

# PACIFIC RIVERS FREE FLOW

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## FEATURED INSIDE

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photo: Shane Anderson

# FOREWARD

Greg Haller - Executive Director

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If there was any doubt that the Trump Administration wasn't serious about rolling back our strong environmental laws to increase the scale and pace of logging, mining, drilling and water withdrawals from our public lands and waters, consider the following. An analysis by the New York Times showed that 80 environmental laws and regulations are on the way out under this administration. In just the last three months alone, the roll backs have targeted our strongest conservation laws. The Environmental Protection Agency repealed a set of pollution protections for small streams and wetlands, vital for providing clean drinking water to over a 100 million Americans, but viewed as an impediment to development. In August, the President announced plans to significantly weaken the Endangered Species Act, making it easier to remove species from the protective list, and for the first time, requiring consideration of economic issues when determining whether to protect species from extinction. And in a broadside against the democratic principles enshrined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Secretary of Agriculture has proposed to eliminate environmental review and public input in decision making affecting 193 million acres managed by the Forest Service.

At the state level, especially in blue states known for being green, environmental leadership is lacking. In Oregon, we initiated a lawsuit against the Department of Environmental Quality to force meaningful water quality improvements in the Snake and adherence with the state's fish passage law at the Hells Canyon Complex. Oregon Governor Kate Brown and the state legislature couldn't even get a vote on their modest carbon cap and trade legislation, which was thoroughly routed by a few rogue legislators and a super-charged coalition of the timber and trucking industries that brought the capitol to a standstill.

At Pacific Rivers, we're using all the tools at our disposal - Research, Storytelling, Partnerships, Legislation, and Litigation - to help build support for wild places, rivers and their watersheds. Our research lays the groundwork for great ideas like the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary. Storytelling helps us raise awareness and mobilize action. Partnerships with groups like Soul River bring new voices and perspectives to our advocacy work and creates future conservation leaders. We craft legislative proposals to reform outdated logging laws and that permanently protect our most special places, like Steamboat Creek. And litigation, when necessary, is how we hold governments and industry accountable. We do this work because we want to leave our corner of the world in better condition than we found it. For generations to come.

Sincerely,



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Photo: Jason Hartwick

Frank and Jeanne Moore speak to the veterans and youth of Soul River this past August on the North Umpqua deployment.



Photo: Jason Hartwick

Snorkel surveys on Canton Creek, Oregon.

# RESTORING THE SNAKE RIVER

## Now or Never.

The Snake River is one of the great rivers of North America. From its source in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, 8,200 feet above sea level, it travels 1,078 miles to its confluence with the Columbia. Along the way, the river fertilizes the southern-Idaho desert, powers turbines and rafters in Hells Canyon, and transports grain and other products from the Palouse and beyond. Salmon once spawned by the millions as far upriver as Shoshone Falls, Idaho, and in tributaries in Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, supporting tribal nations for millenia. Today, remnant populations remain in just a fraction of their historic range below the Hells Canyon Complex, three dams with no fish passage. The river is one of the most heavily used in the country and its water quality is poor and getting worse with climate change. The first dam on the river was Swan Falls, completed in 1901. The last, Lower Granite, was completed in 1975. Dams and habitat loss are the principal reasons why 13 populations of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin are at risk of extinction. In the Snake, sockeye, spring chinook, and the famous B-run steelhead of the Clearwater River are the most vulnerable.

The decline of Snake River salmon runs began with rampant overharvest and waste during the cannery era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Habitat loss from irrigated agriculture (water withdrawals and sediment delivery), logging, gold dredging, and the development of dams accelerated the decline. Climate change is making matters worse, with warming waters, droughts, and changes in precipitation and runoff patterns. Ocean productivity also

influences survival. In 2016, a federal judge rejected the federal dam agencies' latest plan for protecting Columbia-Snake River salmon. This is the fifth plan rejected now by three judges over the past two decades. The federal government has spent over \$15 billion on alternatives to dam removal but has yet to recover a single population.

### FACTS ABOUT THE SNAKE

SOURCE: TWO OCEANS  
PLATEAU, YELLOWSTONE  
NATIONAL PARK,  
WYOMING

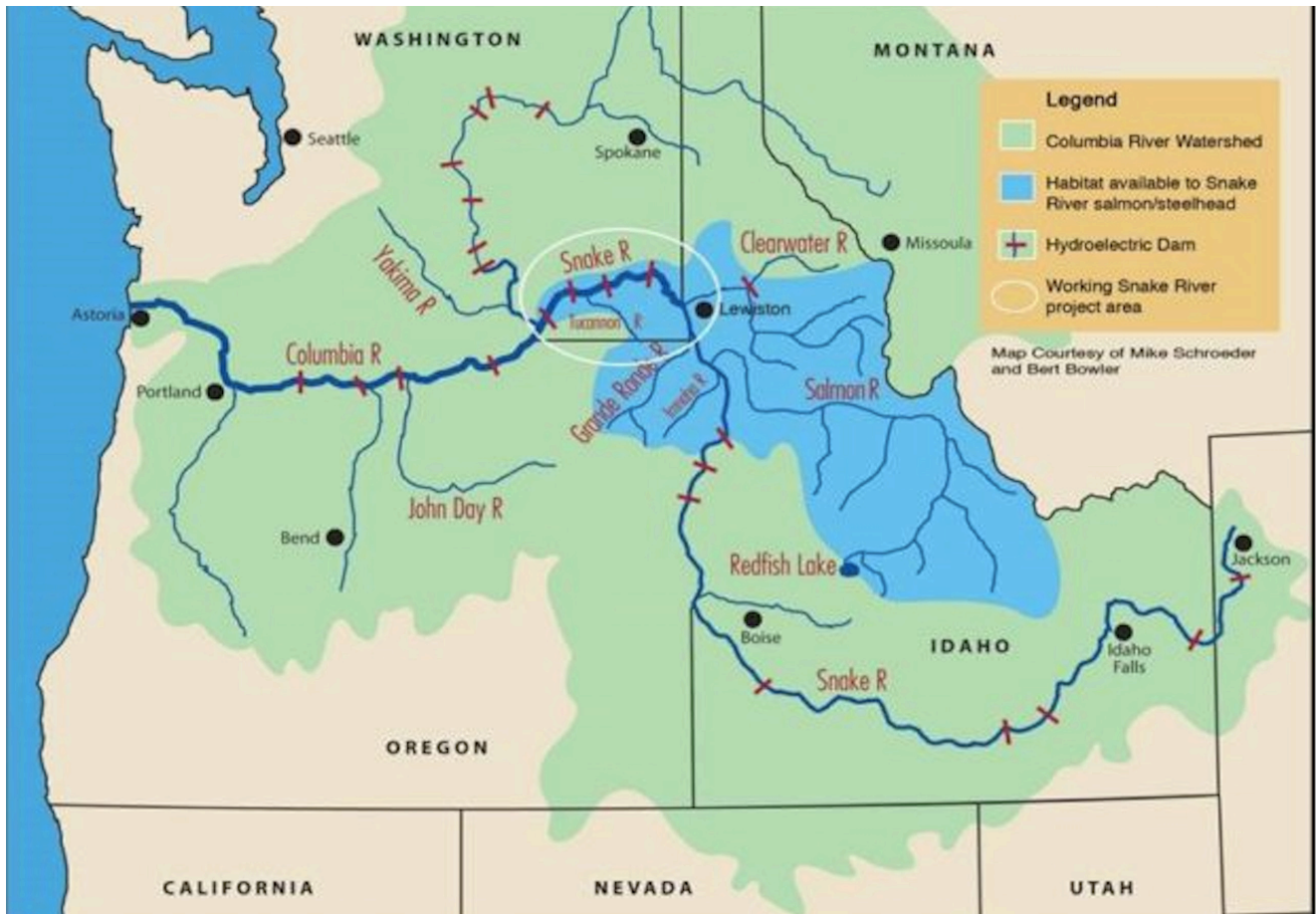
CONFLUENCE: LAKE  
WALLULA - THE  
RESERVOIR BEHIND  
MCNARY DAM ON THE  
COLUMBIA RIVER.

LENGTH: 1,078 MILES  
- LARGEST TRIBUTARY  
TO THE COLUMBIA AND  
13TH LONGEST RIVER IN  
THE U.S.

WATERSHED: 108,000  
SQUARE MILES IN  
PORTIONS OF WY, ID,  
UT, NV, OR AND WA.  
10TH LARGEST IN NORTH  
AMERICA; 41% OF THE  
COLUMBIA BASIN.

DISCHARGE: AVERAGE  
ANNUAL FLOW  
- 54,000 CU FT/S.  
LOWEST RECORDED  
FLOW - 2,700 CU FT/S  
(1979). HIGHEST  
RECORDED FLOW -  
369,000 CU. FT/S  
(1948). ESTIMATED  
HIGHEST PEAK DISCHARGE  
- 409,000 CU. FT/S  
(1894)

NUMBER OF DAMS: 15



Map of dams on the Snake River.



Photo: Shane Anderson

The Lostine River in Oregon is one of many wilderness streams full of salmon habitat just waiting for the lower four Snake River dams to come down.

## SLAKE RIVER DAMS AND SALMON

Seven of the fifteen dams on the Snake hold the key to the future of salmon and steelhead runs in the Snake: Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite, collectively known as the Lower Snake River dams; and the three-dam Hells Canyon Complex in the mid-Snake.

### LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

In a free-flowing Snake (and Columbia), salmon born in Idaho could ride the spring runoff to the estuary in a week. Now the trip is a three week slog through warm, slack water, rife with predators. This delay disrupts a crucial stage of the juvenile salmon's lifecycle called smoltification, which allows them to transition from freshwater to saltwater.

### PASSAGE

Young salmon traveling to the ocean have three possible routes to navigate around (or through) the Lower Snake dams. The least harmful way is to spill the fish over the dams with the flow of the river. As long as the river below isn't supersaturated with dissolved gases created by spill, most fish survive. Spill requires dam operators to divert water from turbines to the dam spillway. Another passage option is through the juvenile bypass system. This system funnels fish into a collection facility where they are then loaded onto barges and hauled downstream below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia and released. While most are released alive, significant numbers of fish die from the stressful, crowded trip on the barges where diseases are easily spread. Studies show that barged fish have a lower rate of survival to adulthood than those that are spilled over the dams. When fish aren't spilled or barged, the flow of the river takes them through the turbines where mortality is very high despite improvements to make the turbines safer.

## TEMPERATURE

Warming temperatures affect both adults migrating to spawning grounds and juveniles trying to navigate to the ocean. In 2015, 90% of the adult Sockeye run to Redfish Lake in Idaho perished during the journey due to high water temperatures.

Juvenile fish must get to the ocean before the river becomes too warm. As temperatures increase, fish become stressed and prone to infections and disease. Predators, like northern pikeminnow, smallmouth bass, and walleye, are thriving in the warming waters and feast on young salmon.

The Lower Snake River Dams, are not, however, the only dams killing salmon and inhibiting their recovery. Downstream, the John Day Dam and its 70 mile long reservoir has impacts on par with the Lower Snake dams. Further upriver, the privately owned Hells Canyon Complex imposes its own risk to both salmon and resident species like sturgeon and bull trout. The future of Snake River salmon also depends on the future management of those dams, including whether fish passage will be required and how the serious water quality problems and degraded habitats are addressed.

### HELLS CANYON COMPLEX AND SALMON

The Hells Canyon Complex (HCC), owned by Idaho Power Company, consists of three dams. From upriver down, they are Brownlee (1958), Oxbow (1961) and Hells Canyon (1967). There are no fish passage facilities for salmon.

When the HCC was built, passage was required, but early attempts at juvenile collection failed and Idaho Power built hatcheries to compensate for the losses. Salmon have been cut off from their historic habitats ever since.

The HCC was built to produce power. The constant ramping of flows to meet energy demand has eliminated virtually all of the sandy beaches between Hells Canyon dam and the confluence of the Salmon River. Beach habitats are important for fish and many other aquatic species that make up the food chain. When the river goes down because less water is being run through the turbines, juvenile fish are trapped in shallow pools, cut off from the river. Only if the river reconnects to these pools do the fish escape alive.

The Snake River has been described as Idaho's sewer system for the thousands of acres of irrigated farmland upriver. When the river flows into Brownlee Reservoir, it is loaded with fertilizers and other pollutants. These chemicals accelerate the growth of harmful algae, which in turn starve the water of oxygen. Fish kills in Brownlee are common. And water exiting the lower most dam is well below the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

The large mass of water in Brownlee Reservoir affects the thermal profile of the river below Hells Canyon Dam. The river takes longer to cool down in the fall and longer to warm up in the spring. This, in turn, likely affects the timing and success of spawning, egg incubation and emergence of baby fish.

Mercury pollution is a serious problem in the Snake, making resident fish like sturgeon, bass and crappie unsafe to eat. It's unlikely this problem would exist without the Brownlee Dam.

## **THE FUTURE OF SNAKE RIVER SALMON AND DAMS.**

The convergence of a series of economic, political, technological, regulatory and legal events is creating a unique opportunity to reimagine the future of the river - a future that includes a modernized energy system, fully integrated with renewable sources, irrigation water for farmers, a modern rail

system to take products downriver to market, and abundant populations of salmon and steelhead.

For decades, many have argued that breaching the Lower Snake River dams is the best way to recover salmon and steelhead populations in Idaho, NE Oregon and SE Washington. Years of litigation has resulted in more fish friendly operations like spill, but the runs continue to decline.

The federal dam agencies, under court order to find a solution, will finalize an environmental analysis in early 2020 of several alternatives to how eight federal dams on the Columbia and Snake will be operated, including breaching the four Lower Snake dams. However, only Congress can order dam removal, which will require a political solution developed by the region's congressional delegation. And only when the farming, navigation and energy interests that currently rely on the Lower Snake dam infrastructure are convinced they will be better off, will a political solution emerge. Enter Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho.

This past August, Congressman Simpson revealed that he was actively considering dam removal to solve the salmon crisis. Simpson is frustrated by the billions spent and the lack of success. He's exploring ways to solve the transportation, ag, and energy issues. He's asking the questions that need to be asked to find solutions. Adding urgency to the discussion is the financial health of Bonneville Power Administration, the federal agency that markets power produced at federal dams in the Columbia and Snake. With the proliferation of cheap natural gas and large scale development of solar and wind assets, the competitive advantage that BPA once enjoyed has eroded significantly. Add in the billions of dollars in delayed maintenance, and more to come with aging infrastructure, it's apparent that BPA's financial outlook is not good. Some are openly questioning whether BPA should exist in its current form, if at all.

Upriver, Idaho Power is seeking a new 50-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Hells Canyon Complex. The current license expired in 2005 and the company has been operating on annual licenses ever since. Under the Federal Power Act, Idaho Power must propose mitigation and enhancement measures to protect environmental, cultural, recreational and other values. Idaho Power proposed numerous measures to protect salmon downstream through changes in dam operations, but it did not propose passage. NOAA Fisheries has the power under the Federal Power Act to mandate passage, but has yet to do so, citing poor conditions upstream. However, many tributaries above the dams have suitable spawning and rearing habitats. Tribal nations are interested in restoring runs upstream but political opposition to salmon reintroduction dominates. For now.

Under the Clean Water Act, any applicant for a federal permit or license must ensure their actions will comply with state water quality standards. Before Idaho Power can get its FERC license, it must get water quality certification from Idaho and Oregon. Currently, the HCC is responsible for violations of numerous water quality standards, including the salmon spawning temperature criterion, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved gas, mercury, and nutrients, among others. Since 2007, Idaho Power has sought certification from the states, but their applications were deemed insufficient by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). In 2017 ODEQ required fish passage studies and reintroduction of steelhead and Chinook into Pine Creek, a tributary of the Hells Canyon Reservoir. Idaho Power Company sued over that provision, and the parties reached a settlement agreement. In 2018,

Idaho Power submitted yet another plan. Pacific Rivers and others provided detailed comments, and this past spring ODEQ issued certification which included the fish passage settlement agreement. Upon reading the certification conditions and the settlement, we determined that, once again, the company and the state fell short of the requirements of the law and the needs of fish and the aquatic environment. Idaho Power's plan for addressing temperature and mercury violations will not achieve the water quality standards set for these pollutants. Further, the passage agreement doesn't comply with Oregon's fish passage statute. That law requires fish passage at all structures that block fish migration. Exceptions are allowed, but require a waiver from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, which Idaho Power has not received. The fish passage agreement is a 20-year study of spawning and rearing without a commitment to passage, only a promise to consider non-volitional (trap and haul) passage options.

The fate of Snake River salmon depends on the decisions being contemplated for the Lower Snake dams and the Hells Canyon Complex. Only with a unified strategy that includes breaching, passage and major water quality improvements will the region ensure a future filled with salmon. All of this is achievable with political will and a strong, diverse coalition demanding change.





Photo: Unknown

The mighty Snake River prior to the construction of the lower four dams. Breaching the dams could create a major new recreation corridor for rafters and fisherman.



Photo: Shane Anderson

### The Snake River

# Pacific Rivers Sues Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Over Water Quality Certification of the Hells Canyon Complex

by Connor Brandt

Last Spring, ODEQ issued a Clean Water Act § 401 Certification for Idaho Power Company (IPC) for its Hells Canyon Hydroelectric project on the Snake River in Oregon. A § 401 Certification requires an applicant for a federal license, such as IPC, to provide certification that any discharges from its facility will comply with state-established water quality standards. IPC's initial license expired in 2005, so when it reapplied, ODEQ had the authority to ensure that IPC's new license would comply with Oregon water quality standards.

University Legal Assistance (ULA) is a non-profit law firm within the Gonzaga University School of Law. ULA provides Gonzaga law students' opportunities to work on cases under the direct supervision of attorneys. ULA is representing Pacific Rivers, as well as co-petitioner Idaho Rivers United, in its petition for review of an agency order issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)

Pacific Rivers alleges that ODEQ's certification does not comply with Oregon's water quality standards. Specifically, Pacific Rivers alleges ODEQ failed to meet water temperature, mercury level, and fish passage requirements in IPC's certification. The higher water temperature and lack of fish passages significantly impact native fish species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Higher mercury levels

can also significantly impact the health of people who consume fish from the Snake River. These threats to the Snake River watershed directly conflict with the health, biodiversity, and clean water goals that Pacific Rivers strives to protect, and ULA is proud to represent Pacific Rivers in protecting these interests.

The Nez Perce Tribe and the Burns Paiute Tribe have also filed similar claims against ODEQ.

## **YAKAMA AND LUMMI NATIONS CALL FOR REMOVAL OF 3 DAMS ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER**

In an unprecedented move, the Yakama Nation and Lummi Nation called for the removal of Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams on the lower Columbia River. Standing on the banks of what was once Celilo Falls, one of the oldest fishing sites on earth, but which is now inundated by The Dalles Dam 12 miles downstream, tribal leaders said removing the dams was essential for the recovery of salmon and Orca.



Photo: Shane Anderson

Algae bloom in Brownlee Reservoir.



Photo: Shane Anderson

Hells Canyon Dam. The end of the line for salmon.

# Surveying Steelhead Populations in Steamboat and Canton Creeks

by Dr. Charley Dewberry

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During the summer of 2019, Pacific Rivers began assessing the steelhead trout populations in the newly established Frank and Jeanne Moore Steelhead sanctuary in the North Umpqua basin, which comprises all of the Steamboat Creek basin, except for Canton Creek. This survey provides a snapshot of the abundance and distribution of steelhead as well as the general state of the stream habitat in the sanctuary. This project is an expansion of ongoing surveys in Canton Creek, which we do in partnership with the Phoenix Charter School of Roseburg.

We divided the juvenile steelhead into the three age groups present in the stream: age-0, age-1, and age-2. We snorkel-surveyed all the major tributaries as well as the majority of the mainstem of the creek. The survey crew consisted of Alex Brereton, Alan Bunce, and Andrew and myself.

The Steamboat Creek Basin is the major spawning area for the internationally renowned North Umpqua summer steelhead. Beginning after World War II, roads were built and clear-cut logging began in earnest in the basin. During the 1960's and 1970's, stream-cleaning removed many of the log jams that were found in the mainstem and tributaries. All these activities resulted in dramatic decline in the habitat for the steelhead. Beginning in the 1980's, the most egregious activities were declining and attention moved toward

restoration. This slowed the decline in stream habitat in the Steamboat Creek basin.

However, restoration will take decades to begin to rebuild the stream habitat. We first have to grow mature conifer and hardwood trees to provide the "capital" to rebuild the stream habitat. The mature conifers and hardwoods provide the key building blocks of log jams that are important for building good steelhead habitat. These jams provide a number of important functions in creating good habitat. First, they store gravel and boulders and create a stair-step profile in the stream. Energy is dissipated as the water falls over the jam. Second, water moves below the surface of the gravel and stays cooler than water flowing over bedrock and boulders that are exposed to sunlight. Third, jams create stable gravel for the steelhead to spawn and the eggs to hatch. Finally, the jams also capture and hold organic matter (leaves, needles, and twigs that are food for aquatic insects). Decades ago, fish managers incorrectly thought wood jams blocked fish from accessing spawning grounds, and set about removing them. Today, fish managers recognize the importance of large wood jams.

While we have not yet had time to analyze the information we collected while snorkeling and counting fish during July and August 2019, several observations can be made. Steelhead juveniles spend two full years in the stream.

During these surveys, the number of newly hatched, age-0 steelhead were probably well below average because there was a major storm and flood in mid-April. This destroyed many of the eggs and juvenile steelhead that were just emerging from the gravel. We do not know if the numbers of age-1 and age-2 steelhead were average or not. It will take several years to determine that. We also observed a number of adult steelhead in the mainstem of Steamboat Creek. In addition, we recorded the number of large key pieces

and the number of jams that control the long profile of the stream. The number of large key pieces of wood and jams will be an important habitat measure to track over time.

This survey gives us a snapshot of the abundance and distribution of steelhead in the Steamboat basin and this information not only provides a baseline of conditions in the newly established sanctuary, but will be referenced years into the future.



Photo: Jason Hartwick

Snorkel surveys on Canton Creek, Oregon.



Photo: Jason Hartwick

Shane Anderson examines one of 30 new log jams created by the BLM in Canton Creek to enhance wild salmon and steelhead habitat.

# Chehalis: A Watershed Moment

Shane Anderson - Director of Storytelling

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At over 2,400 square miles, the Chehalis River watershed in Washington is one of the best opportunities we have to recover wild salmon in the Northwest. It already hosts some of the largest runs in the state despite serious habitat degradation from a century of industrial forestry practices, floodplain development, agriculture and dams on the Wynoochee and Skookumchuck tributaries that were built without fish passage.

Washington is currently developing an Aquatic Species Restoration Plan that will be the largest river restoration initiative in the state's history to address climate models that predict the further decline of all salmon species and the possible extinction of wild spring chinook.

Climate models also predict more intense flooding in the river basin and the State of Washington is currently producing an Environmental Impact Study on a Flood Retention Facility in the Chehalis headwaters above the town of Pe Ell. The EIS will be out for public comment on Feb. 27, 2020.

Our colleagues at the Quinault Indian Nation have put together some frequently asked questions regarding the dam proposal.



Photo: Shane Anderson

The cold water refuge of Crim Creek joins the Chehalis River just above the proposed dam site. This entire area would be clear-cut for the temporary reservoir putting at risk this salmon stronghold.

# Chehalis FAQ

by Mark Glyde and the Quinalut Indian Nation

## WHAT IS THE GENESIS AND PURPOSE OF THE DAM?

Building a flood control dam in the Upper Chehalis Basin has been debated for more than 20 years. The current proposal, now in the environmental review phase, gained traction following the catastrophic flood of 2007 which inundated the cities of Chehalis and Centralia and surrounding properties and submerged and closed I-5 for five days.

The dam would not produce hydropower, would not produce supplemental water supplies for downstream farmlands and would not provide for recreation, as many dams do.

## WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF SEVERE FLOODING IN THE BASIN?

Atmospheric rivers coming off the Pacific Ocean are the source of severe floodwaters, but 150 years of human industry and development, including industrial logging in the headwaters and alteration of the floodplain, has dramatically altered how the Basin handles those periodic torrents.

## HOW MUCH WOULD THE DAM COST?

According to a September 2018 budget report from the Office of Chehalis Basin, the dam would cost \$628 million for permitting, design, engineering, mitigation and construction. The dam is being built for possible expansion in the future which will add to its cost.

## WHAT IS THE DAM'S POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AT THE DAM SITE?

While detailed impacts are currently being

studied through the environmental review process, construction and operation of the dam would likely have a major impact on salmon and other fish and wildlife. Larry Lestelle, a consulting biologist to the Quinalut Nation said the Chinook salmon that spawn upstream of the dam all spawn within the six-mile footprint of the reservoir that would be created during flood events. Salmon eggs depend on flowing water to bring them oxygen, meaning that all eggs upstream of the dam would be killed in years when the reservoir fills. Riparian habitat in the project area would also be eliminated and water quality could suffer as well.

## WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVES TO THE DAM THAT BOTH REDUCE FLOOD DAMAGE AND RESTORE AQUATIC SPECIES?

By law, the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statements are required to provide alternatives to the dam. Addressing the flooding challenges in the Basin without building a dam would likely rely on many and varied actions such as restoring natural floodplain functions, moving people out of harm's way and keeping them out of danger in the first place.

Many actions, such as forest and wetlands restoration, installing engineered logjams and building other structures to restore the complexity of river channels and banks, would also improve conditions for salmon and other aquatic species. Additional actions could include voluntary property buyouts and easements, improved land use practices, and flood proofing measures such as building walls and raised platforms to protect specific structures and provide refuge for people and livestock.

# STORYTELLING UPDATE

Shane Anderson - Director of Storytelling

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It has been a busy summer and fall out in the field wrapping up filming for our documentary about the Chehalis basin titled "A Watershed Moment." We are about 90% shot and have begun the editing process. In the upcoming months we will release a preview for the film and a short video about the wild salmon of the Chehalis and both the challenges and opportunities they face.

## Stories from the Watershed

Our latest short film highlighting the effects the Oregon Forest Practices Act on communities and drinking watersheds. We will be releasing a preview of A Watershed Moment in the coming weeks and the film is slated to be finished and touring this spring.

## Run Wild Run Free: 50 Years of Wild & Scenic Rivers (2018-2019)

After a year on the road with the Wild and Scenic world tour we launched Run Wild Run Free in October online for free. To watch film go to: <https://vimeo.com/292826814>

## The Great Northwest Forest

Also this past summer, we've been collecting content for the "Great Northwest Forest" campaign, which we are collaborating on with a broad coalition to showcase the importance of the Northwest Forest Plan and the values of our National Forests in Washington and Oregon.

One of the values of our National Forests is "Sanctuary" for both fish and people as we documented in our collaboration with Soul River in the newly minted Frank and Jeanne Moore wild steelhead sanctuary.

We followed veterans and youth as they participated in our annual snorkel surveys led by Dr. Charley Dewberry and his team of scientists. The Vets and youth learned about the importance of protecting cold water refuges not only for wild salmon and steelhead, but also for people.

## Columbia/Snake

We are currently in development on a video series titled "Snake River Revival" about the importance of removing the lower four Snake River dams. We will lay out a vision for the lower Snake that includes alternatives to the power produced by the dams, while highlighting opportunities for salmon recovery and a whitewater recreation corridor that is currently buried beneath the four reservoirs.



PACIFIC RIVERS PRESENTS

# CHEHALIS

## A WATERSHED MOMENT

**How do you prepare  
a watershed for a  
changing world?**

a film by **Shane Anderson** and **Jesse Andrew Clark**  
in association with **Pacific Rivers**  
original score composed by **Eric Phillips**  
shot on location in **Washington state**

Our latest film Chehalis: A Watershed Moment coming Spring 2020

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

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## Three long term board members retire, two new members join our team!

Three long-serving board members recently retired after years of service to Pacific Rivers. David Bayles, Dr. Wayne Minshell and Dr. James Scott have dedicated their professional and personal lives to defending and protecting rivers and their watersheds. David, Wayne and Jim will be missed and we thank them for their years of service and guidance to the organization.

### WAYNE MINSHELL

Wayne, or “Doc” as students affectionately called him, has been a leading aquatic ecosystems expert at Idaho State University, where he taught for many years before retiring emeritus. Wayne provided years of outstanding guidance and strategic thinking about our conservation mission and how we implement it.



### DAVID BAYLES

David joined Pacific Rivers shortly after our founding in 1987 and worked for many years as our Conservation Director. David was instrumental in driving our science-based mission and securing our most enduring conservation victories.



### JIM SCOTT

Dr. James Scott, M.D., also stepped down in 2019 after serving on the board for many years. Jim’s love of rivers led him to us, and we’ve benefited greatly from his involvement in the evolution of Pacific Rivers. Thank you, Jim!



## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

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We're excited to introduce two new members of our Board: Megan Ponder and Mikey Hilb.

Both Megan and Mikey bring creativity and energy to our board and we're excited to have them on our team!

### MEGAN PONDER

Megan is an environmental consultant focused on reducing plastic waste. She is the producer of the award-winning documentary, *The Story of Plastic*, which documents the lifecycle impacts of plastic and the inspiring efforts around the world to address it.



### MIKEY HILB

Mikey is a real estate developer and adventurer in the Columbia River Gorge. Mikey was a member of the US Ski Team and qualified for numerous World Cup events. After he retired from skiing, he directed two internationally distributed feature films, *Deep Winter* (Sony Pictures) and *Dish Dogz* (Lionsgate Cinema).



## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Pacific Rivers relies on our supporters for more than 1/3 of our budget. Federal legislation that permanently protects important fish and wildlife habitats. Empowering veterans and urban youth with knowledge and experiences to create new advocates for conservation. Reforming harmful industrial logging practices in Oregon. Challenging flawed plans that promote a new dam on the Chehalis River. Holding state and federal agencies accountable to improve conditions for salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers. And producing award-winning films that promote conservation to millions of people. This is what you support when you give to Pacific Rivers. We can't do this work without you. Please consider a gift today!



## GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 3rd!

GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and communities in all 50 states and in countries around the world. GivingTuesday harnesses the collective power of a unique blend of partners to transform how people think about, talk about, and participate in the giving season. It inspires people to take collective action to improve their communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they believe in, and help create a better world. GivingTuesday demonstrates how every act of generosity counts, and that they mean even more when we give together.

Website: [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)



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