- to ten-  
20 year intervals.

21           This can't go on. It's tragic that the  
22 Snake River salmon, which were the mainstay of their  
23 diet, have been characterized in the DEIS as being  
24 an insignificant portion of the food they require.  
25 Obviously, if food isn't there, you can't eat it.

1           And the studies that have been taken on  
2 the diet of the southern resident killer whales has  
3 primarily been in the Salish Sea showing that they  
4 also eat the salmon in this region. But they spend  
5 most of their time on the coast eating the salmon  
6 from the large runs that used to be from the  
7 Columbia and Snake. It's just tragic. They have no  
8 options.

9           And the other stakeholders here in this  
10 business do have options. And I urge just to  
11 exercise those options and get rid of those dams  
12 immediately and start the restoration of this  
13 ecosystem. Thank you.

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

15           Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
16 please.

17           **THE OPERATOR:** Albert Becker, your line is  
18 open.

19           **ALBERT BECKER:** This is Albert Becker in  
20 New Meadows, Idaho. New Meadows is located in  
21 Meadows Valley. And Meadows Valley historically  
22 used to be called Salmon Meadows because of the  
23 massive historical runs of salmon. There's some  
24 existing barriers on the Little Salmon River that  
25 were increased with the construction of Highway 95.

1 But regardless, there historically have been salmon  
2 that used to spawn up in Meadows Valley.

3 Now, there has been \$17 billion spent on  
4 trying to restore the salmon runs -- the salmon-  
5 steelhead runs and to solve the problem and that  
6 problem is not been solved. It's time to change our  
7 perspective and look at the activities that make a  
8 difference.

9 The SARs amount currently on the Snake  
10 River is 1.7 percent, which is destined for  
11 extinction. That is a route to sure extinction. And  
12 breaching the four lower Snake River dams, it's  
13 expected that they will bring up the SARs number to  
14 at least 2.5 percent.

15 And I agree that we all need to work  
16 together on this, but we should not be working  
17 together for extinction. And the current EIS is  
18 headed for salmon and steelhead extinction.

19 Now, there has been over \$17 million spent  
20 on this attempt to resolve the problem that has not  
21 happened.

22 Also, one thing in the draft EIS that is  
23 very significant, is they did not recognize the  
24 recreational value of restoration of salmon and  
25 steelhead in the Salmon River drainage in the Snake

1 River. There would be major economic benefits that  
2 has been presented earlier by Mr. Rees.

3 The bottom line is, I support breaching  
4 the lower four Snake River dams to facilitate  
5 recovery of the salmon and steelhead in the Snake  
6 River system. Thank you for my comments.

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

8 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
9 please.

10 **THE OPERATOR:** Denise Culbertson, your  
11 line is open.

12 **DENISE CULBERTSON:** Hi. Thank you very  
13 much for this opportunity. I live in Colfax,  
14 Washington. I had a farm 10 miles above the Lower  
15 Granite Dam, right above Alamota, where they barge.  
16 I also have property 10 miles on the other side of  
17 the dam in Garfield County. So I'm telling it from  
18 a farmer and a person who's living right here.

19 Number one, when you're talking about  
20 increased trucks, you're talking about old farm  
21 trucks. These farmers don't have big double trucks  
22 to ship it all out. They've got 1955 trucks that  
23 have been working harvest after harvest to go  
24 straight down to Alamota.

25 We've got our farm kids, which we like to

1 teach our kids to work. So we've got 15, 16-year-  
2 olds driving these trucks.

3 Not only that, you talk about the college  
4 kids and how it's going to bring more college kids  
5 in. Well, I'll tell you what. We've got roads that  
6 are two lanes, two-lane road. I'm from Seattle and  
7 I'm from I-5 22 years ago. When I came here and  
8 learned how to drive on a two-lane road, it scared  
9 the shit out of -- excuse my french -- because of  
10 all these college kids passing me.

11 The roads are icy. Obviously, not at  
12 harvest time, but they're going to be. So I have a  
13 real problem with the truck thing and saying that  
14 our roads are -- if you've looked at our roads.  
15 What about our life, people who live here?

16 I don't want a bunch of hotels. I don't  
17 want a bunch of fishermen. I love fishing. I do  
18 fish. I have hunters at my thousand-acre farm. So  
19 they can, from the Seattle area, come over and farm.

20 So you need to take care of us. What if  
21 we become extinct? What happens if the farmers  
22 become extinct? Plus all our little towns?

23 We like living in little towns. Maybe  
24 we're a bunch of hicks and red necks but all these  
25 calls I've been hearing is from different areas

1 that's not affected. And I'm the only one that is  
2 affected and we need our dams.

3 And number two, how many times have the  
4 dams saved our power grid since we put the wind  
5 turbines up in Oaksdale and down in Starbuck? Those  
6 wind turbines are not -- they cannot stop on a dime  
7 but the dam can stop on a dime and it has saved our  
8 power grid. That is a fact and I've read that.

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

11 **DENISE CULBERTSON:** Plus the lives of the  
12 kids that are driving on these double-lane roads.  
13 It's really hard. I mean, right now we've got a lot  
14 of trucks out there, a lot of trucks, and we see it.

15 So if we add more trucks, like, however  
16 many plus the time they're going to be on the road,  
17 that's going to affect the college kids. A lot of  
18 people are gonna die. And a lot of our towns are  
19 going to die.

20 And, I guess, our way of life is going to  
21 die and that is a heritage, too. Like the salmon,  
22 we are people. And we don't have a lot of money.  
23 We're not rich farmers. Most people are --

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

25 **DENISE CULBERTSON:** -- on social security.

1 Okay. Bye. Thank you.

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

3 Operator, we can move to the next call,  
4 please.

5 **THE OPERATOR:** We'll go to the line of  
6 Eric Pedersen. Your line this open.

7 **ERIC PEDERSEN:** Hi. Thank you for having  
8 me.

9 My name is Eric Pedersen. I work at  
10 Steven's Marine. I've been in the marine industry  
11 since 1992.

12 Salmon fishing has been a huge part of our  
13 business. Each year it continues to decline and go  
14 downhill. It's highly different than what it was  
15 when I started in '92.

16 Obviously, in my opinion, whatever is  
17 being done isn't working because we continue to have  
18 these declines. And it seems like there needs to be  
19 some new solutions and changes to whatever is  
20 currently being done because it's just not going in  
21 the right direction.

22 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

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

24 Operator, you can move to the next caller,  
25 please.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller Shari  
2 Tarantino. The line is open.

3           **SHARI TARANTINO:** Hi. Thank you so much  
4 for this opportunity. This is Shari Tarantino,  
5 executive director of Orca Conservancy.

6           First and foremost, the comment period  
7 deadline will not allow enough time for thoughtful  
8 and educated comments. Therefore, we request an  
9 extension to the current April 13th deadline.

10           Orca Conservancy has been working toward  
11 southern resident killer whale recovery since 2006.  
12 We firmly believe the restoration and breaching of a  
13 lower Snake River dams are vital for preserving wild  
14 salmon, including the remaining 72 southern resident  
15 killer whales.

16           Discussions must continue between all  
17 stakeholders if we are truly committed in addressing  
18 and ensuring the wholeness of each affected  
19 community. Not only what it will look like without  
20 the Snake River dams, but how to get to that point  
21 and to do so successfully.

22           Scientific data has shown us time and time  
23 again that the recovery and restoration of west  
24 coast rivers is key to the survival of the southern  
25 residents. And addressing the threat of prey

1 abundance is a priority in the recovery plan for  
2 this critically endangered population.

3           The preferred alternative, increasing  
4 spill, put forward in the draft EIS is merely a  
5 stopgap measure intended to buy time until a true  
6 alternative could be identified implemented. The  
7 alternative is breaching the lower Snake River dams.

8           The southern resident killer whale  
9 population are the most intensely studied  
10 populations marine mammals in the world. And what  
11 we've learned is that healthy chinook salmon runs  
12 are critical to their recovery. Their historic use  
13 of west coast waters qualifies this community as an  
14 important resource to the state of Washington,  
15 Oregon and California. And, therefore, the southern  
16 residents should be considered when evaluating the  
17 potential impact of continued operation of the lower  
18 Snake River dams.

19           When we submitted our scoping comments in  
20 February of 2017, there were 78 members. Here we  
21 are three years later and there are now only 72  
22 residents. So clearly the measures undertaken thus  
23 far are not recovering this population.

24           Orca Conservancy believes we need strong  
25 leadership from our agencies as well as our elected

1 officials to guide the pacific northwest to a place  
2 where abundant wild salmon and steelhead populations  
3 could once again support communities, livelihoods,  
4 and honoring treaty rights. But most importantly,  
5 wild salmon is needed to sustain the critically  
6 endangered southern resident killer whale  
7 population.

8 We are here to help and support breaching  
9 the lower Snake River dams. Thank you.

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

11 Operator, we can move to the next caller.

12 **THE OPERATOR:** And the next caller is  
13 Carol Segonnes (phonetic). Please go ahead,  
14 Carolyn. Excuse me.

15 **CAROLYN SEGONNES:** Hi. Thank you for  
16 giving us the opportunity to speak on this issue.

17 I'm coming from France but I'm living in  
18 the west coast of Canada, and I'm just a nature  
19 advocate.

20 So (indiscernible) stock is in danger and  
21 with them it is a (indiscernible) ecosystem that  
22 will disappear from the upper Snake River in  
23 (indiscernible).

24 The four lower Snake River dams need to be  
25 breached now. The life of the last 72 southern

1 resident killer whales depends on it. These animals  
2 don't have the time to wait for another EIS that  
3 will take years to come up. And it is our  
4 responsibility and your responsibility to make  
5 everything in your power to restore salmon  
6 population and killer whale (indiscernible).

7 So here is my message to Governor Inslee,  
8 the U.S. Army Corps and Bonneville Power: You don't  
9 want to be the one who will let two world species go  
10 to extinction and the world is watching. Thank you.

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

12 Operator, we can go to the next caller,  
13 please.

14 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Jane  
15 Vanderhoof. Please go ahead.

16 **JANE VANDERHOOF:** Hi. I'm Jane Vanderhoof  
17 and I'm on the board of Dam Sense, an organization  
18 also dedicated to breaching the four lower Snake  
19 River dams. I agree with almost everyone who has  
20 spoken since I came on about eight calls ago.

21 And another reason for breaching the dams  
22 is they are not economically viable anymore. It  
23 costs more to keep them up than they are giving in  
24 power. It's actually mostly surplus power.

25 And I think Denise, the woman who spoke

1 earlier who is on the farm, I understand where she's  
2 coming from because I also am a farmer. I have only  
3 a 56-acre farm west of Port Angeles with my husband.

4 It's a different kind of farm than hers.

5 However, I think we all need to work together and  
6 think of a way to solve this problem. Because I  
7 think there are other solutions.

8 And our electric rates, getting back to  
9 the Bonneville Power Administration and the dams,  
10 they are not efficiently keeping the rates low as  
11 they are intended to do so. It's another reason for  
12 breaching the dams.

13 And they need to begin breaching very  
14 soon. Hopefully, we can start breaching the lower  
15 two dams before this coming December.

16 Thank you for taking the call.

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

18 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
19 please.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Michael Chapman your line  
21 is open.

22 **MICHAEL CHAPMAN:** Good afternoon. My name  
23 is Michael Chapman. I'm a maritime captain and I've  
24 spent my life fishing for salmon off the west coast  
25 of North America.

1           Unfortunately, because of the decline in  
2 the salmon populations, I voluntarily remove myself  
3 from the fishery and I've become an advocate for all  
4 those who depend on those fish.

5           Prioritizing the dependence on the salmon  
6 has led me to believe that the southern resident  
7 orcas are the No. 1 candidate for protection. Who  
8 are we, the 7 billion hairless apes, to dictate  
9 further extinctions in this sick planet?

10           (Inaudible) imperative that we support  
11 ecosystems in their natural (inaudible).

12           Thank you very much.

13           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you.

14           I'd like to take a moment. This is your  
15 facilitator, Maryam Habibi, to encourage our last  
16 caller in particular but anyone who's making  
17 comments tonight to ensure that we have captured  
18 your comments accurately, you may also submit your  
19 comments online at [CRSO.info](http://CRSO.info). Also, online are  
20 other methods of comment if you have additional  
21 comments to share.

22           For those who may have joined us since we  
23 started taking comments, this is a public meeting  
24 for providing comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If  
25 you'd like to provide a comment, please press 1,

1 then zero, to add your name to the queue.

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

9 If you do provide comments, you're welcome  
10 to remain on the line to hear from others. As a  
11 reminder, if you'd like to provide comments, he may  
12 press 1, then zero, to add your name to the queue.

13 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
14 please.

15 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Amy  
16 Grondin. Please go ahead.

17 **AMY GRONDIN:** Hi. My name is Amy Grondin  
18 and I'm a commercial fisherman. I live in Port  
19 Townsend, Washington, but I also fish in Alaska.

20 I made comments a few nights ago, but I  
21 feel the need to remind everyone that Washington  
22 State does not stop at Seattle. There's a huge  
23 rural community that is western Seattle that  
24 includes the Olympic Peninsula and the coast from  
25 the southern border at the mouth of the Columbia

1 River, up to the most northern point of the whole  
2 United States, which is Neah Bay where my husband  
3 and I fish out of.

4           The further you get from Seattle, the more  
5 rural it gets. I really feel for the caller a few  
6 folks ago and how she's worried and concerned about  
7 your children and her livelihood and everything  
8 that's going on in this world today and how hard it  
9 is to make a living because that's the same thing  
10 we're feeling on the other side of the state.

11           On the coast -- in Washington, we depend  
12 on fishing jobs, whether it's commercial fishermen,  
13 like myself and my husband, we're really small  
14 boats. In Washington, you're not allowed -- you  
15 have to be on the boat to own the permit. I'm  
16 mixing this up a little bit. I'm so sorry. But  
17 yeah, individuals own our permits. Corporations are  
18 not allowed to, like, do that. It's just mom and  
19 pops like my husband and me on -- we have a larger  
20 boat and it's 48 feet and that's still not very big.

21           There's also commercial guides out there  
22 who take people out fishing and that's how they make  
23 their living. And those are really important  
24 resources, too.

25           I understand the risk and the worry about

1 the dams being removed. But I have to say, 45 years  
2 ago, when those dams went in, our coastal economy  
3 started to decline. And that's the exact same thing  
4 that the caller right now is looking at. What if her  
5 world is upended by a dam be taken out, like my  
6 world was upended by a dam going in.

7 We need to get together and talk about  
8 these issues because my rural job and your rural job  
9 should not be pitted against each other. We can  
10 figure these things out.

11 We've been spending a lot of money trying  
12 to save salmon and it's not working. I think the  
13 number is \$17 billion over the last 20 years.  
14 Billion with a B.

15 Why didn't we spend that money trying to  
16 improve irrigation for farmers and transportation  
17 and all that money that you're talking about that we  
18 need to put into roads?

19 We wasted a lot of time and money. Let's  
20 try and get it right this time. I really don't want  
21 you to lose your job because I don't want to lose  
22 mine.

23 I said it before. I catch salmon but it's  
24 not a meal unless there's vegetables, wine and bread  
25 on the plate with it. Yeah. I feel for you. I'm

1 here. I want to talk to you. Let's figure this  
2 out.

3 We don't have to have farmers or  
4 fishermen. We can have it both. We can do it all.

5 Yielding my time. Thank you.

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

7 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
8 please.

9 **THE OPERATOR:** And we go to the line of  
10 Nicholas Calero. Please go ahead.

11 **NICK CALERO:** Hi there. My name is Nick  
12 Calero. I am a board member of the Back Country  
13 Hunters and Anglers. I am a member of the Northwest  
14 Guides and Anglers Association, Trout Unlimited,  
15 National Wildlife Federation, Northwest  
16 Steelheaders, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Idaho  
17 Conservation League and the Theodore Roosevelt  
18 Conservation Partnership.

19 My day job, I am an organizer. And I have  
20 spent a lot of time organizing within the hunter and  
21 angler community throughout the states of Oregon,  
22 Washington and Idaho. And I've spent a lot of time  
23 with fishing guides. I know and respect that  
24 profession and how tough it can be.

25 I also feed my family with the salmon that

1 is caught fishing with a multitude of fishing guides  
2 throughout the Columbia River in Oregon and in  
3 Washington.

4 Right now, I want to say that the current  
5 EIS does not solve the crisis of declining runs of  
6 salmon and steelhead. A better solution and one  
7 that I've been involved with in a multitude of  
8 different states, the best solutions come about  
9 through a collaborative process and when a multitude  
10 of different stakeholders are involved.

11 Those are the solutions that last the test  
12 of time. And I currently feel like that is not been  
13 replicated here and is a model that should be  
14 tackled here in the future with regards to this  
15 issue.

16 I think the dams need to come out. I  
17 think respect needs to be given to the stakeholders  
18 whose livelihoods currently depend on the strength  
19 of these fishing runs, be that fishing guides,  
20 commercial fishermen, and others who you've heard  
21 from today.

22 And that's all I've got. Thank you much.

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

24 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
25 please.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** Cathleen Burns, your line  
2 is open. Cathleen Burns.

3           **CATHLEEN BURNS:** Thank you.

4           Cathleen Burns, Friday Harbor.

5           The economic benefits of the dams to the  
6 region have declined and operational costs have  
7 risen. The Army Corps of Engineers already spent  
8 seven years and \$33 million of rate and taxpayer  
9 money on the 2002 EIS with a breach alternative.

10           The Army Corps of Engineers has a  
11 fiduciary responsibility to cease operations and  
12 place a project into a non-operational status when  
13 the projects are losing money economically or  
14 causing unresolvable biological harm. Thus, the  
15 Corps does not need specific authorization to secure  
16 the project by breaching.

17           The federal agencies have a responsibility  
18 to comply with the Endangered Species Act and to  
19 take action is necessary to recover endangered  
20 salmon, steelhead, and the southern resident orca  
21 population.

22           Breaching can be paid for by BPA as the  
23 least cost way to accomplish fish mitigation under  
24 the 1980 Northwest Power and Conservation Act, and  
25 as a means of transferring savings from lower Snake

1 River dams to other Columbia River dams.

2 The EIS process taking four years and \$80  
3 million justifies non-breach alternatives by  
4 presenting MO-3, or the breach alternative as the  
5 poison pill.

6 MO-3, the breach alternative has been  
7 poisoned by including more spill structural measures  
8 and mitigation on other lower Columbia dams.  
9 Overestimated breach costs and unnecessary  
10 mitigation costs further poisoned the breach  
11 alternative.

12 MO-3 has been falsely presented as  
13 extremely expensive. Even so, evidence in MO-3  
14 points to breaching as the only alternative that  
15 saves money and has the highest probability of  
16 recovering salmon and orca. That's it.

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

18 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
19 please.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is from  
21 Mava Kalig (phonetic). Please go ahead.

22 **MAVA KALIG:** Hi. (Indiscernible). Hello.  
23 Please come together request to breach the four  
24 lower Snake River dam this year. Because in 2002  
25 salmon, rainbow trout and our southern resident

1 killer whales have never restored. They're still  
2 (indiscernible) and they will not be able to survive  
3 all the years of the (indiscernible) study.

4 It's no longer the time to (indiscernible)  
5 to activate. Breaching the dams will have  
6 (indiscernible) powerful economic and environmental  
7 benefits.

8 Salmon is a life-giving fish. It is also  
9 a rich ecosystem and nourish many lives, including  
10 our own. Our family of southern resident killer  
11 whales is disappearing before our eyes. They  
12 literally starve to death for lack of salmon.

13 A lot of what is happening to them, to see  
14 them suffer and die after the (indiscernible) is  
15 heartbreaking because we love them all. Extinction  
16 is forever.

17 Federal agency are responsible for  
18 complying with the law and taking action to recover  
19 salmon, (indiscernible) our endangered southern  
20 resident killer whales.

21 The dams kill 8 million juvenile salmon  
22 every year. The reproduction of the species have  
23 been losing a lot of money for years.

24 (Indiscernible) of the four Snake River dams this  
25 year is the only action to save money, is the

1 highest probability of recovering salmon, and saving  
2 our family of southern resident killer whales.

3 Thank you. Breach the dam this years.

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

5 Before we move on to the next caller, I'd  
6 like to take a moment to welcome anyone who has  
7 joined us since we began taking comments. This is  
8 your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

9 This is a public meeting for providing  
10 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like  
11 to provide a comment, please press 1, then zero, to  
12 add your name to the queue.

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

20 If you do provide comments, we welcome you  
21 to remain on the line to hear from others. As a  
22 reminder, if you press 1 and 0, then you can enter  
23 the queue to provide comments.

24 Operator, we're ready to move to the next  
25 caller.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Tom  
2 Kammerzell. Go ahead, please.

3           **TOM KAMMERZELL:** Thank you.

4           This is Tom Kammerzell, Port of Whitman  
5 County Commissioner and a grain producer in eastern  
6 Washington and northern Idaho. I'd like to say  
7 thanks to the Corps for this opportunity to comment  
8 on EIS and the extraordinary efforts made by them in  
9 these most trying times.

10           I greatly appreciate the comprehensive  
11 work done by the Corps in looking at all the options  
12 and the long-term effects of the actions. The fact  
13 is that removing the Snake River dams would have  
14 devastating effects on the local economies,  
15 communities, have negative impacts on the  
16 environment in the form of added carbon emissions  
17 and more consumption of fossil fuels.

18           The roads in eastern Washington would be  
19 devastated by the added strain of the truck traffic  
20 that would be needed to supplant the cargo movement  
21 that would be coming off the river system. Many of  
22 the county roads are narrow and also traveled by  
23 school buses and students traveling to local  
24 schools. The added movement of grain on the roads  
25 would be increasing the inevitable deadly

1 interaction between the trucks and the students.

2 Over 40 years of infrastructure has been  
3 built with private money based on the authorized  
4 plan to move goods on the river system. To end this  
5 authorized purpose would also mean repaying private  
6 businesses for the investments made per shipping,  
7 which would now be ended.

8 I have appreciation for the various fish  
9 species and their increasing numbers that need to be  
10 of concern. But we cannot turn a blind eye to how  
11 we got to this point. Some of the worst causes are  
12 the horrible over-fishing done at the turn of the  
13 century, the predators which have taken increasing  
14 numbers of fish, and the ocean conditions which we,  
15 on the Snake River, have little to no control.

16 As these four Snake River dams were  
17 authorized in 1945 and built in the '70s, I am  
18 impressed with the thought and consideration that  
19 this passage was given from the start.

20 Was it perfect? No. But is it was  
21 incorporated and has been ever evolving into a  
22 system which is so good that the fish almost do not  
23 know that they're there.

24 These dams also produce the cleanest,  
25 greenest electrical power there is with the ever-

1 increasing thirst that we have for electrical power  
2 and for our technology. Now electrical cars are  
3 coming online. Why would we want to remove this  
4 source and increase the cost?

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

7 **TOM KAMMERZELL:** Navigation is authorized  
8 and necessary to feed our world.

9 I'd like to say thank you to the Corps of  
10 Engineers for this, and job well done. Thank you.

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

12 Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
13 please.

14 **THE OPERATOR:** The next caller is Denise  
15 Culbertson. Please go ahead.

16 **MS. CULBERTSON:** Hi, I already spoke. Can  
17 I speak again? Hello?

18 **MS. HABIBI:** You have pressed 1 and 0 to  
19 enter the queue to provide comments. If you do not  
20 have comments to provide, you can yield your time.

21 **MS. CULBERTSON:** Well, I do, but already --  
22 yeah, if you let me speak again, there's another  
23 couple of things that I wanted to talk about.

24 Number one, it is really kids. We've got  
25 college kids, between 19 and 25, driving from

1 Seattle over here right at harvest time to go to  
2 college. I mean, they just want to pass and these  
3 are narrow roads, like you said.

4 And it is our way of life. It's like you  
5 save a salmon for all of us to die. That's just not  
6 fair and I don't think it's extinct.

7 I went to Alaska. All three of us caught  
8 ten fish a day for two weeks on the Kenai. So,  
9 yeah, I do go to Alaska to fish, too.

10 So this doesn't mean they're extinct.  
11 Maybe they're extinct coming up here, but the Snake  
12 is not going to make them -- there's other places  
13 they're going to continue to be able to go --  
14 Alaska.

15 So you have to think about what you're  
16 going to do to a whole half of eastern Washington or  
17 the whole Palouse area, and Lewiston, and Idaho, and  
18 what you're going to do to our way of life.

19 I don't want to work in a hotel cleaning  
20 beds. I don't want to be serving food for a bunch  
21 of people that come over here -- adding more people  
22 to our roads to come over here so they can fish.

23 And if they want to go down on the Snake,  
24 it's absolutely gorgeous. I go every single summer.  
25 I live right on the Snake.

1           And plus, I'd like to know, because my  
2 property is on the Snake and it was taken over to  
3 put in the dam, do I get my land back? Do I get my  
4 riverfront property back? Does everybody get the  
5 riverfront property back that was taken from the  
6 Corps.

7           I guess I won't get the answer to that,  
8 but that's just another thing. And I think that a  
9 lot of people here that called, they haven't even  
10 been over here. So they don't even know what it's  
11 going to look like to come over here. They don't  
12 know what they're ruining.

13           And yeah, it's a beautiful way of life.  
14 And there's just a lot of people who care about each  
15 other. And we just like what we have.

16           And it's, like, how could you ruin our  
17 lives for a fish? That I don't really think it's --  
18 if it's extinct, put it in a zoo.

19           Are you still there?

20           **MS. HABIBI:** We're here, and you have 30  
21 seconds remaining.

22           **MS. CULBERTSON:** Okay. Anyway, just do  
23 what you have to do but don't take our dams away.

24           And another nickel for bread. That's  
25 ridiculous. Bread is at \$4 already. And we're not

1 given \$4 a bushel for our wheat and bread is \$4  
2 plus.

3 I guess you could wipe us all out and then  
4 we would -- plus, also, our wheat is making wheat  
5 board. After we harvest it, they take the straw,  
6 and so we have straw plants, too.

7 So that's important to the economy and  
8 it's just starting up. We have a brand new one in  
9 Starbuck. So that would affect that, too.

10 We don't have trucks to do this, guys. I  
11 mean, I'm telling you, come over and look at them.

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

13 **MS. CULBERTSON:** Thank you. Bye-bye.

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

15 Operator, we can move to the next call,  
16 please.

17 **THE OPERATOR:** The next call is from Duane  
18 Braaten. Please go ahead.

19 **DUANE BRAATEN:** Hello. My name is Duane  
20 Braaten. I'm the president of the Flathead Electric  
21 Co-Op in Kalispell, Montana.

22 We serve a little over 50,000 members.  
23 And as a trustee, I feel my responsibility to these  
24 members is to ensure they have affordable and  
25 reliable electricity. I feel both these are in

1 jeopardy if we continue to lose the base-load  
2 generation that these dams provide. I truly believe  
3 our region will experience blackouts if we continue  
4 on this current trend.

5 The dams not only provide carbon-free,  
6 affordable, reliable power, but they're a huge  
7 economic driver in the region for agricultural and  
8 barge transportation, as we've heard.

9 Flood control is also very beneficial  
10 because of the dams. Last year, our state, the  
11 Montana Rural Electric Cooperative, passed a  
12 resolution to oppose breaching the lower Snake River  
13 dams. This resolution passed at the regional level  
14 as well as the national level. So there's a lot of  
15 interest in our organization in preserving these  
16 dams.

17 So I urge you to please respect the draft  
18 findings of these agencies who have given a lot of  
19 their time and experience and expertise to this  
20 issue.

21 And thank you for the opportunity to  
22 speak.

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. This is your  
24 facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

25 For those who may have joined us, this is

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

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

12 If you provide comments, you're welcome to  
13 remain on the line to hear from others.

14 We currently have one caller in the queue.  
15 Operator, when their line is ready, you may open it.

16 **THE OPERATOR:** We're just gathering the  
17 name of the participant. It'll be a moment.

18 Marina Clowad (phonetic), your line is  
19 open.

20 **MARINA CLOWAD:** I just want you to breach  
21 the four dams to save the salmons and the orca.

22 It's real important for the life of the ecosystem.

23 We really need you. Life is more  
24 important than everything. Please breach the dams.  
25 That's it.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** Shall we move on?

2           **MARINA CLOWAD:** Sorry?

3           **THE OPERATOR:** Are you finished with your  
4 comment?

5           **MARINA CLOWAD:** Yes, please.

6           **THE OPERATOR:** Okay. Thank you.

7           And shall we move on to the next  
8 participant?

9           **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, please.

10          **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Okay. Deanna  
11 Mueller-Crispin, your line is open.

12          **DEANNA MUELLER-CRISPIN:** Hello. I'm  
13 Deanna Mueller-Crispin. I live in Portland, Oregon.  
14 I'm a native Oregonian who now lives down here, but  
15 I am originally from eastern Oregon.

16                 I even remember seeing Celilo Falls when  
17 they were still "falls" with salmon being netted by  
18 Native Americans. And I have rafted on some of  
19 these rivers and they are wonderful.

20                 My main point is that I support the  
21 comments of the Portland Audubon Society, which  
22 supports the removal of the four obsolete and  
23 unneeded Snake River dams.

24                 Some points I would like to emphasize in  
25 addition are, the preferred alternative of the DEIS

1 will not begin to do the job of restoring salmon  
2 runs. For that, dam removal and increased water  
3 flow are essential. As we all know, the dams are  
4 the basic cause of salmon decline on the Snake and  
5 Columbia River system. So I urge you to please stop  
6 wasting money and finally get some results.

7 I would like to add that salmonid  
8 (indiscernible), salmon steelhead have long been  
9 subsidizing the electricity costs for regional  
10 electric co-op customers who have lower rates than  
11 most of the rest of us.

12 And finally, it is unconscionable to  
13 continue with a public comment period when the  
14 entire country is struggling with and absorbed by  
15 the spread of a lethal pandemic. The comment period  
16 should be extended to allow for in-person testimony.

17 Thank you very much. I yield my remaining  
18 time.

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

20 Before we move on, I'd like to take a  
21 moment to welcome those who may have joined us.  
22 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi. I'd like  
23 to turn this over to Jim Fredericks for a moment.

24 **MR. FREDERICKS:** This is Jim Fredericks  
25 with the Corps of Engineers. I just want to take

1 this opportunity to thank all the people that have  
2 commented so far and thank you to all the people  
3 that are listening. We really appreciate your  
4 comments and we look forward to -- if there's more  
5 comments, we look forward to hearing them. Thanks.

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

7 If you would like to provide a comment,  
8 please press 1, then zero, to add your name to the  
9 queue.

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

17 If you do provide comments, we encourage  
18 you to remain on the line to hear from others.

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

22 **(No audio: 2:32:40 to 2:33:18)**

23 **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have two  
24 callers in queue.

25 Operator, when they're ready, you may open

1 the first caller's line.

2           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next  
3 question comes from the line of Christina Wyatt.

4           Please go ahead.

5           **CHRISTINA WYATT:** I just wanted to thank  
6 everybody for your time and your work on this, and  
7 listening to all these comments and the wide variety  
8 of them.

9           And just restate that the electric  
10 utilities in the rural areas do support your EIS,  
11 and we appreciate all the very hard work you guys  
12 have done. And have a good night. This is an  
13 adequate process.

14           That's it.

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

16           Operator, we can move to the next caller.

17           **THE OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from  
18 the line of Don Ringwood. Please go ahead, your  
19 line is open.

20           **DON RINGWOOD:** I want to address before  
21 breaching, I think they should have an alternative  
22 power supply in place 24/7 a day, and the cost of  
23 that figured into everything.

24           I also think the roads and rails should be  
25 upgraded before breaching.

1           And I think also the cost of the power  
2 going up to the customers should be figured in, how  
3 much that's going to be.

4           I also think by the cost of the power  
5 going up will definitely impact small business and  
6 large business that might consider moving into the  
7 area. There has been quite a few major companies  
8 moving into the area; a Caterpillar distribution  
9 point, Amazon distribution point. I can't remember  
10 what's in Quincy. I think that's Microsoft. Will  
11 all those move out if the power is increased rate-  
12 wise.

13           I think there's a lot of things that  
14 hasn't been addressed over this telephone  
15 opportunity to express. I think there's a lot of  
16 personal interest expressed. But over the whole  
17 power grid of Bonneville, I don't know if that's  
18 been addressed and what it would take to re-supply  
19 the power 24/7.

20           I want to thank you for the opportunity to  
21 express myself. Thank you. That's all I've got.

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

23           Operator, we can move to the next caller,  
24 please.

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

1 the line of Mava Sayag. Please go ahead. Your line  
2 is open.

3 **JUDY:** Hi, my name is Judy. I just wanted  
4 to say breach the four lower Snake River dams now.  
5 We need the dams breached this year. Right now.

6 We need to save salmon. Only 72 orcas  
7 left. They are going to extinct.

8 Breach the dams now. Thank you for your  
9 time.

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

11 This your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

12 For those who may have joined us, this is  
13 a public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
14 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide comments.  
15 Please press one, then zero, to add your name to the  
16 queue.

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

24 We encourage you to remain on the line if  
25 you've provided comments so that you may hear from

1 others.

2           Currently, there are no callers in queue.  
3 We'll remain on the line and check back in again  
4 shortly.

5           **(No audio: 2:37:50 to 2:38:40)**

6           **MS. HABIBI:** It looks like we have two  
7 callers in queue.

8           Operator, when you're ready, you can go to  
9 the first caller.

10          **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

11          Next, we turn to the line of Chris Pinney.  
12 Please go ahead.

13          **CHRIS PINNEY:** Hello. I only have three  
14 minutes, but I could talk for three days or three  
15 months on this.

16          I retired last year from the Walla Walla  
17 District Army Corps of Engineers as the subject  
18 matter expert on fish passage. Twenty-eight years.

19          I came from working on a dam on the  
20 Colorado River, endangered fish, and I started with  
21 the '92 drawdown test.

22          I was also a primary co-author on most of  
23 the evaluations in the 2002 feasibility study EIS.  
24 And that EIS, in draft form, did recommend breaching  
25 and the bi-op that followed recommended breaching.

1 We did some modeling because the Army  
2 Corps and BPA had concerns and basically overpowered  
3 NOAA fisheries, so they did some modeling. Even the  
4 CR modeling came out with the same result. Breaching  
5 gave you the most probability of a recovery.

6 So it was necessary 20 years ago -- 25,  
7 28, 30 years ago to breach these dams. There's a  
8 lot of political action that these damn should have  
9 gone in. All the way to the Supreme Court.

10 They said they'd end up as cesspools or  
11 they would end up as sewer by a Supreme Court  
12 justice. We're getting that.

13 These things is slack water. I've worked  
14 on 90 percent of the mitigation Band-Aids that have  
15 gone in these dams that didn't work. They increased  
16 the maintenance. And they did was create some jobs  
17 for engineers.

18 Engineers are not scientists. Bureaucrats  
19 are not scientists. We need to listen to the true  
20 scientists. Okay.

21 To answer some of these farmers'  
22 questions, I've spent probably more time working on  
23 the Snake River than they spent driving trucks near  
24 the Snake River. Okay.

25 I've worked on the temperature problems on

1 the Snake River and some remediation in fish  
2 ladders. That's where it ended. Okay.

3 The only way to bring the temperature back  
4 is to reconnect the subsurface flow with the surface  
5 flow, and then you have really system torshack  
6 (phonetic). Too cold of water releases torshack.  
7 That will cool the whole river. It'll bring the  
8 springs back in. There's a canyon in there. The  
9 science is done.

10 And it's connected to the orcas. I just  
11 read the 2018 report on the OrcaLab for the northern  
12 residents --

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

15 **CHRIS PINNEY:** Thank you. -- and they are  
16 starting to show malnutrition traits as well in  
17 2018. So it isn't only southern residents, it's the  
18 more robust population up there. There's a clear  
19 ecological connection.

20 You need to realize that. You need to  
21 stop your bureaucracy. You need to pull the dams  
22 down. It's easily done. A couple of weeks in the  
23 wintertime. Thank you.

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

25 Operator, we can move to the next caller.

1           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

2           Our next caller comes from the line of  
3 Dean Pierce. Please go ahead.

4           **DEAN PIERCE:** Thank you for listening.

5           I'm a guide on the lower Columbia River.  
6 Been a guide for the last 10 years. It has impacted  
7 my income to where now I don't know if I can  
8 continue with the lack of salmon runs, the spring  
9 and fall, especially the fall runs.

10           If we can't reach the dams, we need to  
11 increase the flows so we can get these salmon back  
12 and forth. Thank you.

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

15           For those who may have joined us, this is  
16 a public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
17 Draft EIS. If you'd like to provide a comment,  
18 please press 1, then zero, to add your name to the  
19 queue.

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

1 this summer.

2 If you provide a comment, we welcome you  
3 to remain on the line to hear from others.

4 I see that we have one caller in queue.  
5 Operator, when their line is ready, you may open it.

6 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

7 Next, we turn to the line of Sean Allen.  
8 Please go ahead.

9 **MR. ALLEN:** In order to have endangered  
10 Snake River salmon, southern resident orca and  
11 ratepayer money, in order to save them, the federal  
12 agencies should address the Columbia River system in  
13 a two-tiered process.

14 Tier one is an emergency response action  
15 for the immediate drawdown and breach of the lower  
16 Granite and the lower Goose Dam, followed by the  
17 remaining two dams in subsequent years.

18 Tier two is addressing system operations  
19 and further mitigation activities in the rest of the  
20 Columbia River basin using the new EIS, assuming  
21 that the four lower Snake River dams are breached.

22 The two-tiered approach should be  
23 initiated for biological and economic reasons.  
24 Endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead have not  
25 recovered since the 2002 EIS was implemented, and

1 I've gotten much worse over the last four years.

2 Wild stocks may not survive further  
3 studies foreseen in the CRSO process. The economic  
4 benefits of the region have declined and operational  
5 costs have risen.

6 The Army Corps of Engineers already spent  
7 seven years and \$33 million of rate and taxpayer  
8 money on the 2002 EIS with a breach alternative.

9 I'm in full favor of breaching those for  
10 lowered dams. To me, having been supplied with the  
11 facts, it seems very obvious. It kind of just seems  
12 that there's a party involved as a special interest  
13 that isn't listening to the reason.

14 It feels to me like the community at large  
15 is with me on this one. And we just really want to  
16 get these dams out of there for the better of  
17 everything.

18 I'm done. Thank you.

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

20 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
21 Agency officials will remain on the line and we'll  
22 check back in again shortly.

23 **(No audio: 2:46:01 to 2:48:51.)**

24 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
25 Maryam Habibi.

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

6 Agency officials remain on the line to  
7 hear your comments. Though we're 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 We will remain on the line and check back  
14 in again shortly.

15 **(No audio: 2:49:27 to 2:50:44)**

16 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
17 Maryam Habibi. It looks like we have one caller in  
18 queue.

19 Operator, you may open his line when  
20 you're ready.

21 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

22 We turn to the line of Jim Waddell.  
23 Please go ahead. Your line is open.

24 **JIM WADDELL:** This is Jim Waddell, civil  
25 engineer, former Corps of Engineers. I want to

1 point out something about the trucking of grain.

2           Every grain of wheat, like the lady said,  
3 goes on the truck. It starts in a truck and goes to  
4 a grain elevator someplace.

5           And with breaching and change of barging  
6 to -- the elimination of barging, what you end up  
7 with, though, is all those grain elevators are still  
8 there. So wherever those trucks are going now,  
9 they'll pretty much go to the same place.

10           The only difference is the grain elevators  
11 on the river, who all, but one, are served by a rail  
12 line right now, many of them can put grain on rail  
13 right now. And with some upgrades, they can handle  
14 a lot more capacity.

15           So basically, truck traffic,  
16 theoretically, or in real life shouldn't change at  
17 all for the farmers. It's just a matter of where  
18 that grain elevator puts it.

19           Right now, they have a choice between  
20 putting it on a barge or putting it on the railcar.  
21 And so, what will happen is, it will all go by rail.  
22 And because there's several railroads -- two main  
23 railroads, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern,  
24 you still have competitive forces going on there.

25           Also, because the state of Washington

1 basically supports all those short line railroads,  
2 they're not going to let rates go up if it costs the  
3 farmers. So that's an important point to get across  
4 there. And so that's the main thing I wanted to  
5 clarify on that particular point.

6 The other thing is we heard earlier the  
7 unique capability of the dams to ramp up in the  
8 morning to meet daytime peaks, that's on page 3-906  
9 of the EIS. All the dams in the hydrosystem do that  
10 every night. They're just following load.

11 But I'd say what is unique about the Snake  
12 River dams is their inability to ramp and provide  
13 peak power for balancing, for reserves, or just any  
14 of this kind of stuff because they're run-of-river  
15 dams. And to do that would require them to be drawn  
16 down below the minimum operating pool, which they're  
17 not allowed to do.

18 So this is all fantastical kind of  
19 thinking on the part of whoever put this work  
20 together at Bonneville Power Administration to think  
21 that you can get these kind of power benefits out of  
22 these dams. You can't.

23 They basically can supply what they're  
24 doing now and they're generating power pretty much  
25 all the time that they can in light of spill

1 requirements, and that's about it.

2           So it's a misnomer to give these unique  
3 abilities to these dams in some sort of beneficial  
4 way. They don't have --

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

7           **JIM WADDELL:** I'm finished. Thank you.

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

9           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

10           This is a public meeting for providing  
11 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd like to  
12 provide a comment, please press 1, then zero, to add  
13 your name to the queue.

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

21           We currently have three callers in the  
22 queue.

23           Operator, you may go to the next caller.

24           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

25           Next, we turn to the line of Sam Ringwood.

1 Please go ahead.

2           **SAM RINGWOOD:** This is Sam Ringwood. I'm  
3 a retired farmer in eastern Washington.

4           My concern, number one, is the power  
5 output. We are supported basically by hydro-electric  
6 power in the Pacific Northwest.

7           Also, my concern is the pollution in Puget  
8 Sound for the orcas, long before there was ever any  
9 impact from the food that they need that comes from  
10 the Snake River or does not have an opportunity to  
11 get up the river because of the dams.

12           And also the impact on roads from the  
13 additional trucking. I'm sorry, I heard the speaker  
14 earlier addressing that. I worked for county  
15 government for years. I know what kind of condition  
16 the county road infrastructure is in. If you double  
17 or triple the amount of trucks hauling in the area  
18 because of those ports not being open, I guarantee  
19 is going to have a huge impact, especially on the  
20 rural roads in the area.

21           And that's all I have. Thank you.

22           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, we can  
23 go to the next caller, please.

24           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. Next, we turn to  
25 the line of Steven Pfeifer. Please go ahead.

1           **STEVEN PFEIFER:** Thank you for this  
2 opportunity. My name is Steven Pfeifer and I'm a  
3 resident of Boise, Idaho.

4           This draft environmental impact statement  
5 falls far short of a plan that will lead to long-  
6 term sustained abundance of our salmon and  
7 steelhead, let alone to their significant recovery.  
8 The report has missed an opportunity to provide a  
9 comprehensive regional solution that could have  
10 departed from decades of inadequate federal plans  
11 and ended uncertainty surrounding this issue.

12           Instead, the action agencies applied the  
13 same narrow focus to their analysis and ended up  
14 putting forward a preferred alternative that only  
15 recommends slight tweaks to a hydro-system that is  
16 broken for salmon and broken for the people and  
17 communities that rely on them.

18           Biologically, this plan does little to  
19 alleviate the risk of further population declines to  
20 already weak stocks of endangered species listed  
21 salmonids in the face of a changing climate that  
22 will certainly pose myriad challenges to salmon in  
23 the northwest. This DEIS has ignored a crucial  
24 window of time, in which actions taken now to  
25 recover salmon will build their resilience to

1 challenges ahead.

2           This federal report examines restoring the  
3 lower Snake River via dam breaching. It only takes  
4 a cursory glance at the immense benefits that  
5 subsequent return to abundant levels of salmon  
6 steelhead would entail.

7           It completely ignores the sportfishing  
8 economy that is so important to guides, outfitters  
9 and small towns throughout Idaho. But also ignores  
10 the large economic impact anadromous fish in a  
11 restored section of river would have on outdoor  
12 recreation industries throughout the Northwest.

13           The DEIS continues the paradigm of  
14 choosing the health of the federal hydro-system over  
15 the health of wild salmon and steelhead.

16 Fortunately, many across the region are realizing  
17 that this is not a choice we have to make. The  
18 benefits of the lower Snake River dams and the  
19 communities they support are important. The dams,  
20 themselves, are a means to an end.

21           The services currently provided by them  
22 can be provided in other means. We must advocate  
23 for a comprehensive plan to be put forward by our  
24 elected leaders that includes significant regional  
25 investments, and support for our agriculture

1 communities and energy grid, for recovering our wild  
2 fish and the communities that have been suffering  
3 due to their current low abundance.

4 Everyone across the northwest relies on  
5 and appreciates the natural wealth of the region of  
6 which salmon and steelhead are a fundamental part.  
7 We deserve a plan that focuses on what we have in  
8 common rather than continuing a process which has  
9 only served to drive us apart. Thank you.

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

11 We can move to the next caller, please.

12 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you.

13 Next, we turn to the line of Richard  
14 Putnam. Please go ahead.

15 **RICK PUTNAM:** Thank you.

16 My name is Rick Putnam. I'm a Washington  
17 resident and it's been interesting to listen to a  
18 couple of days worth of comments that have come in.  
19 It's actually most discouraging because there's no  
20 way to sort out the comments that actually make  
21 sense and those that are with facts, and data, and  
22 pertinent, accurate information.

23 I guess I'm with Jim Waddell, who was  
24 talking earlier this afternoon about how many  
25 inaccuracies there are, even in the EIS. Not

1 counting the people that are commenting, but just  
2 trying to find out some real data from the report.

3 I would first extremely advocate for a  
4 longer period of comment time, not only because of  
5 the virus, but just because of the fact that it's  
6 such a long report and full of information that  
7 needs to be really studied and sorted out as to  
8 what's true and what's not.

9 As an engineer, I would think that this  
10 report almost needs to be rewritten. I appreciate  
11 the amount of time that's gone into this thing, but  
12 you're not giving the public commenters, us, enough  
13 time to sort it out.

14 We were getting 3 percent of the time that  
15 you put into it to read it, to understand it. If we  
16 were to do this on a daily basis, it'd be one 173  
17 pages approximately every day that we'd have to sort  
18 through. That's way too much for a 45 day comment  
19 period, which is the minimum for an EIS. There's no  
20 reason that we can think of that you couldn't make  
21 it longer.

22 I guess, in addition, the Columbia River  
23 watershed has 60 dams, at least; 14 on the Columbia,  
24 20 on the Snake, generating 36 megawatts. The lower  
25 salmon dams only generate about one, on average.

1 I think there's a whole lot more that  
2 could have gone into a report like this.  
3 Alternatives, such as -- why not get rid of the dams  
4 for a period of time. Pick a decade or two where  
5 the dams temporarily breached and see what happens.

6 It's been a 15-year experiment that hasn't  
7 been working very well so far, so why don't we try  
8 something really different?

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

11 I'll yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

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

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

18 Agency officials remain on the line to  
19 hear your comments. Though we're not responding to  
20 questions or comments 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 comments, we encourage

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

2 Currently, we have one caller in queue.

3 A reminder if you'd like to provide  
4 comments. My press one, then zero, to add your name  
5 to the list.

6 Operator, when they're ready, you may open  
7 their line.

8 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

9 Next, we turn to the line of Bill  
10 Kremmers. Please go ahead.

11 **BILL KREMMERS:** Thank you.

12 My name is Bill Kremmers. I am the  
13 immediate past president of the Association of  
14 Northwest Steelheaders. The Steelheaders have  
15 chapters in both Oregon and Washington, and we  
16 contribute about 30,000 volunteer hours each year on  
17 fishery conservation projects, river cleanup,  
18 fishing clinics, veteran fishing events, and working  
19 with government agencies on a variety of projects.

20 We are now 55 years old. And our motto  
21 is: Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting  
22 our fisheries today and tomorrow. We are also the  
23 Oregon affiliate for the National Wildlife  
24 Federation.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to comment

1 on the draft environmental impact statement for the  
2 Columbia River operations. In short, the Columbia  
3 River operations are failing our fisheries, the  
4 angler community, our wildlife and future  
5 generations.

6 Fishery season after fishery season are  
7 curtailed because of a constraint of Snake River  
8 salmon. Yes, we recognize there are other factors  
9 contributing to our fisheries and they're working on  
10 those issues as well.

11 Our members come from all walks of life;  
12 city, rural, and represent a good cross-section of  
13 the people of the northwest. Year after year, our  
14 hopes are dashed as the federal government has for  
15 over two decades to get this right and has failed  
16 each time.

17 This failure has resulted in numerous  
18 court cases and frustration. The current draft  
19 environmental impact statement is more of the same  
20 and continues the direct trajectory of extinction of  
21 our wild salmon from the Columbia River basin.

22 This is simply unacceptable. We must  
23 begin a meaningful process and bring the  
24 shareholders together to work on a collaborative  
25 solution that works for everybody. Thank you very

1 much.

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

3 This is your facilitator Maryam Habibi.

4 This is a public meeting for providing  
5 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like  
6 to provide a comment, please press 1, then zero, to  
7 add your name to the queue.

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

15 Currently, there are no callers in queue,  
16 will remain on the line and check back in again  
17 shortly.

18 **(No audio: 3:05:05 to 3:06:00)**

19 **MS. HABIBI:** We have one caller in queue,  
20 operator in the open their line when they're ready.

21 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

22 Next, we turn to the line of Nanette  
23 Jones. Please go ahead.

24 **NANETTE JONES:** Good evening, everybody.

25 I'm calling in tonight with support for

1 Alternative 3, the breaching of the four lower Snake  
2 River dams. It is time that we take action on these  
3 efforts this year, immediately. There's really high  
4 urgency to put some cold flowing water back into the  
5 system.

6 Removing these dams would free up over 140  
7 miles of spawning beds. I mean, the fish need  
8 habitat. These cold-water fish need river  
9 temperatures below 58 degrees. I'm supporting Chris  
10 Pinney's comments, Jim Waddell's comments tonight.

11 I think it's absolutely imperative, too,  
12 that we allow a longer comment period on this  
13 process. So we could have more collaboration. I  
14 just want to say, with 7 million people in  
15 Washington and 4 million humans in Oregon, to have  
16 everybody get what they want is absolutely not  
17 possible.

18 We have 72 resident orcas, 72, up against  
19 11 million humans that can all go to the store and  
20 all the other uses on the river. There are  
21 alternatives.

22 Now, the orcas cannot go to Safeway. The  
23 orcas and the salmon are relying on cold river  
24 water, cold water and estuary cold water in the  
25 ocean, or we don't have any cold-water fish at all.

1           So removing these four lower dams would  
2 put cold-flowing water back into the system. That's  
3 actually what the fish need. Land mammals will do  
4 fine, providing other alternatives for themselves  
5 with transportation, with getting their wheat  
6 products to market. But our 72 organs do not have  
7 any other option. It's also time for the --

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

10           **NANETTE JONES:** -- Power Administration to  
11 stop scapegoating our beautiful native predators,  
12 such as sea lions, double-crested cormorant. These  
13 animals have every right to live, and to live in  
14 peace, and have safe passage and safe  
15 (indiscernible) places in their natural river home,  
16 and on the coast.

17           So the Army Corps -- I mean, they -- on  
18 East Sand Island, they decimated the northwest  
19 population of double-crested cormorants and it had  
20 no impact on returning adults to the river. So --

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

22           **NANETTE JONES:** Thank you.

23           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
24 Maryam Habibi.

25           For those who may have joined us, this is

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

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

12 If you provide comments, we welcome you to  
13 remain on the line to hear from others.

14 All comments provided during this  
15 teleconference are being recorded, transcribed, and  
16 submitted to the record for the draft EIS. We  
17 currently have two callers in queue.

18 Operator, you may open the first line when  
19 they're ready.

20 **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you, ma'am.

21 First, we turn to the line of Jonathan  
22 Moore. Please go ahead.

23 **JONATHAN MOORE:** Good evening. My name is  
24 Jonathan Moore. I'm a commercial fisherman. I live  
25 in Port Washington and I've been trolling for salmon

1 on the west coast of Washington and Alaska for --  
2 well, my entire life. I've had my own boat and been  
3 fishing for 25 years.

4 I just want to say -- I want to encourage  
5 the Army Corps of Engineers to do the right thing  
6 and breach the lower Snake River dams. And the  
7 reasons are because it's obvious that the Snake  
8 River is broken as far as being a salmon-rearing  
9 habitat.

10 It's a unique river system. The dams  
11 block access to hundreds of miles of high desert  
12 spawning channels. They slow the flow of water.  
13 They deoxygenate it and warm it.

14 And the hatchery system isn't able to  
15 compensate for this. And it's expensive.

16 On the west coast of Washington, the small  
17 communities that rely on commercial fishing are  
18 dwindling away. It's sad to see.

19 Even in the 25 years that I've been doing  
20 this, the infrastructures is crumbling. There's not  
21 near the economy that there could be or once was.

22 I'm told in the '70s there was 3,000  
23 trollers off the coast of Washington. And now, in  
24 an average area, it will be around 100.

25 I like to fish out of Neah Bay. It's on

1 the north coast. And in the springtime, there'll be  
2 a half dozen to a dozen non-tribal trollers kind of  
3 based out of there.

4 And the old-time fish and wildlife  
5 biologists would tell me of the bay just being full  
6 of trollers. So it's, obviously, a massive economic  
7 loss.

8 And so I know that it's a tough situation  
9 and that removing the dams is gonna be very  
10 expensive and there's some problems to solve as far  
11 as extending the plumbing for the agriculture.

12 And also the navigation. We're gonna have  
13 to find a new way to ship certain grains down the  
14 river.

15 They provide some electricity so that  
16 possibly would have to be compensated for with  
17 preferably solar or wind power. And all that's  
18 gonna cost a lot of money. But in my experience --

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

21 **JONATHAN MOORE:** -- to the way I started,  
22 it's always better in the long term to do it right,  
23 to get the system back running the way that it was  
24 meant to be regardless of the cost.

25 Every time I've tried to fix something

1 with a half measure, it's come back to bite me and  
2 it costs more in the long run. So just want to  
3 encourage you guys to do the right thing. I know  
4 it's expensive, but it's time to fix it.

5 That's all. Thanks.

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

7 Operator, you may go to the next line,  
8 please.

9 **THE OPERATOR:** Next we turn to the line of  
10 Nanette Jones. Please go ahead.

11 **MS. JONES:** Thank you.

12 Bonneville Power Administration has been  
13 investing in two animal predator removal programs.  
14 And no matter how expensive these programs are, they  
15 are not a worthy investment as a means to increase  
16 populations or to protect populations of endangered  
17 salmon.

18 There's absolutely not one piece of peer-  
19 reviewed literature to support that indiscriminately  
20 killing or shooting sea lions has ever increased  
21 populations of endangered fish. It does nothing but  
22 kill these beautiful animals that actually have a  
23 very important job to play in our ecosystem.

24 When sea lions eat, the whole ecosystem  
25 gets to eat. They are actually responsible for

1 creating aquatic systems to support large  
2 populations of fish such as anchovies, sardines,  
3 wild salmon, wild steelhead, and actually need to  
4 survive in our ecosystem.

5 In the estuary upriver, they bring  
6 important river nutrients upriver. They have 60  
7 different microbiomes in their gut flora that humans  
8 do not have.

9 The Army Corps has cited that main reasons  
10 for decline of wild fish is a lack of prey, lack of  
11 food because our oceans are turning acid and the  
12 fish can't form a shell, the shrimps that the fish  
13 eat.

14 Sea lions going upriver bring important  
15 nutrients upriver. They bring their 60 different  
16 microbiomes that actually create fish food.

17 They are a cornerstone in the food chain  
18 for all friggin life in our oceans and our rivers.

19 And the Bonneville Power Administration  
20 needs to stop killing them. They're an important  
21 part of our estuary, important part of the Pacific  
22 Northwest health of the ecology.

23 They have an ancient relationship with the  
24 wild fish that the 14 dams on the Columbia River do  
25 not. You need to pull out those four dams on the

1 lower Snake River to ensure that we have the 72  
2 orcas. Because if we lose these animals, it's  
3 called trophic cascades.

4           These predator removal programs show that  
5 you pull one animal -- you pull one predator out of  
6 the system, another one moves right back in to take  
7 its place, and it's well documented.

8           BPA funds expensive incentive programs,  
9 such as the Pikeminnow Removal Program, which has  
10 been successful in removing large numbers of  
11 pikeminnow from the Columbia River system. Their  
12 populations --

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

15           **NANETTE JONES:** -- still outnumber wild  
16 salmon populations.

17           At the same time, BPA-funding removal for  
18 pikeminnow has allowed the smallmouth bass  
19 population to proliferate, which they now out-  
20 compete with the wild fish for resources as well as  
21 they predate heavily on baby smolt as they're pushed  
22 down towards there adult habitat, the sea.

23           We need to move those big pieces of  
24 concrete out of the lower Snake River so we can  
25 expedite baby smolt getting to the ocean in a timely

1 manner. These animals have to cross eight dams  
2 twice in their lifetime.

3 It's absolutely essential that we remove  
4 those dams this year to bring jobs to the region.  
5 It'll bring an ecosystem back to life. We have an  
6 opportunity here for --

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

8 **NANETTE JONES:** Thank you.

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

10 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

11 For those who may have joined us, this is  
12 a public meeting providing comments on the CRSO  
13 Draft EIS. If you'd like to provide a comment,  
14 please press 1, then zero, to add your name to the  
15 queue.

16 In addition to providing comments on this  
17 teleconference and others that had been scheduled,  
18 we also have other means listed on our website,  
19 [www.CRSO.info](http://www.CRSO.info). You may submit online comments and  
20 comments and writing if you have more comments than  
21 you're able to provide on these calls.

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

1 welcome and will consider your comments in  
2 developing the final EIS, which will be released  
3 this summer. If you do provide comments, we welcome  
4 you to remain on the line to hear from others.

5 We have one caller queued. Operator, when  
6 their line is ready, you may let them speak.

7 **THE OPERATOR:** Certainly. One moment.

8 Julie Van Middlesworth your line is open.

9 **JULIE VAN MIDDLESWORTH:** This is Julie Van  
10 Middlesworth. I would like to formally issue my  
11 support for the removal of the lower Snake River  
12 dams. I feel that the proposed alternative does not  
13 go far enough to ensure that the native salmon and  
14 steelhead populations safe.

15 And I would also like to state that my  
16 main concern is, of course, for the salmon and  
17 steelhead, but also for the central Idaho complex,  
18 which is comprised of the Frank Church River of No  
19 Return Wilderness, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness,  
20 the Gospel Hump Wilderness. And those headwaters  
21 areas are critical and one of the last intact  
22 ecosystems in the continental U.S.

23 They are critical for other endangered  
24 species, like, grizzly bears. And the salmon and  
25 steelhead are keystone species that provide

1 nutrients all the way in those rugged inland  
2 northwest areas.

3           And we need the salmon back there.  
4 They're a critical link to the Yellowstone to Yukon  
5 corridor. And it not only affects threatened and  
6 endangered salmon, but grizzly bear and, of course,  
7 I'm sure many people have said, the southern  
8 resident orca as well. So it's not just the fish,  
9 but all of the ecosystems that they support.

10           I guess that's the end of my comment.

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

12           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

13           For those who may have joined us. This is  
14 a public meeting for providing comments on this CRSO  
15 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment  
16 tonight, please press 1, then zero, to add your name  
17 to the queue.

18           Agency officials remain on the line to  
19 hear your comments. Though we are not responding to  
20 questions or comments 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 comments, you're welcome

1 to remain on the line to hear from others.

2 We will remain on the line and check back  
3 in again shortly.

4 **(No audio: 3:22:11 to 3:25:45)**

5 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
6 Maryam Habibi.

7 For anyone who has joined us, this is a  
8 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO  
9 Draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment  
10 tonight, please press 1, and zero, to add your name  
11 to the 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 do  
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 comments, you're welcome  
20 to remain on the line to hear from others.

21 We will remain on the line and check back  
22 in again shortly.

23 **(No audio: 3:26:25 to 3:29:49)**

24 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
25 Maryam Habibi.

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

6 Agency officials remain on the line to  
7 hear your comments. Though we're 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 do provide comments, you're welcome  
14 to remain on the line to hear from others.

15 We will remain on the line and check back  
16 in again shortly.

17 **(No audio: 3:30:28 to 3:33:51)**

18 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator,  
19 Maryam Habibi.

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

25 Agency officials remain on the line to

1 hear your comments, though we're not responding to  
2 questions or comments during this meeting or  
3 providing additional presentation, the agencies do  
4 welcome and will consider your comments in  
5 developing the final EIS, which will be released  
6 this summer.

7           Currently, there are no callers in the  
8 queue. We will remain on the line and check back in  
9 again shortly.

10           **(No audio: 3:34:29 to 3:36:19)**

11           **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator. We  
12 have one caller in queue.

13           Operator, you may open their line.

14           **THE OPERATOR:** Certainly.

15           Nanette Jones your line is open.

16           Hi, Nanette. Can you hear us? Your line  
17 is open.

18           **NANETTE JONES:** Hello, everybody, again.

19           I'm calling back to talk about the methane  
20 that's generated by the dams, this Blackwater Lake  
21 Reservoirs that build up microbes and algae that  
22 when they drawdown the water eventually burps up  
23 methane.

24           So I've heard a lot of talk about dams  
25 being a huge source of clean energy. Well, that's

1 really false.

2           Studies came out in 2016 that really  
3 surprised people. They found that 25 percent more  
4 methane was coming from dams than they even  
5 expected.

6           Methane absorbs the sun's heat, so it  
7 literally plays into the warming of the atmosphere.  
8 For this reason, it's considered more dangerous than  
9 carbon dioxide when it comes to heating up the  
10 atmosphere. 2019 was the hottest year on record. So  
11 the last 10 years have been the hottest -- it's been  
12 the hottest decade with the last five years being  
13 exceptionally hot. 2019 topped it all.

14           So we're talking about saving many species  
15 of cold-water fish and all the other species that  
16 rely on them returning to this region for their very  
17 sustenance; not sport and not for commercial profit,  
18 for their very survival on this planet.

19           So if we could put cold-flowing water back  
20 into the system, what that does will actually lower  
21 greenhouse gas emissions. What that will do is put  
22 flowing water back in, push all the non-native  
23 species that like those warm slack water lakes out,  
24 allow the wild fish to come back and have access.

25           So it's really critical in this age where

1 our ocean's temperatures are rising. The  
2 temperatures do not even meet any benchmarks to  
3 support cold-water fish anymore.

4 We're already in a drought here in Oregon.  
5 We are talking serious climate catastrophe. And so  
6 I am in full support of Alternative 3, removing  
7 those dams as fast as possible.

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

10 **NANETTE JONES:** It's very urgent, dire  
11 situation that we get cold water into back into the  
12 system if we want to retain cold-water fish and not  
13 have just giant lakes and algae, toxic algae to  
14 boot. Okay. Thank you.

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

16 This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

17 This is a public meeting for providing  
18 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you'd like to  
19 provide comments tonight, please press 1, then zero,  
20 to add your name to the queue.

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

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

3 If you provide comments, you are welcome  
4 to remain on the line to hear from others.

5 Currently, there are no callers in queue.

6 The agency officials will remain on the  
7 line and we'll check back in again shortly.

8 **(No audio: 3:40:50 to 3:44:15)**

9 **MS. HABIBI:** This is your facilitator. We  
10 have one caller in queue.

11 Operator, you may open their line when  
12 you're ready.

13 **THE OPERATOR:** Steve Weber (phonetic),  
14 your line is open. Steve Weber.

15 **STEVE WEBER:** Hi there. My name is Steve  
16 Weber and I'm new to this issue.

17 Relatively speaking, I was first  
18 introduced to the four lower Snake River dams in  
19 2012. And in 2015, I was asked to get involved, not  
20 as an advocate, but as a communicator for the issue.

21 The thing I came to realize is that it's a  
22 complex issue. There's lots and lots of details and  
23 different competing factions and people with  
24 different interests.

25 And when I listen to people like Jim

1 Waddell and Chris Pinney, who are retired Army Corps  
2 engineers and fish biologists, I believe they know  
3 more about the issue than most of us, certainly more  
4 than me and most of the average person.

5 I listened to many calls tonight and  
6 everyone's passionate, but they really don't  
7 necessarily speak about the facts.

8 As I've read the draft EIS, I believe it  
9 was written with the end goal already predetermined.  
10 To the credit of the authors, they admit that MO-3,  
11 breaching the dams, would provide the best outcome  
12 for the salmon. But the rest of the report is  
13 written in a confusing way that's really meant to  
14 preserve the status quo.

15 What I believe is we need some strong  
16 leadership, not just from the BPA and from the Army  
17 Corps, but we need it from our congressional leaders  
18 and even from the president.

19 In 1945, Congress passed a law that  
20 enabled them to build these dams. Well, that wasn't  
21 the smartest thing to do. So anyway, here we are  
22 trying to -- I read the executive summary of the  
23 draft EIS. They put a lot of weight into the fact  
24 that they're only trying to do what Congress  
25 dictated back in 1945. So it is really a complex

1 issue, but it can be solved.

2 But I'm not sure that saving the salmon  
3 can be solved with those dams in place. So I'm  
4 supporting removing the dams and I believe that  
5 that's what should happen. And I think it's time  
6 for us to stop trying to justify decisions that are  
7 70 and 80 years old just for the sake of preserving  
8 the status quo.

9 Our world is changing and it's time for us  
10 to make new decisions and take strong leadership  
11 positions. Otherwise, we're going to lose orcas.  
12 We're going to lose the salmon.

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

15 **STEVE WEBER:** If that's the world we want  
16 to live in, then we'll just keep the status quo.

17 But I've watched -- or at least I've  
18 learned over the last 25 years that these court  
19 battles that just keep dragging on and on are meant  
20 to preserve the status quo and they're really not  
21 meant to solve the problem.

22 A lot of money is being spent on trying to  
23 save salmon and we can solve the problem by just  
24 going ahead and removing the lower four Snake River  
25 dams. Thank you.

1           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may  
2 go to the next caller.

3           **THE OPERATOR:** Errol Povah, your line is  
4 open. Errol Povah.

5           **ERROL POVAH:** Thank you.

6           Errol Povah, second officer with the Sea  
7 Shepherd Conservation Society again.

8           I'd like to reinforce what so many pro-  
9 breaching callers have said. Despite all of your  
10 best efforts there around this teleconference, it's  
11 not sufficient. I've been tracking these calls  
12 reasonably accurately both yesterday and today, and  
13 I've made a few observations.

14           First, over these two four-hour  
15 teleconferences, you will have received roughly 150  
16 calls. Several of those calls, from both sides, are  
17 repeat callers, myself included.

18           You cannot tell me that if COVID-19 had  
19 not happened, only about 140 people would have shown  
20 up at public meetings.

21           That said, pro-breaching calls have  
22 outnumbered anti-breaching calls roughly 3-to-1.  
23 Yes, 75 percent for breaching the four lower Snake  
24 River dams, 25 percent against it.

25           And at the risk of sounding awfully

1 arrogant or judgmental, let's look at who is on each  
2 side. With few exceptions, most of the anti-breach  
3 side have a. -- and here's sort of a little audience  
4 participation thing I'd like to request the three  
5 people from BPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and  
6 the Reclamation, I'd encourage you to write down the  
7 words of "vested interest" and "business as usual"  
8 and "maintaining the status quo at any and all  
9 costs."

10           Again, if you could write those three  
11 little phrases down "vested interests," "business as  
12 usual" and "maintain the status quo at any and all  
13 costs" and then make all of the "S" into dollar  
14 signs. Having said that, it's still a mystery to me  
15 where the money is being made on these money-sucking  
16 obsolete dams. But in any case, there's huge vested  
17 interest there.

18           And I will acknowledge on the pro-  
19 breaching side, there's vested interest as well, as  
20 we heard from so many of the fishermen and the  
21 fishing guides, etc.

22           But the rest of the pro-breaching people  
23 are extremely caring, loving, concerned, passionate  
24 activists who want nothing more than to save several  
25 species of salmon and the --

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

3           **ERROL POVAH:** Thank you. -- and the  
4 starving southern resident orcas. And you really  
5 have to wonder, if we let the southern resident  
6 orcas go extinct on our watch, you really have to  
7 wonder how far behind humans are.

8           And last but not least, I'd just like to  
9 say, we're all familiar with the expression "blood  
10 on your hands." Well, I would suggest that J.  
11 Inslee and whoever is in charge of BPA, U.S. Army  
12 Corps, and the Bureau of Reclamation, they will have  
13 blood on their hands if they don't breach the bloody  
14 dams. Thank you.

15           **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. This is your  
16 facilitator, Maryam Habibi.

17           This is a public meeting for providing  
18 comments on the CRSO Draft EIS. If you would like  
19 to provide a comment, please press 1, then zero, to  
20 add your name to the queue.

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

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

3           Currently, there are no callers queued.  
4 We'll remain on the line and check back in again  
5 shortly.

6           **(No audio: 3:52:02 to 3:52:44)**

7           **MS. HABIBI:** We have two callers queued.  
8           Operator, you can open the line to the  
9 first caller when you're ready.

10           **THE OPERATOR:** Gene Miller, your line is  
11 open. Gene Miller.

12           **GENE MILLER:** Thank you.

13           It seems to me the information I've read  
14 and/or heard from both sides seems to indicate that  
15 leaving the dams will not seriously harm the ability  
16 of the salmon to access their birthplaces and that  
17 it would really have little effect in doing so.

18           One of the biggest things to me, it seems  
19 like, is when you look at the fuel mixture that  
20 supplies power for the northwest area is hydro,  
21 natural gas, nuclear and other.

22           Hydro is 85 percent. If we did away with  
23 a significant portion of that hydropower, it would  
24 really have a dramatic effect on the economy of the  
25 northwest and the farming that are supplied by the

1 waters from those dams.

2 So I think that the dams on the stay.

3 There's not going to be that much reduction in the  
4 production of salmon and, therefore, the loss of  
5 orcas. So I vote for leaving the dams.

6 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may  
7 go to the next caller.

8 **THE OPERATOR:** William Putnam, your line  
9 is open.

10 **WILLIAM PUTNAM:** Thank you.

11 My name is William Putnam. I spoke  
12 earlier. I'm a private citizen.

13 And I just wanted to get back on the line  
14 and add my name to the list of people that are  
15 demanding for an extension of this public comment  
16 period.

17 In part, the purpose of this public  
18 comment period is government accountability. And I  
19 find this period to be insufficient to allow for  
20 that.

21 I just kinda want to put that in  
22 perspective a little bit. February 28 to April 13th  
23 is 46 days, but the EIS is 7,620 pages.

24 So if you were to split that up per day,  
25 that would be 165 pages per day. And with the

1 conservative assumption that the average page has  
2 300 words. That's about half a page, half of a  
3 page's worth of words.

4 And using an average of 300 words per  
5 minute as a reading speed for an adult, that comes  
6 about 2 hours and 45 minutes of reading a day, every  
7 day for 46 six days.

8 If you want that together, the 7,620 pages  
9 would take about 126 hours. That comes to a full  
10 three workweeks -- three full 40-hour work weeks  
11 with six hours of overtime. And that's three full  
12 workweeks over the course of a seven-week time  
13 period, a time period in which many Americans are  
14 struggling to maintain their normal employment due  
15 to COVID-19 pandemic, as others have said.

16 Again, three full workweeks and that's  
17 just consuming your content here. That doesn't  
18 include the work of cross-referencing that's  
19 necessary for adequate government accountability.

20 And as we've seen from some of the  
21 callers, there are some people out here that are  
22 making use of this time to dig into the details of  
23 this report. It seems like Jim Waddell is one of  
24 those people. Chris Pinney another.

25 But getting back to your page numbers and

1 specific analysis that could, and I daresay -- dare  
2 I say it should be invaluable to you as retired Army  
3 Corps of Engineers that are working for you for  
4 free, if you'll take it.

5 So this time period needs to be extended  
6 in my opinion. I yield the rest of my time.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. We have time for  
8 one more caller before we close. Operator, you can  
9 go to the next line, please.

10 **THE OPERATOR:** That comes from Errol  
11 Povah. Can you hear us?

12 **ERROL POVAH:** Yes.

13 Sorry, my notes are a mess. One thing I  
14 neglected to say last time around -- and, quite  
15 frankly, I would encourage everyone, especially the  
16 BPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of  
17 Reclamation people to, when they go home tonight,  
18 get on the Internet and Google the J35.

19 One of my Sea Shepherd colleagues  
20 previously mentioned this. The question has to be  
21 asked, did we learn nothing from the death of J35's  
22 calf and her 17 days of very public mourning.

23 That's all I can say. Again, breach the  
24 dams, period, now. Thank you.

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

1           This is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi.  
2 We've reached the end of our time for this evening.  
3 If you have not had an opportunity to submit all the  
4 comments that you would like, there are other  
5 methods described on the project website,  
6 www.CRSO.info. We encourage you to submit any other  
7 comments you have online or in writing.

8           I'd like to thank all of you for your  
9 interest, time and flexibility as we listened to  
10 your input today.

11           I'll turn it over to Jim to close the  
12 meeting.

13           **MR. FREDERICKS:** This is Jim Fredericks  
14 with the Corps of Engineers.

15           On behalf of the three agencies and the  
16 deputies that have been here all night listening to  
17 the comments, we really appreciate the time that you  
18 took to be involved in the process and to provide  
19 both thoughtful and passionate comments. We really  
20 appreciate it and stay safe. Thank you.

21           **THE OPERATOR:** Thank you. And that does  
22 conclude our conference and you may now disconnect.

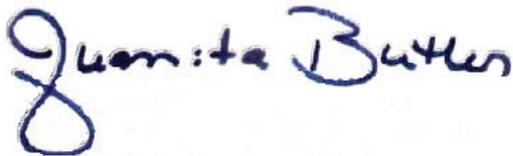
23           **(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.)**  
24  
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2  
3 I, Juanita Annette Butler, do hereby certify  
4 that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing  
5 matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes  
6 a full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to  
7 the 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 Handwritten signature of Juanita Butler in blue ink.

17  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Juanita Annette Butler  
21  
22  
23  
24  
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