

***We do NOT have
to wait for the new
NEPA process or
court ordered
CRSO/EIS to
breach the LSRDs.***

***The 2002 EIS is active. The Corps needs no new
authorities to place the 4 LSRDs into a "non-
operational" status.***

***It has an inherit fiduciary responsibility to do so and
can do so immediately if asked.***

"The governor has asked the Orca Task Force to consider breaching the Snake River Dams and it is on the table for consideration." - Tara Lee, Dep. Dir. of Communcations, 3 Aug, 2018

**Why breaching the 4 lower Snake River Dams is possible Now
and must start NLT 2018
in order to quickly provide a meaningful source of chinook for SRKW**

The chronic declines of chinook, which are at least 80% of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales diet, has exacerbated their decline to an effective breeding population of less than 30 individuals. Without, immediate increases in chinook, a few more deaths will make recovery unlikely.

Because genetic diversity in wild chinook is dangerously low and spiraling downward, a breaching delay of even one more year could likely preclude any recovery, especially in the face of climate change. Loss of diversity will also lead to the further demise of hatchery fish.

Actions short of breaching (such as increased spill, more hatchery fish, more habitat restoration, more bypass hardware at the dams, vessel, noise, even a nearly complete shutdown of fisheries in US waters) will not recovery these orca; although it may allow a few to struggle on until they are "legally" extinct 20-30 years from now. Existing studies and data show their prey dependency on Columbia/Snake runs, and the biological benefits of breaching, which yields immediate smolt survival in the millions. Nothing else can produce similar results.

Breaching can be achieved at no cost to the State. The Corp's current Environmental Impact Statement has dam breaching as an alternative to salmon recovery, as affirmed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Governor Inslee can provide most if not all of the impetus to the Corps NW Division Commander to make a breach decision.

Whereas;

The 4 LSRD's have a benefit to cost ratio of 15¢ on the dollar, forego about 4,000 jobs and \$500 million in direct expenditures and about \$20 million per year that could go to State School budgets, when compared to the benefits of a free flowing river.

The cost of producing power (that is surplus and rarely available for meeting peak demands) adds significant pressure to BPA's dire financial situation causing rate increases and diverts funds from other dams and restoration work. In the last 96,000 hours of production, the 4 LSRDs produced only 2 hours of power needed by BPA customers.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council recognizes BPA financial crisis:

Elliott Mainzer to NPCC, March 2018, "If there is an axis of nonchalance (on one end) to panic (on the other), I think it's important that we don't get into a panic mode, I'm not in a panic mode, but I am in a very very significant sense of urgency mode." <https://vimeo.com/260456507>

The 4LSRDs provide no flood protection. Irrigation to a small number of farms on Ice Harbor pool can easily be upgraded as a mitigation feature of breaching.

Inland waterborne transport on the lower Snake of wheat has declined significantly over the last 10 years as Washington State (through its grain shuttle service) and farmers are finding it cheaper to ship by rail. Petroleum shipments up the lower Snake virtually ceased several years ago with the only remaining terminal located at mile 1 on the lower Snake River which is NOT impacted by breaching of the 4LSRD's

As such, the Corps needs no new authorities to place the 4 LSRDs into a “non-operational” status. It has an inherit fiduciary responsibility to do so and can do so immediately if asked.

Nor does the ongoing litigation over the 2014 Federal Biological Opinion or the Court's order for a new EIS constrain the Corps from breaching the dams through channel bypass *now*.

Breaching can be financed through existing debt reduction and credits mechanisms as a fish mitigation action by BPA and is far easier than originally planned, making it possible to move from a breach decision, to breaching, in a *matter of months*, not years.

The 2002 EIS's breach alternative has been delayed for over 15 years while implementing failed mitigation alternatives on the dams soaring to nearly \$1 billion in cost.

Salmon survival has averaged below 1-to-1 replacement for years and is nowhere near agency recovery goals, wild steelhead returns are now below NOAA established triggers that call for immediate action, and overall returns of Snake runs are down over 70% in the last four years, but these failings have been masked by statements of “record runs” based mostly on massive releases of hatchery fish as well as using a post dam base line of very low returns as opposed to predam runs. The “record runs” of 4-7 years ago of wild fish were about 3% of the historic runs or about 30% of predam runs.

This years returns of spring/summer chinook are down 40% of the 10 year average and are headed for a 5th year of decline.

NOAA's 2016 draft and 2017 final Recovery Plan for Spring/Summer Chinook admits that despite an extensive list of salmon recovery actions, ***without dam breaching, lower Snake River salmon runs will not recover***. This leaves little hope of recovering SRKW's unless breaching is started during the winter in water work window starting in December of 2018.

It is strongly suggested that the Orca Task Force immediately implore Governor Insee of the need to press the Corps and BPA to take action now as the measure or metric of when to declare an emergency he asked for in his comments to the Puget Sound Partnership in November of 2017 has already been crossed. Historical and empirical evidence from NOAA, the Center for Whale Research and others provide more than enough information to act now without the need for elaborate prey studies and/or modeling that could take years, if ever, given the low numbers of SRKW and Chinook.

The Task force can then continue with further analysis of other factors bearing on SRKW recovery.

Supporting documentation available on the website damsense.org.

Dammed to extinction, Southern Resident Orcas are starving. *Time is running out!*



 Dam Sense started this petition to Governor Inslee, Senator Patty Murray, and Senator Maria Cantwell

85,728 have signed. Let's get to 150,000!



The ~~76~~ **75** remaining wild critically endangered salmon-eating Southern Resident Orcas are dying from starvation. ⇒ Leaving an effective breeding population less than 30, near the point of no recovery.

Breach the Lower Snake River Dams in 2018



Scan the QR code to sign the petition! Use your phone's camera or download a QR reader in your app store. Or search the web for tinyurl.com/timeisout

Why are these Orcas starving?

More than 50% of their diet comes from salmon produced in the Columbia Basin, half of which were produced in the Snake River System.

How is dam breaching possible?

Since 2002, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has designated dam breaching as the best solution to recover wild salmon on the Snake River.

The Corps of Engineers can use the current EIS to breach the dams *within a few months!*

The Impact and benefits of breaching:

- If the lower Snake River dams were breached, it would double or triple survival rates, restoring many millions of fish to the Columbia Basin.
- Give the orcas a fighting chance to recover by increasing their food supply.
- Breaching costs the state nothing. The first two dams can be breached for the cost of another EIS estimated at \$80 million; 5 years to completion.
- The four lower Snake River dams in Eastern Washington do not provide flood control and produce only low value surplus electricity.
- Savings from these dams can be applied to more efficient dams and/or projects.
- NOTHING else, not more spill across the dams, not more hatchery fish, not less boat traffic, not more studies and a new EIS can achieve this in time to save wild salmon or Southern Resident Orcas.

Congressional Legislation or new appropriations are not needed to start breaching the Snake River dams this year!

SENATOR MURRAY AND GOVERNOR INSLEE, Please take action today and urge the Army Corps' Major General Spellmon and Bonneville Power Administration's Elliot Mainzer to begin breaching dams in 2018.

Thank you to the hundreds of thousands who have petitioned for immediate dam breaching, for those of you who want more information on how to save the salmon and orcas, visit www.damsense.org

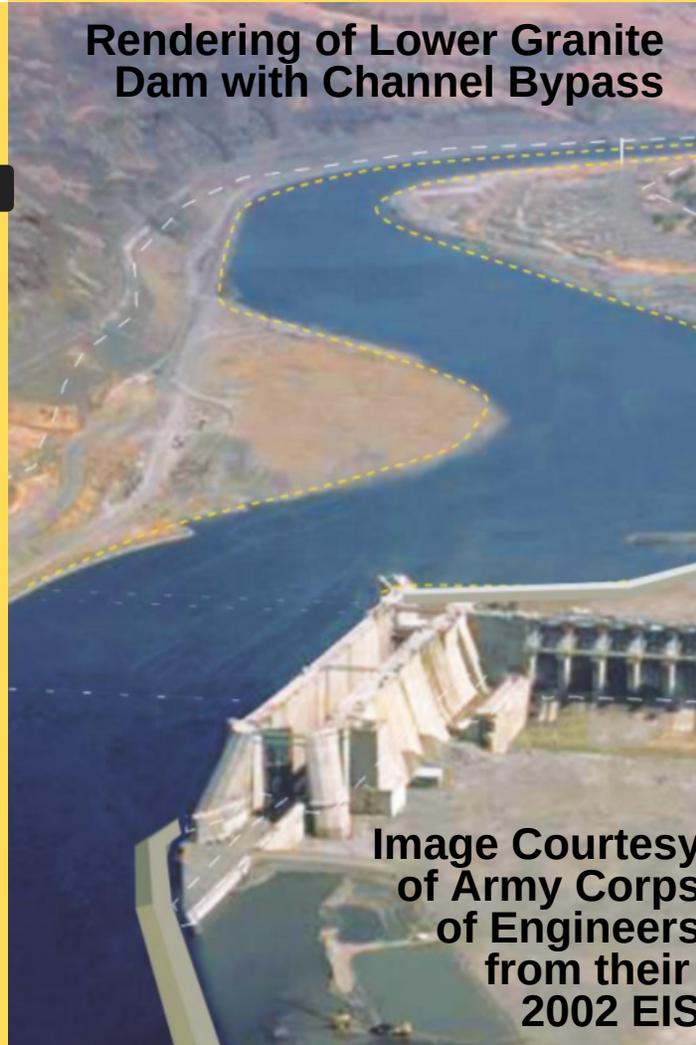
View the Petition at tinyurl.com/timeisout

1 The Corps needs no new authorities to place the 4 LSRD's into a "non-operational" status while normative River flows are reestablished by removing the dams' earthen portions.

2 The Corps already studied dam breaching. It's Alternative 4 in the 2002 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If updating is necessary, the Corp can do it in 3-4 months.

3 Neither the ongoing litigation over the 2014 Federal Biological Opinion nor the Court's order for a Columbia River Systems Operation review (CRSO/EIS) constrains the Corps from breaching the dams through channel bypass now.

4 **Rendering of Lower Granite Dam with Channel Bypass**



Breaching can be financed through existing debt reduction and credits mechanisms as a fish mitigation action or direct funding by BPA. New appropriations are not necessary.

5 Breaching the 4 LSRD's is far easier than originally planned, making it possible to move from a decision to breach, to breaching in a matter of months, not years.

The CRSO/EIS is approximated at \$100M, the cost of breaching Lower Granite and Little Goose Dams.

**Image Courtesy
of Army Corps
of Engineers
from their
2002 EIS**

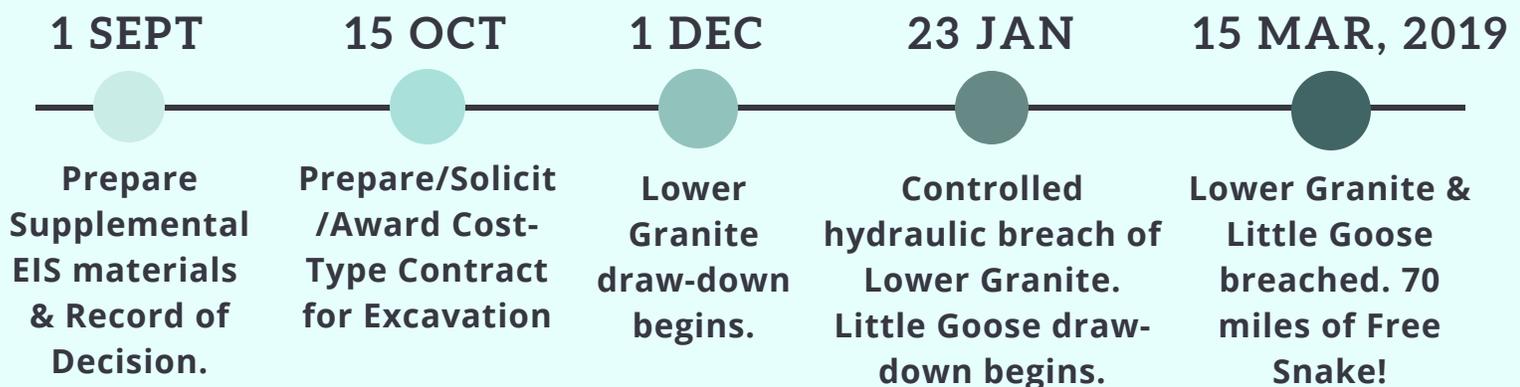
BREACHING THE LSRDS

PICTURE FROM THE ACTIVE 2002 EIS SHOWING DAM BREACHING HAS ALREADY BEEN STUDIED

FAST SALMON RETURNS

Each dam breached prevents the death of 2 million smolts.

BREACHING TIMELINE- BEGINS IN 2018



BREACH vs. REMOVAL

\$340 Million FOR ALL 4 DAMS vs. \$4 - \$5 Billion!

Normal size of USACE project- just remove earthen berms vs. One of the largest project they have- would remove entire structure.

Can start in December 2018 and finish by March 2020 vs. Could take years just to begin

TIME IT TAKES FOR SALMON TO BE READY FOR SRKWS VIA:

BREACHING: 14-18 MONTHS

HATCHERIES: 3-10 YEARS

We must request Alternative 4 in the active 2002 EIS be implemented starting in December of 2018.

No new authorities are needed to place these dams in "non-operational" status; the Corps can do so immediately if they are asked.