

# Ned Hammar

Please breach the dams.

It's high time that DOE regulate water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake River systems. High water temperatures are squarely within the regulatory purview of the Clean Water Act and are killing young salmon, in direct contradiction to multi-billion dollar efforts to restore salmon and a major region-wide effort to save Southern Resident Orcas, which feed largely on Chinook salmon from these systems and have suffered greatly as these salmon have dwindled over the past decades.

These iconic animals are a large part of who we are in this part of the world, and aside from the obvious implications for the Endangered Species Act, it would be a huge stain on our conscience, our spirits, and our reputation if we were to allow these creatures to disappear on our watch.

Please take every step to assure water temperatures 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 dam impoundments, make these especially vulnerable areas. Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams would be an especially helpful immediate remediative step, along the lines of the "direct to implementation" approach that Ecology favors for Clean Water Act cleanups.

Please adopt water temperature standards that will provide incentives for the federal dam authorities to address these issues seriously; they have the authority, but currently not the political will, to breach (bulldoze around) the four LSR dams and thus lower water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake River systems to help save salmon, orcas, and our ecosystem as a whole. We in Washington have a chance to be true leaders, since federal authorities are NOT protecting our irreplaceable environment and wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.