



Thanks to all those who attended the Breach the Four Lower Snake River Dams event at Mt. Grant Preserve on San Juan Island today, expectations were exceeded! We were able to speak to Governor Inslee, his wife Trudi, his Northwest Regional Representative, Julia Terlinchamp, and to two county councilmembers, Bob Jarman and Rick Hughes.

We handed Julia a card enclosing a flash drive that contains the more than 20,000 signatures and 3400 comments (through September 1, 2016) to our petition at SRKWCSI.org. We also included a number of dam breaching policy and mechanics of breaching documents on the flash drive. So, excellent score right off!

Julia arranged for us to have a few minutes of face time with Governor Inslee. He seems interested and well-briefed on the dam breaching issue and allowed us time to get some of our points across—namely that the endangered orcas are important to us, our community, and to the local economy. The orcas need food now and they are dying before our eyes. Governor Inslee pointedly told us we don't have to convince him about the importance of the orcas. He knows. His questions for us were:

- How important is the Snake River as a food source for the orcas, as compared to local rivers? Answer = the Columbia/Snake Basin likely was the largest historical source of food for the orcas for centuries.
- Did the Columbia/Snake Rivers produce the majority of salmon? Answer = we don't know. We do know they were the largest producers. Most estimates of fish runs are based on old cannery records and they don't include all the fish not canned.
- Does the Biological Opinion call for more flow in the Snake River/did the judge in the recent court decision order more flow in the Snake River? Answer = no, the river is at maximum "spill." More spill will likely kill fish, the dams are being tweaked by computers and humans all the time for maximum fish protection, with zero results for wild fish recovery.

It became apparent through discussions that although the governor is aware the politics of dam breaching are difficult, he believes the problem to taking immediate action on dam breaching is the state of the Pacific Northwest power transmission grid, and he is waiting to get more renewable energy online. ***This is the issue we have to work on. The Pacific Northwest is energy rich. At times we pay California to take our oversupply of energy and we pay wind generators not to put their power on the grid. This happens most often in the high water runoffs during the spring months.***

A final note—we thank the Land Bank Preserve and San Juan Preservation Trust representatives for being open and gracious to us. Thank you!