

Joanne Richter

I strongly support increasing spill levels at the four Lower Snake River dams to the 125% total dissolved gas limit. The Salish Sea's endangered southern resident orcas once thrived thanks to plentiful thousands of Chinook salmon. Today with Columbia River/Snake River Chinook salmon populations in severe decline, the orcas number just 75 individuals. The most effective, short-term means of increasing Chinook salmon numbers is upping spill levels.

For many years conservationists have pushed for and won settlements to increase spill levels.. Last year, Washington's Orca Task Force recommended spill be increased, and Governor Jay Inslee supports that recommendation. I applaud the WA Dept. of Ecology's proposal to modifying state "total dissolved gas criteria" to allow for an increase in both the Columbia and Snake river systems. This action promises to have a beneficial impact on salmon migration this year. Joanne