

## **Dam breaching should be off the table**

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Ten years ago, thousands of people rallied on top of the cable bridge with large signs that said “Save Our Dams”. Today, we are still fighting that battle and have to continually remind others in the region of the benefits of the hydro system – including transportation, irrigation, cheap renewable hydropower, and recreation. In recent news, Judge Redden made it clear that he thinks there is more work needed on the Biological Opinion (BiOp) that oversees the operation of the river system and concluded that breaching the dams should still be a part of the equation.

Enough is enough. This BiOp is the product of an unprecedented collaboration among scientists, fish managers from the federal government, Northwest Tribes and the Northwest states. It includes more funding, more actions, and more cooperation for rebuilding fish runs than this region has ever seen. Billions of dollars have already been invested with more to be invested in the future. Families and businesses pay for this plan through their monthly electric bills which equates to approximately 20 percent of their power bill. These investments are working as fish recovery continues to improve,

Breaching the dams should not be an option.

It's time to take the destructive discussion out of the courtroom and put the constructive actions to work. The salmon can be protected without removing dams that provide clean, renewable energy and are vital to our overall regional economy. Both Benton and Franklin PUD's continue to support the BiOp. We urge the Administration and our legislators to stand behind the BiOp and seize this historic opportunity to put aside regional divisiveness so that we can continue with our salmon recovery efforts which are proven and successful.

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