



For Immediate Release

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Republican Congressman supports Lower Snake River Dam Breaching in new proposal.

Republican Rep. Mike Simpson from Idaho has launched a \$33.5-Billion "Energy & Salmon Concept" for breaching the dams in the first action taken by any politician to accomplish this solution.

In an effort to bring salmon back to his state and end litigation over failed recovery efforts, representative Simpson (R-Idaho) has clearly stated that breaching the four dams on the lower Snake River is the only way to keep salmon and steelhead populations from going extinct.

Simpson's concept is comprehensive and contains great ideas, but many people continue to underscore the need for breaching to begin immediately, simultaneous with the initiation of mitigation measures. Simpson's proposal offers distribution of funds to stakeholders almost 10 years prior to the actual breaching of the first dam.

"It's overlooked that breaching is a shovel-ready project well suited to create jobs this year," says Dam Sense Chair and Founder, Jim Waddell. "Species that have been on the endangered species list for twenty years will not last another decade, so it is biologically imperative that the Corps start breaching the first dam in December 2021."

The Army Corps of Engineers remains authorized to breach the dams at any time through funding from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). BPA's most recent resource program identifies no immediate power replacement needs. The ability to rely on surplus and buy cheap power on the open market to meet future demand, eliminates billions of dollars in hydropower mitigation costs. Breach plan costs in the 2002 Environmental Impact Statement & Feasibility Study were most recently evaluated by Dam Sense in the [2020 Mitigation Plan & Cost](#) report.

"Simpson's leadership in stating the dams must be breached provides the bipartisan support needed to get the executive branch to do it this year. It is good news." Remarks Waddell.

Comments to Simpson on his plan can be emailed to Simpson.concept@mail.house.gov

Dam Sense is a 501(c)(3) coalition of diverse interests, dedicated to communicating the ecological, cultural, and economic benefits of a free-flowing Snake River, as well as technical and scientific knowledge about dam breaching. Visit www.damsense.org for more information.

Contact: info@damsense.org

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