

Medicine Rock Specialties

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Statement at the Army Corps of Engineers on Dam Removal, Idaho Falls, March
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My husband and I have been residents of Central Idaho all our lives. We could tell you how great it was each summer when the salmon returned. We could tell you how his parents lost their income from their fishing cabins when the runs ceased in the early '70's. We have two children, now 30 years and 27 years old. Neither has ever had the opportunity to hike to a favorite hole in the early morning of summer to do battle with huge Chinook salmon. I could argue that the fate of these fish is in our hands and it's high time we did right by them, whether or not we ever get to fish for them again. But right and justice won't win. What's morally right, sadly, doesn't cut it with our political process.

Economic arguments might. Those three dams were the straws that broke the Salmon's back. We lost our place on the River when those dams were put in place. Many other businesses slid into oblivion as well. No one down river, or anywhere else cared. Now we ask down-river farmers to use the railroad, for heavens sake. They have options. We have none. These fish could be a HUGE economic boon to Lewiston, Riggins, Salmon, Challis, and Clayton. Our jet boat operators could have an enormous increase in business. Motels, gas stations, grocery stores, and sporting goods stores could flourish. If you doubt this, please drive along the River between North Fork and the Middle Fork of the Salmon this weekend. The activity is amazing. The steelhead are running. Not a big run, as we could have, but a run.

In the search to find a scape goat for the disappearance of the salmon, we up-river have had ever more rigorous restrictions placed on our grazing, logging, and mining. Combined with the loss of the fishery, it's a double whammy, you might say. And our legislators say they don't want ECONOMIC DOWNTURN from salmon recovery? Is this just short sightedness or denial? Are they more concerned for Idahoans or for Washington farmers and the BPA?

Do what is best for the FISH. And that is dam removal. If you can't do it because it's RIGHT, it's MORAL, and it's JUST, do it for the people of Idaho and generations yet unborn.