

I am concerned about the potential loss of two keystone species, the Southern Resident Killer Whales and the salmon populations in the Columbia River. It is time to come together to come to a long term solution. The DEIS falls short of recommending dam breaching on the Lower Snake, which is the preferred action by scientists to help restore the salmon. Over \$17 billion have been wasted as well as precious time in which we could have spent tax payers dollars more wisely and helped fishing communities along the coast. The federal agency approach only maintains a status quo and fails to resolve the core of the problem.

- 1) In the DEIS, a number of alternative strategies are listed. The Corps, Bureau and BPA have picked "MO4". With respect to Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead recovery, the CRSO-DEIS preferred alternative (MO4) basically calls for a continuation of the *status quo* on the lower Snake River and lower Columbia River system and is, therefore entirely inadequate.
- 2) As stated in Chapter 2 of the Comparative Survival Study (CSS) Annual Report for 2019, "Among the federal alternatives, MO3 (the four dam breach alternative...) resulted in the highest SARs(Smolt to Adult Return) and in-river survivals..." In light of looming salmon and steelhead extinctions, MO3 (4-dam breach) must be implemented. Nothing less will enable fish survival.
- 3) The time has come for our 3-state governors and members of Congress to take leadership on this issue. The DEIS preferred alternative makes clear that our Federal agencies have failed to dramatically change course in order to meet the Northwest's fish-recovery challenge.

We also need to help farming and fishing communities, address climate impacts, and promote clean energy, as well as meeting our obligations to Tribal communities.

Fish hatcheries cannot meet the needs of restoration of wild fish populations due to the specific DNA characteristics of the wild salmon. Small river towns in Idaho rely on the salmon for their outdoor recreation industry, and generate \$7.8 billion in consumer spending annually. This also provides 78,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in salaries and wages spread over the state.

The dams on the LSR only provide 4% of the needed power to this region. Studies by the NW Energy Coalition indicate that power from the LSR dams can be replaced by new renewable resources such as wind and solar with little or no increase in rates or greenhouse gases.

The solution is clear that we need to come together and address this salmon crisis with no-nonsense science-based solutions. Breach the dams to save our salmon before they become extinct in our lifetimes.