



July 14, 2009

Dam removal is not the answer

Paul VanDevelder's July 6 opinion ("Saving the Columbia and Snake river salmon", July 6) falsely claims Columbia and Snake River "fish counts have continued to fall" and dam removal is the only way to reverse salmon's "imminent extinction".

Juvenile fish survival through the River System has tripled since the 1970s. Adult returns this decade are the highest since the 1930s. Unprecedented collaboration among federal, tribal and state fish managers, backed by many millions of dollars, will continue to rebuild fish runs.

Breaching dams would put both the environment and economy in jeopardy. It eliminates clean, reliable, renewable hydropower. It undermines the ability to integrate new wind energy. It eliminates navigation, the most fuel efficient and cleanest mode of transporting goods. And, it may do more harm than good for salmon. If it helps at all, dam breaching would do nothing for nine of the river basin's 13 ESA-listed runs.

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About PNWA: PNWA is the voice of navigation, trade and economic development interests from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and northern California. Members include public ports, navigation, international trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and state and local government interests. PNWA also represents the Inland Ports and Navigation Group, comprised of ports from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, towboat companies, and shippers of maritime cargo from agriculture and the forest products industry. IPNG is an intervenor in the BiOp lawsuit. You can learn more about PNWA at www.pnwa.net.

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