

Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) EIS Comments Response Form

From (name and address)

Mail to: US Army Corps of Engineers

Attn: CRSO EIS

PO Box 2870

Portland, OR 97208-2870

Please consider the following responses as part of my comments to the CRSO EIS:

The Columbia River and the Lower Snake River Dams are a reliable and economical source of renewable energy that must be retained to meet future challenges such as regional growth and reducing the carbon foot print. Clean, renewable hydropower will be required to adequately recharge the electric vehicles needed to meet current and future mandates. Also, according to the CRSO EIS estimates, the region's electric rates could jump as much as 50% due to breaching and I am opposed to that because I believe that would create an economic catastrophe.

Agree

Disagree

While wind and solar energy are an important newer energy source, I believe they will never replace hydroelectric power as an economical substitute. Also, these are unreliable sources of energy requiring a "battery" to offset periods when they are unable to generate power. Dams are the perfect battery since their output is continuously adjustable, thus they can quickly "fill in the blanks" that are caused by wind and solar.

Agree

Disagree

Several key dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers are fitted with locks that allow barges and many other water craft to transit from the Pacific Ocean to as far upstream as Lewiston, Idaho. That barge traffic is critically important to the residents and economy of the Pacific Northwest. The roads and rail lines would be severely overloaded and require rebuilding if the Lower Snake River Dams were breached because the important barge traffic would cease. Public safety would also be degraded by the proliferation of trucks and trains required to offset the loss of barge transportation. The carbon foot print would be also be enlarged with the added trucks and trains compared to the more efficient barges.

Agree

Disagree

Tens of thousands of acres became irrigated farmland when the Lower Snake River Dams were built. Breaching the dams will dry up those important farmlands. I am opposed to the loss of this irrigated farmland.

Agree

Disagree

The recovery of Salmon in Pacific Northwest is important, but the mitigation efforts that have been accomplished and future planned actions without breaching these Dams are the correct approach. There has been 16 billion dollars spent to mitigate the effects of the dams on the fish and habitat restoration. The high salmon survival percentages now being recorded at each dam is a testament to the effectiveness of these large investments.

Agree

Disagree

Recently the Lower Snake River Dams have been targeted as reducing the population of the Southern Resident Orcas which actually spend half their time in the Puget Sound. The EPA and other agencies have been studying the Puget Sound and its aquatic life for decades. There is a lot of science based data that shows that beside pollution in the Puget Sound, the lack of salmon there is also caused by the numerous blockages to streams which prevent them from spawning. These Puget Sound salmon are important to the Orcas because they are the major source of food for them. Cleaning up the Sound and opening the streams that empty into it which the salmon need to spawn in is the correct solution, not breaching major dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Agree

Disagree

The other half of the year, the Orcas travel close along the coast between California and South Eastern Alaska. Using satellite tracking tags on salmon, NOAA Fisheries recently made a startling discovery. It has been determined that the Upper Columbia and Snake River salmon after migrating to the ocean spend their time farther from the coast line than the Orcas do during their travels. It would be an unmitigated disaster to breach important power generating dams when the Orcas and the fish that are their *supposed food source* are not even in the same space.

Agree

Disagree

The Orcas numbers rose significantly in the 1980's and 90's when hatchery fish were reared and released in great numbers. As hatchery operations were scaled back, the Orcas numbers quickly declined. I believe that feeding the Orcas more hatchery fish, because it is a proven management tool makes more sense than crippling our electric grid through breaching.

Agree

Disagree

I believe it would be foolish and reckless to begin breaching Columbia or Snake River Dams after the years of work and billions of dollars invested that have brought great success to saving salmon in our region through mitigation and habitat restoration. Furthermore, blaming dams that have no effect on another species such as the Orcas is wrong and counter-productive when the problems exist elsewhere.

Agree

Disagree

I fully support the Preferred Alternative to save the Dams as presented in the CRSO EIS.

Agree

Disagree

Signed: _____ Date: April 13, 2020

Must be postmarked by April 13th, 2020 Emailed comments and/or attachments must be submitted to: comments.crso.info by 5PM on the same date.

Additional Comments: