

SAVE IDAHO SALMON /STEELHEAD (SISS)

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My name is Jack Kappas, I live and make a living in Riggins Idaho. Now days, the strength of the economy in Riggins is based on tourism, chiefly, white water rafting, jet boating, hunting and most importantly steelhead fishing. Salmon fishing used to be the big fishing event in Riggins, but over the years the wild salmon runs have almost ceased to exist on the Salmon River. Restoring wild salmon and steelhead runs to healthy numbers will insure lots of fish for future generations of people that live in Idaho and is especially important to the small communities along the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon Rivers, like Riggins. Make no mistake about it, If the salmon and steelhead disappear from the Salmon River, the business's of Riggins will dry up and disappear also. The people who live in Riggins have just as much right to make a living on fish as the people of Lewiston and Clarkston do on toilet paper.

For salmon and steelhead recovery, I strongly support Alternative 4 in the Corps' Draft EIS. Breaching the four lower Snake River dams is the best plan to restore our salmon and steelhead to self-sustaining harvestable levels as required by laws and treaties.

The Yakima River/Hanford Reach smolt-to-adult recovery rate for salmon and steelhead is performing much better than the return of these fish above the four lower Snake River Dams. There is nothing else to do for salmon from tweaking hydropower flows from these four dams.

On the Four-H paper: **Habitat**, I support Option 3. **Harvest**, I support Option 3, but remember, Don't punish the victims. The Tribes and other fisherman effect salmon and steelhead numbers very little compared to the mortality caused to these fish by the Lower Snake dams. **Hatcheries**, I support Option 3. I like to catch and eat hatchery steelhead as much as anyone, but, if I need to sacrifice hatchery fish for the sake of the wild fish, then let it happen! **Hydropower**, I support Option 3. There is a 80-100% chance of recovery for wild salmon and steelhead if these dams are breached. Give it a hundred years, If it doesn't work we can put a lot of people to work rebuilding the damn dams. At least we will be able to look our future generations in the eyes and say honestly we tried everything to save the fish.

"Those dams don't make sense for people or salmon!"

*Extentions is forever
Dams are not!*

Jack Kappas