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Extinction is Forever.



We can't let that happen. That's why we're going back to court – to protect salmon and secure a better future for the whole Northwest.

Biologists are sounding the alarm about imperiled Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs¹. Several stocks are at risk of imminent extinction². So are the Southern Resident orcas that depend on them for food³. We don't have any more time to waste if we want to avoid further extinctions and restore healthy and abundant salmon and steelhead for our future.

Salmon need more than just talk – they need a healthy river.

Tribes, the states of Washington and Oregon, and the federal government all agreed on a comprehensive plan to guide the recovery of these iconic fish – while also investing in affordable, reliable clean energy and planning for removal of four lethal federal dams on the lower Snake River⁴.

In June, the Trump administration reneged on that agreement in favor of his previous administration's illegal 2020 plan that ignores the needs of salmon, orca, fishing families, Tribes, energy customers and communities across the Northwest⁵.

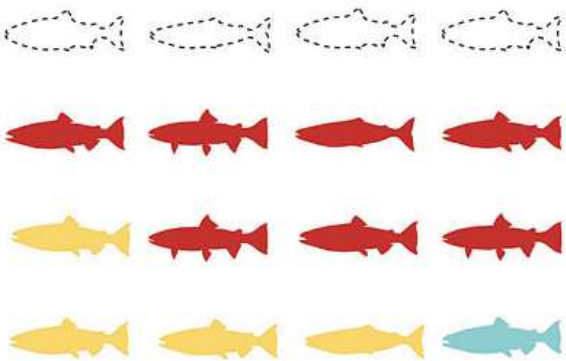
Special interests who applauded the decision to kill that agreement want you to believe the Northwest's salmon are recovering without further action⁶. But in reality our iconic salmon runs are collapsing – choked by dams, warming rivers, and vanishing habitat⁷.

For most of these imperiled salmon species, by far the largest threat they face is harm caused by federal dams and their reservoirs⁸.

We can have affordable and reliable energy and healthy and abundant salmon populations. But first we must prevent extinction, and we can't do that by pretending this crisis doesn't exist. The time for action is now.

Columbia Basin Salmon are in Trouble

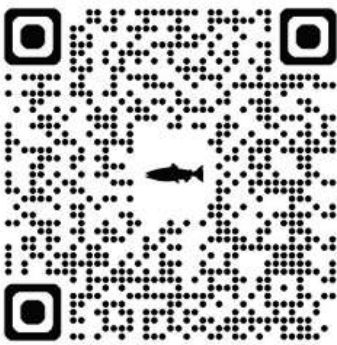
16 salmon and steelhead stocks historically returned to spawn above Bonneville Dam. Of these, **4 are extinct**, **7 are endangered or threatened** (including all remaining Snake River stocks), **4 others are also well below historic abundance**, and **only 1 is anywhere near its historical abundance**.



Source: NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9/30/22

The Trump administration is giving up on Columbia Basin salmon – but we never will.

Learn more at earthjustice.org/salmonperil



Sources

- 1 <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/feb/25/scientists-say-removing-snake-river-dams-is-necess/>
- 2 <https://ryankinzer.github.io/SRAFS/>
- 3 Scientists' White Letter: Southern Resident Killer Whales & Columbia/Snake River Chinook: A Review of the Available Scientific Evidence (Feb. 2020) https://www.wildsalmon.org/images/factsheets-and-reports/2020.Salmon.Orca_ScientistWhite_Paper.Feb.20.pdf
- 4 <https://critfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/USG-Commitments-toCBRI.pdf>
- 5 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/06/stopping-radical-environmentalism-to-generate-power-for-the-columbia-river-basin/>
- 6 <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/climate-lab/trump-cancels-landmark-columbia-river-agreement-with-tribes-wa-or/>
- 7 <https://www.wildsalmon.org/images/factsheets-and-reports/2022-09-30-Rebuilding-Interior-Columbia-Basin-Salmon-and-Steelhead-Consensus-Recovery-Science-Report-1.pdf>, NOAA Rebuilding Report p. 8, Table 2 (pulled from NOAA site) & pp.11-15
- 8 <https://www.wildsalmon.org/images/factsheets-and-reports/2022-09-30-Rebuilding-Interior-Columbia-Basin-Salmon-and-Steelhead-Consensus-Recovery-Science-Report-1.pdf>, NOAA Rebuilding Report p. 12, Table 3 (pulled from NOAA site)

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