

Jack Mitchell

Even though certain things can be helped by man, the best plan of action is to let nature take its course. Just let it be. Blacksands clean up obviously didn't work, because the sands are black again. If this project happens, I'm not sure if this process will close down the boat ramp? It is the only one to access the upper river with improved ramps. Also the idea of a swimming beach is a major liability as the upper Columbia really is not a great swimming river. Quite dangerous, really. About a decade ago or so there was a federal study that came in and wiped out a bunch of fish in the river to collect metal samples so as to arm the lawyers in a litigation against Cominco.... The river has actually never been the same since, when it comes to trout population. Instead of some long litigation battle, and lining the pockets of a bunch of attorneys, my suggestion would be to just quit dumping metal in the river and let it be. Let nature take its course at this juncture, and quit trying to manipulate. Pretty simple; But who am I, I'm just a fishing guide. The interesting part about this study that happened was that Washington state fish and wildlife department didn't even know about it.

In the last 33 years of Guiding in Washington , I have watched our natural resources go by the wayside generally due to miss management in my humble opinion.