

The Big Wink

The Bush Administration's Salmon "Recovery" Plan Could Actually End Hopes for Northwest Icon

The Bush administration's first stab at a plan to restore endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake Rivers was so bad a federal judge ordered them back to the drawing board. The revised "recovery" plan they released this week is even worse.

With a straight face, administration officials now claim the four dams on the lower Snake River – dams responsible for killing 86% of juvenile salmon – are part of the natural landscape, like snowpack, that can't be altered. They claim the Endangered Species Act "doesn't mandate recovery, just a recovery plan. That's different from recovery."

Beneath the Bush administration spin on a plan done with a wink and a nod is the plain fact that the wild fish that once "crouded" the rivers explored by Lewis and Clark could be lost on our watch. That's why we are asking our Northwest representatives to stand up to the Bush administration, to demand a real recovery plan that:



- helps salmon and steelhead recover,
- respects and invests in the communities that depend on the fish,
- doesn't waste billions of taxpayer dollars on bargaining and other schemes already proven ineffective
- considers all options available, up to and including dam removal.

CALL ADAM SMITH AT 888-764-8409 AND SENATOR PATTY MURRAY AT 206-553-5545. Thank them for their help with salmon and energy issues. Ask them to tell the Bush administration how much we value the salmon that have sustained this region for thousands of years. Tell them it's the federal government's duty under the law to protect salmon so generations to come can wonder at the beauty and bounty of these wild fish just like Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago.



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