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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22,000+ citizens place a full page ad in Seattle Times informing Gov. Inslee and Sen. Murray that failure to act now to breach the lower Snake River dams will result in extinction of salmon, orcas.

Port Angeles, Wa. — We, the undersigned, have prepared a full page advertisement due to publish in the Jan. 7, 2018 Seattle Times Sunday edition. We are informing our elected officials of the crisis situation surrounding the critically endangered Southern Resident orcas. More than 50% of this species diet comes from salmon produced in the Columbia Basin, half of which are produced in the Snake River system. These beloved orcas are starving and malnourished because their primary prey, Chinook, are endangered. The solution is in plain sight. The facts are not being discussed.

For more than forty years, the dams in the Snake River have been destroying salmon runs that are a critical food source for the Southern Residents. We are concerned that said elected officials do not possess the vital information they need in order to take immediate action to recover endangered species in our home State of Washington.

Furthermore, the Federal agencies legally entrusted to recover endangered salmon in the Columbia Basin are not fulfilling their statutory responsibilities and are playing games with the courts directing them to do otherwise. Breaching the four lower Snake River dams can move forward immediately utilizing the 2002 Lower Snake River EIS. This can be accomplished for less than yet another EIS study and without the need for Congressional authority or new appropriations.

We, the 22,000+ signers of the petition located at tinyurl.com/srkwpetition hope that this ad will generate more urgency and honesty amongst our elected officials. We hope that more of the public will join in with tens of thousands of others whom have contacted offices of Gov. Inslee and Sen. Murray. The character of the Pacific Northwest is at stake in this issue.