

Idaho Water Alliance  
Position Against Flow Augmentation for Salmon Recovery  
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Idaho Water Alliance is a coalition of water users in South Central and South Eastern Idaho. Included are groundwater districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, cities, aquaculture, and other businesses. We promote wise use of water resources and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in the Eastern Snake River Plain Sytem.

The economy of our area is dependent on agriculture more than anything else. We can not afford to provide water for flow augmentation at the expense of our agriculture base. Flow augmentation has been substantial and has not worked. Southern Idaho should not be asked to provide water for a program which has not helped recover salmon and which scientists do not believe will be effective. Karl Dreher, director of Idaho Dept. of Water Resources, demonstrated in his analysis that flow augmentation makes only minute differences in flow dynamics through reservoirs.

We are opposed to flow augmentation because all the evidence indicates that it is a futile salmon recovery tool. We are also opposed to the idea that salmon recovery is dependent on either dam breaching or flow augmentation. Flow augmentation is futile and should not be dependent on dam breaching unless we want to base salmon recovery on politically sensational tactics rather than on sound reason.

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