

## UNIT 6A. JOHN DAY DAM DRAWDOWN ROLE-PLAY

LEVEL	TIME (min.)
Advanced	270

BENCHMARKS				
Next Generation Science Standards	MS-LS2-1 HS-LS2-2 HS-LS2.C	HS LS2-7 MS-ESS3-5 HS-ESS3.A	HS-ESS3-4 MS-LS2.A HS-ESS3.C	MS-LS2.C MS-ESS3.C
NGSS Science & Engineering Practices	<b>4.</b> Analyzing and interpreting data. <b>5.</b> Engaging in argument from evidence <b>8.</b> Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.			
Common Core State Standards	CCRA.R.1 CCRA.SL.4	CCRA.W.7 CCRA.SL.5	CCRA.SL.1	CCRA.SL.2
OR Social Sciences Academic Content Standards	7.13	HS.61	HS.62	HS.63

### INTRODUCTION:

This activity was developed in 1998 by Karl Weist of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. This role-play exercise presents students with social, political and economic issues involved in the problem of declining salmon runs. It challenges them to sort through options to reach mutually beneficial solutions.

### OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- learn about the political issues involved in salmon recovery and how to balance those issues in arriving at solutions to the problem of declining salmon runs.
- be actively engaged in the democratic process.
- learn to interact with each other and develop and communicate concepts and positions about salmon issues.
- learn to understand differing perspectives.

### MATERIALS:

- STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-1: The John Day Dam Drawdown
- STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2: John Day Dam Options
- STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3: Profiles of John Day Dam Roles

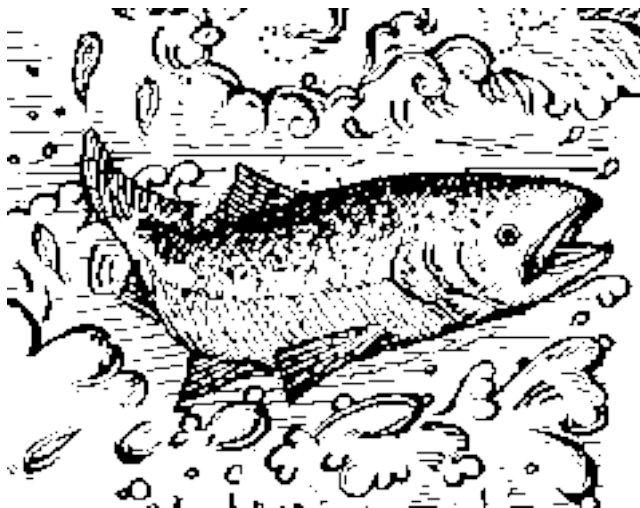
### PROCEDURE:

1. Distribute copies of STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-1: THE JOHN DAY DAM DRAWDOWN. We suggest that you read this aloud with students so that you can respond to questions and to facilitate discussion about the scenario and about their task.

2. There are eleven roles in this activity. Divide the class into eleven small groups. Give each group STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2: John Day Dam Options, and their role profile from STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3.
3. Research and planning. Allow students time to review their profiles, research their roles, examine the options, create a plan, and develop a presentation. Let students know how much time they have before they have to present. Meet with the Council Members and the Council Chairperson to facilitate the development of criteria for the presentations and questions.
4. The hearing. Have the classroom set up for the hearing with the Council Members in the front of the class with nameplates denoting whom they represent. Allow each group to come up to present/testify making sure no group goes over five minutes. Allow about five minutes after each presentation for Council Members to ask questions to help the Council better understand the positions of the testifiers and to arrive at an informed decision.
5. The debate and vote. Give the Council a set time to debate and then vote in front of the classroom. The Council Chairperson conducts this debate. Remind them that the Council must have a super- majority in favor of one option (the vote has to be at least 3-1).
6. Be sure to debrief this activity by leading a discussion about the process and the result.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-1**

### **THE JOHN DAY DAM DRAWDOWN**



#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Columbia River has many functions to life in the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia was once one of the most productive salmon rivers in the world. The Columbia provided a bountiful source of food for Native American tribes that inhabited the Pacific Northwest.

With the arrival of European settlers, the Columbia continued as an important fishery through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The river, however, has been transformed in the last 70 years. With the arrival of Rock Island Dam in 1933 and Bonneville Dam in 1938, the river became an important source of electricity generation.

Grand Coulee Dam in Washington blocked salmon from over 1000 miles of the Columbia. The massive "June Hogs," 100-pound salmon, perished at the base of the dam. With each new dam, the Columbia was transformed from a free flowing river, to a series of lakes backed up behind the massive concrete and steel dams.

The hydropower generated by the Columbia and Snake River dams comprise approximately 80% of the Northwest's energy needs. Dams have dramatically helped farmers transform desert land into highly productive and profitable agricultural land through irrigation. Dams have brought big power using industries, like aluminum, to locate in the Northwest to take advantage of the cheap hydropower. And dams have promoted navigation, allowing deep-draft barges to run the Columbia and Snake Rivers up to Lewiston, Idaho. To this end, dams have helped provide the Northwest with a strong economy and thousands of jobs.

The dams, however, have also been blamed for helping destroy the great symbolic salmon runs of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. By altering the habitat for the fish, slowing travel times for migrating juvenile fish, blocking previously usable habitat, making passage through or around the dams dangerous for both juveniles and adult salmon, changing the temperature of the river and increasing fish exposure to gas saturation and to predators, the dams have impacted the previously abundant runs.

In 1991, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed Snake River Sockeye Salmon as endangered. In 1992, NMFS listed Snake River Fall and Spring Chinook Salmon as threatened species, which was later changed to endangered. In 1997, they added Snake River and Upper Columbia River Steelhead to the endangered list. And the listings continue.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-1**

### **THE JOHN DAY DAM SCENERIO**

The Northwest Fish and Power Council is a government organization charged with restoring salmon runs to the Columbia River while also maintaining an adequate power supply for the region. The Council has just received a scientific report that could mean major changes in the way the Northwest manages the Columbia River system.

The report calls for broad changes in dam operations to return the river to a more natural condition to help restore Columbia River salmon. By returning the river to a more natural condition, the report states that salmon habitat will increase, and endangered salmon runs will have a chance to recover. Without changing the way the river is run, the report states that salmon runs are doomed to extinction in the Columbia River system.

The report suggests that drawdowns of dams or dam removal will help restore habitat. A drawdown means a lowering of the level of water that is stored behind the dams. Lower water levels will provide more natural river conditions for fish. Drawdowns or dam removal will have dramatic effects on shipping, power generation, agriculture, drinking water (for the City of Umatilla), flood control and recreation.

The council has gathered to listen to testimony from various interest groups on a proposal to drawdown the John Day Dam. The John Day Dam, managed by the Bountiful Power Administration (BPA), is the third largest power-producing dam in the system and the John Day Dam Reservoir is the largest and slowest flowing pool on the Columbia River system. The report states that drawing down John Day to “natural river” levels will help increase salmon habitat. A “natural river” is considered fifty-five feet below the normal dam water level.

The Council has the following five suggested options under consideration, all coming with a variety of impacts to the current uses of the river and benefits to the salmon that inhabit the river.

### **YOUR TASK**

1. You will be assigned one of the following eleven roles to research and represent:

- **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla**
- **Umatilla County Farmer**
- **Port Director for the Port of Umatilla**
- **Director of Power Marketing – Bountiful Power Agency – Portland, Oregon**
- **Families in Salmon Heaven (FISH) – Conservationist Organization – Vancouver, Washington**
- **Outfitter and Fishing Guide – Salmon, Idaho**
- **President, Aluminum Company of Oregon**
- **Northwest Fish and Power Council – State of Oregon Representative\***

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-1**

- **Northwest Fish and Power Council – State of Washington Representative\***
  - **Northwest Fish and Power Council – State of Idaho Representative\***
  - **Northwest Fish and Power Council – State of Montana Representative – Council Chair\*\***
2. With your role you will be given a **profile** that provides an overview of whom you're representing. Conduct further research into your role – make some phone calls, use the internet, the library, etc. Contact members of the community familiar with your role to provide suggestions and guidance. Also, try to understand the perspective of the other people involved in this role-play. The more you know about the other players involved the more likely you will gain a decision that's favorable to you, but also takes into consideration all interests.
3. Develop a **3-5 minute presentation** to the Northwest Council of Fish and Power that clearly gets across your perspective, your position and your coherent plan. Make sure that you back up all statements with facts. Create charts, graphs, handouts, etc. that enhances your presentation and your position.

**\*Council Members:** The day of the hearing, you will be at the front of the room, listening to all the presentations. You should have a clear understanding of all positions beforehand. You should prepare questions and develop criteria for the most favorable and informed decision. When all have testified, you will debate amongst the Council and then come to a vote. For a decision, the Council must have a super-majority in favor of one option (the vote has to be at least 3-1).

**\*\*Council Chairperson:** The Chair of the Council is responsible for conducting the hearing, facilitating the debate, and calling for a vote.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2**

### **John Day Dam Options**

#### **OPTION #1**

**ACTION:**

- Do nothing.
- No drawdown.
- Continue with operations as the presently exist.

**IMPACTS:**

- Shipping, recreation, power generation, agriculture and drinking water: No impact.
- Fish habitat: To avoid passage problems at the dam, juvenile fish will be collected for transport, in barges or trucks, around the dam.

#### **OPTION #2**

**ACTION:**

- Minimum operating pool drawdown.
- Drawdown the reservoir to minimum operating pool, 12 ft. below the normal dam level

**IMPACTS:**

- Shipping: No impact.
- Recreation: Two exposed boat ramps will have to be extended to reach water level, costing \$45,000.
- Power Generation: Minimal effect. There will be a loss of storage capacity for peaking power for the Bountiful Power Agency (BPA).
- Agriculture: Some irrigation pumps will be exposed by lower water and will need adaptation.

#### **OPTION #3**

**ACTION:**

- Mid-range drawdown.
- Drawdown the reservoir to the upstream sill block, 23 ft. below the normal dam level.

**IMPACTS:**

- Shipping: Minor effects. Some dredging will be required to allow deep-draft barges to pass through the locks.
- Recreation: Boat ramps will be exposed and will have to be extended to reach water level. Some impacts on an existing, warm-water bass fishery in the John Day Dam Reservoir by making the reservoir

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2**

colder and faster flowing. Possible positive impact by increasing salmon production and survival behind the dam.

- Power generation: Impacts from loss of turbine efficiency and loss of peaking generation capacity for the BPA. May have to transfer peaking generation to another less efficient dam. Some loss of overall power generation occurs with the need to spill water.
- Agriculture: All irrigation pumps will be exposed. Irrigators will have to pay to extend the pumps to the lower water level to use water. Electricity costs to pump the water from the lower water level will increase for all irrigators.
- Drinking water: The City of Umatilla's municipal water pump would be exposed. The city uses the river to supply drinking water to its residents. The city will also have to pay to extend the pump to the lower water level and the costs to pump the water will rise.
- Fish Habitat: The report suggests a drawdown to this level will have some benefits to fish habitat by improving water temperature, speeding water flow and providing some pools and resting and feeding areas for smolts on both sides of the reservoir. The report suggests, however, that drawdown to this level might not be enough of an improvement to assure salmon survival. To avoid passage problems at the dam, some juvenile fish will have to be collected and barged around the dam.

### **OPTION #4**

#### **ACTION:**

- Spillway crest drawdown.
- Drawdown the reservoir to the spillway crest, 55 ft. below normal dam level.

#### **IMPACTS:**

- Shipping: Major impacts. Shipping will be reduced to some shallow draft barges, with dredging required to allow passage near the dam. Deep draft barges will be eliminated from the river.
- Recreation: Major impacts. Exposed boat ramps will have to be extended to get to the water level. All existing boat ramps will be exposed causing loss of access to the river for boaters. A wildlife refuge will be exposed in the middle of silty, muddy bank flats. Possible negative impacts to the existing bass fishery, through the reservoir becoming a colder, more rapidly flowing "river" rather than a slow-moving, warmer lake. Possible positive impacts by improved salmon production behind the dam. Boaters may like the fact that the river now flows like a river. Possible increased tourism to view the more "natural" river, though this may be only a temporary benefit.
- Power generation: There will be a huge loss in the ability of the dam to deliver peaking capacity for the BPA. This will result in other less efficient dams, having to supply peaking power. Large loss in total generation through loss of water stored in reservoir. The BPA will possibly need to build other types of generation or purchase power from other areas of the country to make up for the lost generation.
- Agriculture: All irrigation pumps would be exposed because of lower water level. Major expense to extend the pumps to reach river level to irrigate. Far greater electricity costs to pump the water up from the lower river level.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2**

- Drinking water: The City of Umatilla water pump will have to be extended for the city to continue to draw drinking water from the river.
- Fish habitat: The report states that drawdown to spillway crest provides very good habitat for salmon, making the reservoir act more like a river. Shallow pools provide resting and feeding areas for juvenile fish on both sides of the reservoir. Water flows faster and carries more nutrients for young salmon to feed on during migration. Spilling water through the spillway reduces juvenile salmon passage problems at the dam. Spillway crest drawdown will allow the river to have spring “flooding” events, creating new habitat and a meandering river channel beneficial for salmon. Passage problems through the dams will be diminished through this option. Fish will not have to be collected for transportation around the dam, though there still will be some loss of fish while passing the dam.

### **OPTION #5**

#### **ACTION:**

- Dam removal.
- Remove a large section of the dam, allowing the water to flow through.
- This action will return the river its natural state and will eliminate the dam.

#### **IMPACTS:**

- Shipping: This option will eliminate all deep-draft navigation. Shallow-draft barges will still make runs through the area at times of high flow.
- Recreation: Dam removal will seriously reduce or at least transfer the warm water bass fishery to another location further down the river. Power boating will be seriously reduced from that stretch of the river. Boat ramp extensions to the new water level will need to be built for boats to get to the river at all but the highest flow times. The wildlife refuge will be exposed and left in a dry, muddy area of the riverbank.
- Positive impacts could result from increased rafting, kayaking and canoeing on the now returned stretch of river. Increases in salmon will result in different types of sportfishing taking place on the river that could replace or enhance the bass fishery. New wildlife habitat would be created in the restored river, perhaps eliminating the need for the former wildlife island refuge now left in the dry riverbank. Potential increases in tourism to the restored river.
- Power generation: This option will cause the loss of power generation at the dam site. John Day is the third largest power-producing dam in the system. BPA will have to replace the lost generation through power purchases with other areas of the country, building new generating facilities or increasing energy conservation efforts. Loss of the dam will also cause system reliability problems, possibly resulting in power blackouts at certain times of the year. The system will also lose the peaking capacity that the dam provides.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-2**

- Agriculture: Irrigators will have major expenses in restructuring and extending their pumps to reach the river. Some may have to find alternative sources of water to irrigate their crops. Electricity costs will rise to pump the water for greater distances. These added costs may make some of crops grown on these lands money losers.
- Drinking water: The City of Umatilla pump will be totally exposed and useless. The city will have to find an alternative water supply.
- Fish habitat: Dam removal will provide a 42 mile stretch of free-flowing river. According to the report, this is the most beneficial option for fish. The river will return to natural river conditions. The fish will no longer through or around the dam, meaning no loss of fish through the dam's turbines. The water will run colder and swifter, aiding fish migration. The river will be able to provide better nutrient transportation. Spring flood events will take place, scouring out trapped sediment and creating new pools and resting and feeding habitat for juvenile fish. There is no need to collect fish for transportation around the dam. All fish will be able to migrate the river.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla**

You represent the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The tribes have had treaty rights from 1855 guaranteeing them half the catch of the salmon runs. Salmon runs have declined so drastically, the tribe has only had a ceremonial catch from the Columbia River that amounted to about 100 fish. These fishing rights are extremely important to the tribe. You fear the loss of the salmon also represents a loss of your culture and your tribal identity.

Your tribe strongly objected to the building of the dams. Tribal members had always feared the loss of the salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and lamprey when the dams were built.

The Confederated Tribes also have to live among the non-tribal farmers who irrigate their fields from the John Day Dam. You have participated in a project that pumps water from the Columbia into the Umatilla River to keep water in the Umatilla for fish, while still allowing irrigation to continue with water from the Umatilla.



The tribe also uses the Port of Umatilla to ship some of the grains grown on the reservation to the Portland area, though these crops are not a major cash crop, as they are for some of your non-tribal neighbors.

Questions to consider:

- Which John Day Dam option do you favor?
- What groups do you think are your allies in your position?
- What groups do you think oppose you?
- How do you think the Council could help enforce your treaty rights?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Umatilla County Farmer**



You have owned a large wheat and alfalfa farm outside Hermiston, Oregon for the last twenty-five years. You come from a family that has been farming in this area since before the John Day Dam was built. You remember the salmon runs from your childhood and you are concerned that the runs have decreased so drastically. However, you also make your living by irrigated farming.

You are concerned that some of the proposed solutions would force you to extend the length of your irrigation pumps subsequently costing you more money to power these pumps. Your profits have increased the last several years. You know that since the John Day Dam went in it has been far easier to make a profit off irrigating your land. You remember the struggles your family had in getting water to the land.

You also worry that since you ship your crops from the Port of Umatilla, the Port could have major alterations or possibly close. You have investigated the possibility of alternatives to shipping.

Questions to consider:

- Which John Day Dam option do you favor?
- Who are your potential allies for the option you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- What groups do you think oppose you?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Port Director for the Port of Umatilla**



You are the Director of the Port of Umatilla. The Port has been a major shipper of wheat and other grains from the irrigated farms in the area. The Port has also served as the place for receiving fuel oil and other bulk items shipped from Portland to serve the farms of the area.

The Port employs over seventy people and is the largest business in Umatilla. You are concerned that changes in John Day Dam will alter the nature of the Port, perhaps even cause the Port to close. You like living in Umatilla and enjoy the pace of life there.

You have noticed the salmon decline, but you believe there are causes other than the dams. You wonder

how the oceans and downstream pollution from cities like Portland could affect the salmon.

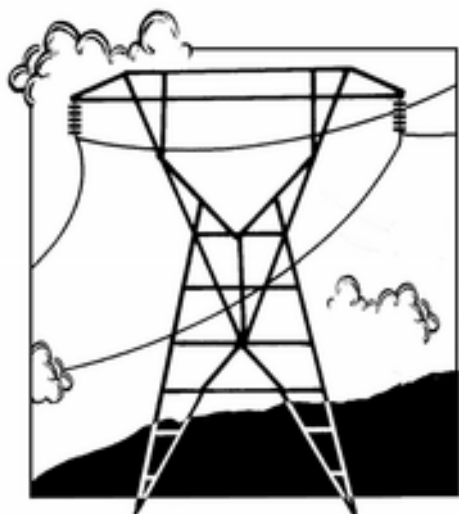
You also wonder about the bass fishery that has developed in the John Day Dam pool and if those who worry about the salmon might also care about the bass that could be affected by different dam operations.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What John Day Dam option do you favor?
- Who are your potential allies for the option you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- Do people who have made a livelihood from the Dam being there have a right to rely on the Dam continuing to operate in the same way?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?
- What groups do you think oppose you?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Director of Power Marketing – Bountiful Power Agency (BPA)**



You have been the Director of Power Marketing for the Bountiful Power Agency, based in Portland, for five years. In that time you have seen great changes take place in the power industry, especially at BPA. When you started, the Northwest had a balanced supply. Now the region has a power surplus. Gas-fired power plants have been able to compete in price with power from the dams.

California could use the surplus power you have available, but you need to deliver it at the moments that they need it. John Day Dam has been the major supplier of that “peaking” power, but you worry that might disappear if Dam operations change drastically.

You also feel that the dams have been unfairly blamed for the declines in the salmon runs. You feel there may be other factors causing the declines. You know the law creating the Council directed BPA to “protect, enhance and mitigate for the loss” of fish and wildlife in the Columbia river system. You think BPA has paid a great amount for salmon recovery and that in the changing energy market, more costs associated with salmon recovery will affect your ability to market your power in prices that your large industrial customers will want to pay. You think they may desert you for alternative energy sources.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What John Day Dam option do you favor?
- Who are your potential allies for the option you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- Do you see any possible compromise positions that, though you might not prefer it, you could support?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?
- What groups do you think oppose you?

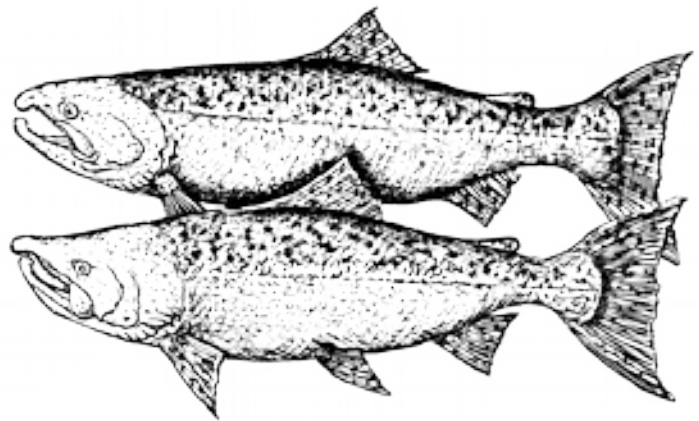
## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Member of Families in Salmon Heaven (FISH), a Non-Profit Conservation Organization**

You work in a high tech firm in Vancouver, Washington and have lived your entire life in the Northwest. You used to fish for salmon in your youth. You have always had an interest in the environment and the salmon. You want to see the salmon runs restored to their historic numbers.

When the Snake River salmon were declared endangered, you joined Families in Salmon Heaven (FISH). FISH members have staged some protests at the dams, arguing that the dams have caused the loss of the salmon runs. You have statistics that show there has been downward trend in salmon returns since the Bonneville Dam was completed in 1939.

You have read the scientific report that the Council is considering and you find it interesting, but think the scientists may not have gone far enough in their recommendations on restoring the river to save the salmon. You also realize that people have made a living off the river for many purposes, but the loss of the salmon runs have caused a loss of other lifestyles as well.



#### **Questions to consider:**

- What John Day Dam option do you favor, if any?
- Who are your possible allies in the position you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- How should the Council prioritize the uses of the river?
- Does the option you favor support the priorities that you think the Council considers in developing a salmon recovery plan?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?
- What groups do you think oppose you?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: Outfitter and Fishing Guide**



For nine years you have served as guide for groups fishing for salmon and steelhead on the Salmon River in Idaho. You also sell fishing supplies that support the groups you lead on fishing excursions.

Business has declined since you opened in 1987. You now fear that unless the salmon start returning, you may have to close up shop or switch to a different type of fishery. You love Idaho and do not want to move. However, you have started to believe that salmon may never return to Idaho in any fishable numbers.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What John Day Dam option do you favor?
- Who are your potential allies for the option you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?
- What groups do you think oppose you?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Profile: President – Aluminum Company of Oregon**

You are President of the Aluminum Company of Oregon (ACO) located in The Dalles, Oregon. Your company supplies 15% of all the aluminum produced in the United States. Your company is a major employer in The Dalles.

ACO uses vast amounts of electricity supplied by hydropower from the Bountiful Power Agency (BPA). If you are unable to obtain that power from the BPA, you may have to purchase your power from other sources, which may be more expensive than BPA's hydropower.

You worry that a drawdown of the John Day Dam would cause serious problems for BPA to supply you with power. You have explored some options. Purchasing power from other sources would cost you more money. Since power is the major cost to your business, increased power costs may cause you to shut down production, forcing you to lay people off work.

You could also build your own natural gas fired power plant, which might be as cheap as hydropower, but would cause pollution from burning the natural gas to generate power.

Though you like the thought of having salmon in the rivers, they have never been a concern of yours.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What John Day Dam option do you favor?
- Who are your potential allies for the option you favor?
- Are there any guarantees you want from the Council if they choose an option you do not favor?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?
- Do you have any methods or possibilities to compromise on a solution?
- What groups do you think oppose you?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Council Profile: State of Idaho Representative**

You represent the state of Idaho on the Northwest Fish and Power Council. The new governor appointed you last year to give the water users of Idaho more of a voice on the Council. Previously, you had represented eastern Idaho in the State House of Representatives. Your home area has remained a stronghold of irrigated agriculture.

Idaho has experienced the sharpest declines in salmon numbers. Three Idaho salmon species, sockeye, spring chinook and fall chinook, have been listed as endangered. The listings have affected water users in Idaho by limiting water withdrawals for irrigation. Drawdown of dam levels to help save salmon threatens the existence of Idaho's only port, the Port of Lewiston.

Sportfishing groups and a growing environmental community in Idaho are pressuring the governor to do more to restore the salmon runs. They have been joined by the Nez Perce Tribe, who have claimed their treaty fishing rights.

Your governor faces a difficult election next year and does not want to do anything that will alienate large groups of voters.

Questions to consider:

- Faced with the conflicts that exist within your state, which John Day Dam option do you favor?
- The law creating the Council charged Council to "protect, enhance and mitigate for the loss of the salmon runs in the Columbia River system. Given that law, how can you do what your governor has asked and "give a greater voice to Idaho's water users?"
- Do you have any other solutions or options to suggest?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Council Profile: State of Montana Representative – Council Chairperson**

You are the Northwest Fish and Power Planning Council representative from the State of Montana. You also serve as Chair of the Council and will be responsible for calling witnesses to testify, allowing you and your fellow Council members to ask questions of the testifiers, keeping the proceedings moving smoothly and on time.

Montana is the only state on the Council that has never had anadromous salmon within its border, even prior to dam construction. You have great concerns over the loss of public power, represented by the Bountiful Power Administration and the public power interests in Montana. The dams have provided inexpensive sources of electricity that have powered Montana industry. You have concerns that major changes in dam operations will affect Montana power users and Montana industry.

You also have sympathy with ranchers and irrigated agriculture. Together these groups comprise most of Montana's agriculture community. They ship some of their products by barge from Lewiston, Idaho down to Portland. You can also identify with people concerned about water level fluctuations behind the dams. Montana has experienced problems with water levels rising and falling rapidly behind their dams, largely to supply peaking power. These water level variations have caused problems with boaters using Montana reservoirs and have affected sturgeon and bull trout, species that are also endangered.

Questions to consider:

- What John Day Dam option do you think will best serve the citizens of Montana?
- What option will best help the citizens of the entire Northwest?
- The law creating the Council says that you will "protect, enhance and mitigate for the loss of fish and wildlife in the Columbia River system." Do you have a problem upholding that law and representing the interests of Montana on the Council?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Council Profile: State of Oregon Representative**

You have served on the Northwest Fish and Power Council for two years as the representative from the State of Oregon. Your term expires in four months and you hope to get reappointed. You were appointed by a governor who has promised that restoring salmon runs to the state was the highest priority in the government. The governor has recently pushed for a salmon recovery plan that stresses restoring lost salmon habitat as the key to salmon recovery.

The governor has also just completed a deal with the Port of Portland to dredge the Columbia River to allow larger ocean-going ships to enter the Port, expanding foreign trade. The Port has concerns that drawdowns of dams, such as the one you are considering for John Day, may affect the Port's trade and ability to move products throughout the Columbia River system. The Port's Director has recently contacted you and expressed those concerns, saying that the matter might be brought before the governor if the Port is unhappy with the result.

You represented Eugene in the State Senate before joining the Council. The environmental community helped elect you to the Senate and have continued to support your efforts, considering you their ally. Power interests have always considered you an enemy, noting that you have a long history of voting against them.

Questions to consider:

- Given your political ideals, the policy of your governor and the Port of Portland issue, which John Day Dam option do you favor?
- The law creating the Council states that the Council should "protect, enhance and mitigate for the loss of salmon runs" in the Columbia. Does that law affect the John Day option you favor?
- Do you have any other possible solutions or options for the Council to consider?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT 6A-3**

### **Council Profile: State of Washington Representative**

You have been appointed to the Northwest Fish and Power Council by the new governor to help restore salmon runs and rebuild the Washington fishing industry. You are a member of the Yakama Indian Nation and have become the first Native American to serve on the Council. Prior to joining the Council, you served as the Director of the Washington Public Utility Districts (WPUD), a group advocating for public power, particularly for the rural areas of Washington. As Director of WPUD, you sought ways to help restore fish, while maintaining a steady supply of hydroelectricity.

You recognize the plight of the fishing industry in Washington. Many fishing boat owners have been unable to fish for salmon for four years and unemployment in some fishing communities is nearly 30%. You know the plight of the tribes and you realize they have treaty fishing rights for salmon that date from 1855 and have been consistently upheld in court.

You also know that drawdowns could affect the public power industry. Public power is a major factor in Washington's power supply, particularly in your home area in the eastern part of the state. Your governor has little support in the public power community and people think that the governor is trying to make ties to public power by appointing you to the Council.

Questions to consider:

- Which John Day Dam option do you favor?
- The law creating the Council states that the Council must "protect, enhance and mitigate for the loss of fish and wildlife in the Columbia River system." Given that law, how does the balanced approach that you used with WPUD, restoring fish while maintaining hydroelectric power, work with the Council and the options you must consider?
- Do you risk offending your old public power associates or do you alienate the fishing communities and tribes with the options you favor?
- Do you have any other suggestions or options for the Council to consider?