

Submitted 17 Feb 00
PMLC

RESOLUTION NO. 1581

MAR 22 2000

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALL DAM BREACHINGS AND RIVER DRAWDOWNS ON THE SNAKE AND COLUMBIA RIVERS.

WHEREAS, environmental and economic reviews for salmon recovery have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the federal agencies' ten-year focus on river drawdown and dam breaching in the Columbia River Basin has impaired their credibility with the region's key stakeholders, misallocating staff resources and tens-of-millions of dollars that could have been used for meaningful salmon recovery actions; and

WHEREAS, the federal agencies have failed to provide compelling biological and economic information to pursue river drawdown or dam breaching proposals, identifying minimal or speculative environmental benefits but costing the regions hundreds-of-millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, the river drawdown and dam breaching issue is now the single greatest impediment to the review and implementation of meaningful salmon recovery measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hermiston City Council unequivocally opposes any breaching of dams and any river drawdowns on the Snake and Columbia Rivers; and

FURTHER, the Northwest Congressional delegation should remove from all federal agency budgets any funding that allows for further review or implementation of river drawdown or dam breaching measures; and

FURTHER, for regional salmon recovery, the federal agencies should direct their efforts toward improving existing project bypass and fish transportation facilities, restructuring the existing NMFS flow augmentation program, improving water management within the region by implementing the New Water Management Alternative, and giving priority measures that will protect and enhance tribal fishing rights; and

FURTHER, the region's governors should support the Northwest Power Planning Council as the legitimate and appropriate authority to develop and recommend measures for regional salmon recovery under the Council's 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program.

PASSED by the Common Council this 14th day of February, 2000.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 14th day of February, 2000.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY RECORDER