

Salmon and Dams... Your Thoughts

We know that salmon are important; what do you think is the most important aspect of salmon?

- A. Environmental impacts?
- B. Economic impacts (as a food source)?
- C. Cultural significance?
- D. Philosophical significance/intrinsic value – the idea that we don't want to be responsible for making a group of animals go extinct and that they have value all on their own, regardless of impacts on humans or the environment?

Choose one of the above and convince me that it is an important reason to save salmon.

Salmon play a huge role in a lot of people's lifestyle. Most of us care about our earth and how it ends up for future generations. Saying that I think it's our job as humans to keep salmon alive and not have them be extinct, because of how much they do contribute to people and the rivers. It's our earth we determine what happens to it.

Are hatcheries a part of the problem for salmon, or part of the solution for salmon? **Explain your reasoning...**

I think hatcheries fall under both categories of solution and problem. While we were watching dam nation, one of the stories was saying you take out a dam you put in a hatchery. Hatcheries do try and help salmon by artificially spawning them, tracking them, and shipping them down stream. But with that comes cons, like the fish will never know how to be self sufficient and will always need the hatcheries because they aren't used to getting food for themselves they are use to having it be dropped in the water for them to swim up and eat.

Who should make the decisions about what to do about salmon and dams?

- A. Scientists who study the problems
- B. Voters (majority)
- C. Politicians, with input from their constituents (like polls and letters and emails)
- D. The owners of the dams (electric companies, mainly) and their rate-payers
- E. Special interest groups with their own agendas
- F. A combination of the above

Decide what you think is best and explain your answer here:

I think it's a combination because it really isn't anyone's "river" or "fish" it's all of ours. We determine what happens with our earth and if one group or someone who owns the dam decides to say well my dam is more important then it causes a big problem for fish and the river itself. If scientist decide then they might pick for the health of the river, it's not like we are never going to have dams. Some dams do play a huge important role for our life. We should have a person or two from each category and have a discussion and truely decide what's best for the overall issue, what will be most effective.

How long into the future do you think we should look when making decisions about what to do about salmon and dams?

- A. Focus on what we need now only and hope technology and our kids and grandkids can figure out what to do in the future
- B. Focus on the future – our kids, grandkids, and so on – even if it means sacrificing our quality of life or how much things cost now
- C. Some combination of the above

Decide where you stand and explain why you think that way.

I think we should have a combination, because if we just take take take now then there might not be any left for future generations to make the same choice we made. And if we sacrifice our quality for the future then how are we suppose to live and have the things we need. I think we should get smart and have a plan that works for now and in the future, of course there is going to be pros and cons in both categories. But we need to chose what's best for the overall picture.

We know that salmon and dams are in conflict, that dams are the biggest impact on salmon. What do you think is the proper balance between preserving dams as a significant producer of irrigation and electricity production and saving salmon?

- A. Remove some dams
- B. Remove all major dams
- C. Remove no dams
- D. Some other plan...

Why?

I think we should rethink all the dams. Learn what ones are truely needed then remove the ones that do nothing but harm. For the dams that are needed we could learn more about them and better ways that have less of a negative impact, and until then we should spill more water more frequently.

What is the right way to get your opinion across about an issue you feel passionate about?

- A. Vote
- B. Write Letters/emails to companies and politicians
- C. Talk to people you meet
- D. Join an organization
- E. Protest to draw attention to an issue
- F. Peaceful civil disobedience (break a law without threatening or hurting anyone)
- G. Violent protest (like taking over a government building outside of Burns)

~~If something happens, we need the facts and data to know what the best option is.~~ Voting is one way, but the con of voting is what if more people vote for the wrong thing and it gets chosen? Writing letters/ emails, is a great way to inform people who have a higher power and truely believe in what's best, the con is they might now have time to read it or its not very important to them? Joining an organization, is great because you get to meet people who believe in the same thing you do plus you learn lots about the topic, a con is having a group/organization won't take down all the dams. We need to combine all of this and inform the public about the issues, teach in a informative way so people don't get defensive. And then have people vote on the issue, overall there is no "right way" there is a way but it all depends on the issue!