

April 13th 2020

My comment below addresses one of the fourteen fatal flaws in the DEIS, which render it unusable, and supports my demand for immediate emergency action to breach the Lower Snake River Dams, if salmon orcas and ratepayers are to be saved.

The fate of the Southern Resident Killer Whales are at stake and the available scientific evidence is insufficient in the DEIS to make conclusions about the importance of snake river salmon to their diet. It angers me that you have ignored NOAA's own data, or have chosen to omit it, for a reason that I hope is not to make dam breaching not seem as necessary. This is the opportunity to communicate what scientists have been discovering the past few years, Columbia River basin salmon stocks are one of the most important for Southern Resident Killer Whale survival and recovery! The laws of nature say, eat and you will live, do not eat and you will die. This is overwhelmingly clear for the Southern Residents, who, can be helped by other measures but will ultimately perish without available food, chinook salmon. Denying this highly intelligent and ancient species their right to eat, and right to live, is power that should make you very, very, uncomfortable. The rhetoric currently used does not show this consideration. The DEIS does not weigh economic effects of the Southern Residents going extinct, let alone the social effects. All associated tourism will be lost. Every business, utility company, bank, & individual who uses the Orca as an emblem or name will have to change it, or deal with the fact that they no longer exist thanks to human carelessness. How many millions of dollars will be lost? This is critical information needed to compare alternatives and come to a conclusive decision about CRSO.

The attached letter from scientists more credible than myself will tell you exactly what is missing in terms of Southern Resident Killer Whale analysis. They, like many Americans, speak for those who cannot make a comment but are none-the-less impacted by this process. This will become about more than just saving a few species, it will become a framework for how we must compromise to live prosperously among life on earth, beginning with acknowledgment of our impact in an *environmental* impact statement.

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