

I'm Travis Brook

Hello, I work at Lower Granite Dam and I am the President of the United Power Trades Organization (which is the union for the people who work at the dams). I am proud to speak for these hard working people. I'm proud to work ^{at the} hydroelectric dam. They are the cleanest most environmentally friendly way that we have to produce electrical power. Years ago I was a staff writer for the Mother Earth News. I'm an environmentalist from way back. And I don't look at the radical "Dam Busters" as real environmentalist. Why would real environmentalist want to destroy the cleanest most environmentally friendly source of energy we have? And why would real environmentalist want to destroy the cleanest most ~~of~~ environmentally friendly source of transportation for goods to market we have? To me this doesn't add up.

Some other things that have been said about this issue ~~don't add up.~~ ^{I have grave questions about}

We hear that these dams ^{we're not authorized for} have no flood control function. Yet they were ^{I see on the Corps web site that they are} authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1945...Something here doesn't make sense) They say no flood control ^{to me} function...But I work at Lower Granite Dam and ^{we have an} I see on the shelf is a Flood Control Standard Operating Procedure. ^{authorization} They say no flood control function...but in 1996 when the flood water was within inches of going over the seawall in Portland, "River Control" called up the Snake River Dams and ask them to hold back water. They did and downtown Portland is spared. This is recorded in the dam's log books. ~~Somebody isn't telling us the truth.~~

The "Dam Busters" gush about just how lovely the river will be when it is returned to its "nominative" state. Don't you get suspicious when they have to invent new words to describe what it will be like. Maybe that is so no one can hold them to a real definition. However, I have also heard a presentation by Steve Tatro...^{an} ~~the lead~~ engineer with the Corps who was task

with developing the plan that will be used if the dams are breached. I noticed in his presentation that they will be using shot rock (that is rock the size of Volkswagons) on both sides of the river to stabilize the banks from here to the Tri-cities and thus prevent erosion . In other words, this is going to be a 150 mile long storm drain.

1 The "Dam Busters" don't tell us about the risk to the fish runs involved in removing the dams. ~~There~~ ^{of you heard about the} ~~There is an~~ estimated 150 million cubits yards of mud and silt now built up behind these Snake River Dams. If the dams are removed this river will run muddy for the entire process which is projected to be four to five years. The adult fish stop moving up the river whenever it is running muddy. If the returning adults stop coming up this river for four or five years we have killed the runs by pulling out the dams

The "Dam Busters" tell us that if we just rip out the dams the fish will be saved. However, I've noticed the population charts in the PATH study and see that right after the dams are removed the populations take a plunge almost to zero--because of the mud and silt I just mentioned. What if the calculations are a little to optimistic and they plunge to zero. It would be tragic indeed if we removed the dams and that caused the extinction of the Snake River runs. ~~The population projects don't show the fish runs going extinct if we leave the dams in.~~ I believe it is much better to have dams and fish. And to work from there to help the fish.

Travis Brock, President
United Power Trades Organization