

# **SALMON, ORCAS AND BREACHING THE LOWER SNAKE DAMS**

## Media and Public Outreach

*“The Federal agencies legally entrusted to recover these endangered species are not fulfilling their statutory responsibilities and are playing games with the court directing them to do otherwise.”*

*– Public Comment*

*“I'm signing because my 8th grade science class adopted an Orca named Mike and it's sad to find out that there not getting enough food to survive.”*

*– Public Comment*

Within the past few years, public support in favor of breaching the four lower Snake River dams has gained rapid momentum. Close to 250,000 people have educated themselves on the issue and have supported breaching these four dams via email campaigns and petitions. Currently, two petitions include 20,000 comments. A recent campaign generated 782 supporters in two months. The supporters shared a message with their social media networks. That message asked people to call Gov. Jay Inslee and ask him to support Obama taking Executive Action to breach the four lower Snake River dams. The message reached 1,409,313 people.

Recent National media coverage has brought this issue further into the public eye; articles are appearing in publications such as National Geographic, Huffington Post, Washington Post, The New York Times, High Country News and various Washington and Idaho newspapers. Many leading environmental organizations have become involved including Patagonia, Center for Whale Research, Orca Network, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, NRDC, Endangered Species Coalition, Center for Biological Diversity and Oceana. The documentary films DamNation and Dammed to Extinction (to be released) will bring the issue to audiences world wide.

In October of last year, three-hundred fishermen, paddlers, conservationists, and regional tribal members joined together to paddle three-miles to Lower Granite dam. There they floated in the still, warm river and unfurled a 100-foot long banner which read 'Free the Snake.' People from as far away as Alabama attended the two day informational event. Boaters carried signs with them reading: 'A River of Negligible Use.–Corps of Engineers' or 'Something is Happening Here...' Another sign read 'More Salmon, More Orcas.' The event was widely publicized and could become an annual meeting of salmon and orca activists.

A new generation has become well-informed with the problems and costs associated with the lower Snake dams. They realize that all methods of salmon recovery have been attempted in the Columbia/Snake Basins and that the last piece of the puzzle for recovering Federally Endangered salmon and Southern Resident orcas is to provide a free-flowing salmon migration corridor on the lower Snake River.

The cultural heritage and natural landscape of the Pacific Northwest is dependent on the leaders who will choose to leave a political legacy in the American landscape.

## OUTLINE OF LOWER SNAKE DAM REMOVAL PETITIONS

Petition Author	Petition Name	Petitionee	Total (06/01/16)	Comments	Date
Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook Salmon Initiative	<a href="#">Free the Snake, Feed the Orcas - Ask Gov. Inslee (see also link) to support Obama taking executive action to breach the lower Snake River dams.</a>	Governor Jay Inslee, President Obama, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell	782 campaign supporters	Message of 'Ask Gov. Inslee to support Obama taking Executive Action to breach the lower Snake dams call now...' goes to 1,409, 313 people via supporters social networks	Dec. 19, 2015 thru Feb. 8, 2016
DamNation Film	<a href="#">Crack Down on Deadbeat Dams</a>	President Obama	72,470	13524	2014
Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook Salmon Initiative	<a href="#">Stand with us and support removing the four lower Snake River dams to save the Southern Resident Killer Whales from being dammed to extinction.</a>	President Obama, Governor Jay Inslee, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, State Senator Kevin Ranker	18,550	2624	2014
Sierra Club – Washington State Chapter (email)	<a href="#">Remove outdated dams on the Snake River</a> - web link inactive	President Obama, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell	n/a	n/a	2015
Endangered Species Coalition (email)	<a href="#">Action for Orcas: Support Executive Order to remove four Snake River dams</a>	President Obama	23,316	n/a	2015
Endangered Species Coalition	<a href="#">Protect Orcas: Support Executive Order to remove four Snake River dams</a>	President Obama	10,013	n/a	2015
Endangered Species Coalition via 'Move On'	<a href="#">President Obama: Protect Orcas by removing the four Snake River dams</a>	President Obama	705	n/a	2015
Endangered Species Coalition via 'Credo Mobilize'	<a href="#">President Obama: Protect Orcas by removing the four Snake River dams</a>	President Obama	2,212	n/a	2015
We the People / White House	<a href="#">Issue an Executive Order to Protect our Orca Whales from Extinction by Removing the Four Lower Snake River Dams</a>	President Obama	528	n/a	2015
Jessica Ramos	<a href="#">Save Lolita's 'Dammed' Family - Set the waters free!</a>	Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Patty Murray	97,258	n/a	2015
American Rivers / Save our Wild Salmon coalition	<a href="#">Remove four Snake River dams</a>	Bush Administration	9106	n/a	2005

**TOTAL 234,940**