

## Burden/Johnston Extended Families

The Department of Ecology MUST regulate to moderate water temperatures in and around the Columbia and Snake River Dams. We all know the higher water temperatures are killing young salmon, in absolute contradiction to the goals of salmon restoration. And we all know we need more salmon to feed the starving Southern Resident orcas, our iconic species.

It is ALWAYS truly an exceptional event to see, hear and feel orcas anytime they pass nearby. It was one of our extended family's seminal experiences when the super pod passed our whale watch excursion during a family reunion a few of years ago. Everyone on the boat was very moved by the power and energy we all felt from the whales, right down to our 5-year old children, who will forever remember that day.

Our entire family, all of our friends, our entire community of Port Townsend and people across this state want your agency to take every step necessary to both monitor water temperatures upriver from dams and successfully foster young wild salmon! This is now crucial for the very survival of our Southern Resident Orcas.

Breaching the four Lower Snake River Dams is seen by many scientists, who know the southern resident orcas best, along with a huge majority of people who live in the Pacific Northwest, as THE CRUCIAL immediate step needed to rescue our Orcas.

All of us ask that DOE pass and support water temperature standards that will provide incentives for federal authorities to breach (bulldoze the earthen portions) the four LSR Dams. We understand that this action would comply with the existing Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. Lower water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake River System by breaching the dams not only saves the salmon, orcas and our quality of life, studies show it would bring economic revitalization to eastern Washington. It should make them proud.

As Washington residents, we have an obligation to be true leaders, since federal authorities are NOT protecting our irreplaceable environment and endangered species. We hope you agree.

Thank you!

The Burden/Johnston Extended Families  
of Port Townsend, Washington; Gainesville, Florida,  
Cincinnati, and Columbus, Ohio; and Sanford, North Carolina

p.s. the attached photo shows our reaction coming in close contact with orcas (life changing!)