

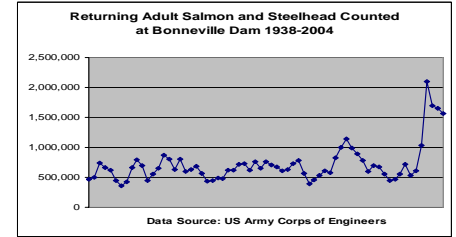


Snake River dams and fish

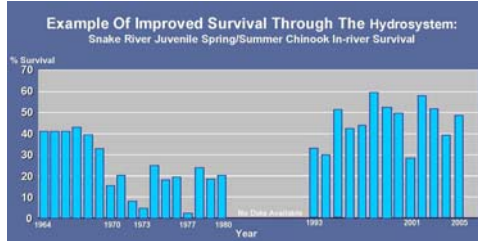
The region has made significant investments in improving the hydro system and those investments have worked.

Fish returns have significantly improved

Adult salmon returns past Bonneville dam for each of the years 2001-2004 were the highest on record since counts began in 1938. Adult returns were down in 2005, yet, at over one million fish, they were the second highest on record prior to the dramatic increase in 2001. Put another way, the salmon returns over the last five years were the first, second, third, fourth and sixth highest ever recorded past Bonneville Dam.



The region's investments have paid off in increased survival and adult fish returns.



Juvenile survival through the system is higher than ever

Improvements at the dams have increased survival three-fold since the seventies. Survival today is as high, or higher, than it was in the 1960s, before the last four dams were built.

Breaching Dams won't help the fish

Twenty six runs from the Canadian Border to California are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Only four pass through the Snake River dams. Many of the others are from watersheds without any dams at all. NOAA Fisheries Science Center says that the percentage of salmon that survive the downstream migration has little correlation with their subsequent adult return rate. It is simply not credible to claim that taking out the dams will solve the endangered fish problem in the Northwest.

Breaching dams is bad for the environment

Breaching dams eliminates hydropower and barge navigation. Hydropower does not pollute the air. It has no emissions and does not contribute to climate change. Navigation is the least polluting mode of transportation. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, per ton-mile, barges consume less fuel (only 70% of rail and 25% of truck) and produce significantly fewer air emissions as a result. Breaching dams would put hundreds of thousands more trucks on the highway through the Columbia Gorge and on the streets of Portland and Vancouver.

Breaching dams is bad for the economy

Breaching the dams puts the entire Northwest economy in jeopardy. Hydropower fuels the factories, powers the high tech companies, lights the businesses, and heats the homes of the Pacific Northwest. The four dams' peak capacity, which is needed to meet demand in extreme events, is nearly 3,500 megawatts. Wind and conservation cannot be used to meet peak demand. It would take 3 nuclear, 6 coal-fired, or 14 gas fired power plants to provide the peaking capacity of the four Snake River dams.

Columbia River navigation supports \$16 billion in international trade. The river is one of the largest export gateways in the United States, ranking # 1 in the U.S for wheat and barley, and # 1 on the West Coast for mineral bulks, forest products, and paper products. It accounts for over 40,000 jobs in the Portland metropolitan area alone. Half the grain and 20% of the container exports from the Columbia River arrive by barge.

Breaching dams is extreme and risky for fish, for the environment and for the economy

In 1992, the Corps of Engineers conducted a drawdown test of the Lower Granite Reservoir on the Snake River below Lewiston. It killed fish; it destroyed property; it eliminated hydropower production at Lower Granite Dam; it ended navigation to the Ports of Clarkston and Wilma, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho.



Port of Clarkston impact from the 1992 Snake River drawdown test.

