

Meaningful Movies Bellevue Screening
***Dammed to Extinction*, 4-26-22**
Summary of Chat Messages

NOTE: This document accompanies the Speakers' Discussion that followed the Meaningful Movies Bellevue screening of *Dammed to Extinction*. Please watch that discussion to hear more detailed information and data that supports these summarized comments.

Zoom Link: <https://youtu.be/1INju-xTpko>

Speakers and Organizations at tonight's Meaningful Movies Bellevue Event:

Scott Levy: Website Host, Bluefish (bluefish.org)

Jim Waddell: Civil Engineer, Dam Sense (<https://damsense.org/>)

Tony Jones: Economist, Rocky Mountain Econometrics (<http://www.rmecon.com>)

Heather Nicholson: Owner/Member, Orcas Power and Light Company

Other Organizations or People Mentioned:

Wild Orca: <https://www.wildorca.org>

Center for Whale Research: <https://www.whaleresearch.com/>

Orca Network: <https://www.orcanetwork.org>

Columbia Basin Bulletin – specifically about a major energy transition:

<https://www.cbbulletin.com/major-energy-transition-underway-record-amounts-of-solar-storage-wind-seeking-grid-interconnection/>

Puget Sound Starts Here: pugetsoundstartshere.org

Rebecca Wolfe: Snohomish Public Utility Commission: rjwolfe@snopud.com

For the recording of today's Snohomish PUD's workshop (4-26-22) on the LSRDs, search for it on the website for SnoPUD.com.

SRKW (Southern Resident Killer Whale) PRIORITY STOCKS

<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/srkw-salmon-sources-factsheet.pdf>

Fish Passage Center, Comparative Survival Study annual report, pg 20 (vi)

https://www.fpc.org/documents/CSS/2021_CSS_Annual_Report.pdf

Summary of Chat Comments with Responses (some information added later by panelists):

COMMENT: I've been following this issue for years, and contributing to Save Our Wild Salmon most of that time. It is so important that we never let officials like Rep. McMorris Daniels or Rep Herrera Butler make these factually inaccurate statements without being challenged. Contact Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers <https://mcmorris.house.gov> and Jaime Herrera Beutler <https://jhb.house.gov>

RESPONSE: Check with the NW Energy Coalition for evidence that these dams are absolutely not needed for electrical power.

COMMENT: I have studied about and seen the salmon and orcas for the past 20 years +. There were approx. 95+ So.Res. whales in the j,k and l pods in the late 90's. The issue was prominent then. They were officially listed as endangered in early 2000's after being proven to be a genetically distinct group of whales. 20+ years later there are about 73 SR whales. I am heartbroken over the plight of the Orcas after all these years of studies. The science was done then. What the hell is taking so long for everything to have been done for the Chinook and SR orcas to be thriving more? I want to feel more hopeful.

RESPONSE: The NW Energy Coalition is most definitely NOT the authority on this question, and they too are a part of the "delay, delay, more delay, more meetings, more planning" problem.

The similarly named NW Power & Conservation Council, that in 1980 Congress created as a "state compact" to oversee these questions, has since been politically corrupted. You don't need to believe me on that accusation, as Congressman Mike Simpson says the very same thing.

The Council has refused to study that very question (reliability of grid sans LSR Dams) in their 2021 Power Plan and are now facing a 60 day notice of intent to sue (attached) for that legally unacceptable omission.

The answer is that a powerful team of diverse interests have coalesced to thwart efforts of solving the problem. Meanwhile, the farm league Bad News Bears were invited to be your panelists. We appreciate being given your small megaphone. It helps, but more is needed.

NW Power & Conservation Council has still got many by their hook: "It seems the (LSR) dams are being maintained because (1) their power is necessary for the grid and because it is (2) clean carbon-free energy."

Both of those points are incorrect, but the misinformation team is holding us all captive.

Proof (1). The NW Power & Conservation Council did not run a Remove Snake River Embankment scenario because that would shatter the misinformation campaign. The recent 2021 Power Plan uses the most sophisticated model ever to be run on the Amazon cloud. It is state-of-art but the misinformation team is saying that it has not been properly vetted. Bullshit. And the staff that developed the model will say the same, if they are allowed to speak.

Proof (2). John Harrison of WSU is the authority on this issue so give him a call if you like. Importantly, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory found significant amounts of methane being released in the reservoir impounded by Lower Monumental Dam. Efforts have been made to receive funding for further research, but the misinformation team is not opening their pocket books. Understandably, that is their tactic.

COMMENT: What accounts for the smaller overall Chinook size? From the video we learned they return south after 3-5 years and that's where the orcas intercept them. Why aren't they gaining size in that time?

RESPONSE: There are several reasons; hatcheries being one of them. Also, in the course of fishing, larger salmon have been taken out of the gene pool and the gene pool that's left is getting smaller. On average, they're about 12.5 pounds on the coast.

RESPONSE: Hatchery production is to just create numbers to get the fish out there for the fishermen. They do things with the temperature. They don't really care about the how big the fish are. These hatchery fish are all close cousins; basically me and my brother and my sister interbreeding and our genes are establishing what's out there. This is not natural selection.

RESPONSE: The size of the salmon depends historically on how far it had to go to reach its natal stream. These Columbia stocks were going as all the way to Canada and those were the really massive fish. All that's been cut off now. The need for that evolutionary adaptation of a very large fish is not necessary. Those fish are all dead. A lot of that's happened in the Snake Basin as well, above the Hells complex. The main thing is the hatchery. Fishing, and so do Orcas, target the really big fish.

RESPONSE: A quote from the Comparative Survival Study 2021 states "analyses have shown that dramatic increases in SARs are only likely if the lower Snake River dams are breached and spill is maximized at the lower Columbia River dams (Chapter 2 of 2019 CSS Annual Report)."

From the Comparative Survival Study 2021 annual report by the Fish Passage Center

https://www.fpc.org/documents/Q_fpc_cssreports.php

Link to 2019 CSS Annual report

<https://www.fpc.org/documents/CSS/2019CSSAnnualReport.pdf>

Congressional Representatives to contact: Rep. Cathy McMorris **Rodgers**

(<https://mcmorris.house.gov>) and Jaime Herrera **Beutler** (<https://jhb.house.gov>).

COMMENT: It seems the dams are being maintained because their power is necessary for the grid and because it is clean carbon free energy.

COMMENT: Rep Mike Simpson (R-ID) proposed a multi-billion dollar program to remove the dams, AND provide a lot of mitigation dollars to many stakeholders. One can Google his Snake River proposal.

COMMENT: Is it possible some illegal activities are taking place involving the dams? Such as embezzlement? It would explain why the dams are so expensive and why they are still up.

COMMENT: When I try to educate people about this issue, I get asked if these dams are giving back so little and costing so much, why do the people in power continue to defend them? What is going on there? I don't have an explanation for that.

RESPONSE: It's very expensive answer to remove dam.

RESPONSE: No, it's not. They wouldn't 'remove' the dam.....they would breach it....which is a fairly straightforward process.

RESPONSE: Power rates from BPA, the federal agency that markets the power from USACE and BuRec dams, will see an immediate drop of 5% rate pressure with the removal of these hydropower projects. Then once salmon recover, rates drop an additional 10% the LSR compensation plan hatcheries -- that Congress insisted upon immediately after the final LSR dam was completed -- have never met their goals.

Multiple Objective 3 ("MO3" in table below).

*Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement
Appendix Q, Cost Analysis*

Table 7-3. Percent Change in Annual-equivalent Costs from the No Action Alternative for the Alternatives (\$2019)

Alternative	Construction Costs of Structural Measures (annual)	Percent Change in Capital Costs (annual)	Percent Change in O&M Costs (annual)	Percent Change in Annual Mitigation (Low F&W Costs)	Percent Change in Annual Mitigation (High F&W Costs)	Percent Change in Annual-Equivalent Costs (Low F&W costs)	Percent Change in Annual-Equivalent Costs (High F&W costs)
MO1	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	2.0%	2.0%
MO2	NA	0.0%	-0.2%	0.6%	16.6%	5.1%	10.1%
MO3	NA	-13.1%	-16.5%	-28.6%	3.0%	-15.1%	-5.1%
MO4	NA	0.0%	0.0%	-29.8%	1.8%	-5.1%	4.8%
Preferred Alternative	NA	0.0%	0.0%	-13.3%	0.9%	-3.8%	0.7%

What is meant here is that the Multiple Objective 3 is primarily to breach the earthen embankments of the four Lower Snake River dams. MO3 also includes a high level of water going over the spillways of the Lower Columbia hydropower projects, and less power is produced. The idea for that component of MO3, is that salmon going through the power production pathway, might be struck by a turbine blade but also experience incredible pressure changes, and their survival (immediate and longer-term) is greatly threatened.

PA is the preferred alternative that the Trump administration settled upon as they found it to be more important to protect the community identity of the communities that evolved around the dams and reservoirs. Pay no attention to the interests of the tribes that were upon these lands before European invasion/settlement.

Actually, power rates from BPA, the federal agency that markets the power from USACE and BuRec dams, will see an immediate drop of 5% rate pressure with the removal of these hydropower projects. Then once salmon recover, rates drop an additional 10% the LSR compensation plan hatcheries -- that Congress insisted upon immediately after the final LSR dam was completed -- have never met their goals.

COMMENT: Even ignoring the salmon issue, how does it make sense to retain old dams that are losing money and will need massive refurbishment, and when the silt behind Lower Granite Dam is going to destroy Lewiston and Clarkston in the next flood? It boggles the mind. And when this is added to the fact that the dams violate tribal treaties, violate the ESA, and create greenhouse gases in the slack water, and are driving Chinook extinct despite over \$18 BILLION spent, how can anyone think those dams are the pride of the NW and must be retained? Senseless.

COMMENT: I served on the Oregon Governor's Task force on Fish Passage for 6 years as a rep for small irrigators. We discussed the breaching of the Snake and it seemed to be the energy cartel strings held by the big three ag producers. It was so frustrating. It seemed no amount of science could change that dynamic. The subsidized cost stated in the film, \$21,000 per barge up the Snake, often had a yield of \$5,000 in grain to the Port of Portland....the costs are just so bizarre! Orcas versus white bread....

COMMENT: Could the panelists talk of methane produced by the LSR dams?

COMMENT: Couldn't the power of the dams be easily be replaced by the new Small Modular Nuclear Reactors which Terrapower is starting to deploy?

AN URGENT REQUEST: More than letter writing is needed, though that does help somewhat. Somebody, somebody somewhere, must connect with Joe Biden himself. The executive power has the authority and ability to begin removal of Lower Granite Dam beginning this December (2022). There is no time to waste to protect the salmon during their migration. Breach NOW! is a refrain that has been necessary for far too long. More delay, process, study is the death knell for an ecosystem of 136 species that rely upon salmon for their survival.