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I am a Lower Elwha Klallam tribal member. My reservation is in WA State. In 2011-2014, we successfully removed the Glines Canyon & Elwha dams on the Elwha river. These dams had been there over 100 years. Those dams decimated the salmon population. My tribe remembers when 100 pound salmon populated the Elwha River. SALMON ARE A KEYSTONE SPECIES. My tribe was also decimated when those dams went up. The aging dams were costing more in upkeep than the energy they were providing. They had no fish ladders. This is all well documented. My tribe lobbied Congress for dam removal. Tribes signed treaties with the US Gov't. Tribal treaties are with the federal gov't, not with the state. WA State tribes signed treaty agreements that in exchange for their land, the tribes would always be able to fish "in their usual & accustomed grounds." My tribe successfully lobbied Congress to have 2 dams removed because those dams decimated the salmon population. The Yurok Tribe followed suit and successfully lobbied Congress to have 4 dams removed on the Klamath River in CA in 2024. After dam removal, 11 years later, 50 MILLION salmon have returned to the Elwha River. The Klamath River is already experiencing healing and salmon returning.

I've said all that to say this: salmon need a connected river. Dams stop salmon from returning to their spawning grounds, they stop sediment & silt from nourishing the river, they warm river temperatures, they kill the river they are on.

The salmon decline & decimation is real in WA State. We all love our lush state with its beautiful waterways, trees, fish, orcas. But WA State also Greenwashes what they have done to their rivers. The Sauk-Suiattle Tribe in WA literally had to sue City of Seattle Light to put salmon ladders on the Skagit River. It took years and years of being sued by the Tribe before the City of Seattle would put fish ladders on 3 dams on the Skagit River. The Upper Skagit Tribe, the Swinomish Tribe & the Saik-Suiattle Tribe all pursued the City thru multiple lawsuits over many years before the tribes won that lawsuit. WA State Tribes won a multi-billion lawsuit against the State of WA in a culvert case that made it all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court sided with the tribes of WA State --- because treaty rights are with the federal gov't & will take precedent over any state or city action that impedes our right to have a healthy salmon population. If a tribe is asking you not to put a dam on the Chehalis River, it would behoove you to take their opinion into account. The WA State governor recently formed special task forces that calls for joining with tribes to get their say & reaction on ANY action that would go against their treaty rights. WA had to be sued over and over and over to do the right thing - to remove aging dams & fix culverts. They finally are listening to tribes because we know our Treaty Rights. This is all verifiable.

So as a WA State tribal member, a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, the tribe who had the 1st dam in the US removed, I am asking you to not build a dam on the Chehalis River. I've seen first hand what dams do to all life, animals & plants & trees. Please look for other options because building a dam is not the answer.

You will be sued by a tribe, we have precedent now in winning Supreme Court Cases, Google 1974 Boldt Case decision.

Please do not build a dam.