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The DOE absolutely must regulate and moderate water temperatures in the areas around the Columbia and Snake River Dams. High water temperatures are killing young salmon, in direct contradiction to the aims of helping restore salmon, which in turn will help feed the Southern Resident orcas that have suffered greatly as salmon dwindled over the past decades.

It's unforgettable to see (and hear) the orcas pass by, as happened for me in November when parts of J pod passed right in front of the ferry I was riding. Every passenger hurried to see them, as they were barely 20 yards off the bow. The smooth rising of their dark backs and fins, the affectionate closeness, the distinctive huffing of their breaths, all combined to make a magical spectacle. How can we not try much harder to help them by restoring salmon runs and by protecting the much-reduced salmon we have?

Take every step to monitor water temperatures upriver that will successfully foster the young salmon! This is crucial. Shallow water above and near the Columbia and Snake River dams, plus the heat from the dams, make these especially vulnerable areas. Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams would be an especially helpful immediate step.

I ask that the DOE pass and support water temperature standards that will provide incentives for the federal authorities to breach (bulldoze around, then remove) the four LSR dams. This would actually comply with the existing Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Lower water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake Rivers will help save salmon, orcas, and our ecosystem as a whole. As Washington residents, we have a chance to be true leaders, since federal authorities are NOT protecting our irreplaceable environment and wildlife. Thank you.