

Online Engagement Process

Input to the process can also be provided by completing this [online questionnaire](#). Responses to the online questionnaire will be accepted through 5:00 pm on January 24, 2020, the end of the public comment period for the draft report.

Here is the link: <http://lsrdstakeholderprocess.org/>

Lower Snake River Dam Online Engagement

This questionnaire is part of a process to gather and summarize the perspectives of Washingtonians on the impacts, both positive and negative, of retaining or breaching/removing the four lower Snake River dams (LSRD). The results of the questionnaire will be summarized into themes.

Governor Inslee supports this process to understand the full range and diversity of views in Washington state in regard to the LSRD. He plans to use this information to help craft his recommendations on the Columbia River Systems Operations Environmental Impact Statement being developed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration anticipated in February 2020 regarding the operations, maintenance and configurations for 14 federal projects in the Columbia River System in the interior Columbia River Basin.

Responses to the questionnaire will be treated confidentially. Please email twendel@rossstrategic.com with the subject line "LSRD Distribution List" if you would like to be added to a contact list for updates.

Question: Please select the option(s) that best represent your affiliation. You may select more than one option, and if you like you can identify your primary affiliation in the next question.

- Conservation
- Business
- Sport or Commercial Fishing Industry
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Not-for-Profit Organization
- For-profit Company
- Federal Government
- Tribe
- State Government
- Local Government
- *Interested Citizen (or, any of the others that apply to you)*
- Other (please specify): _____

Question: Which is your primary affiliation?

- Conservation
- Business
- Agriculture
- Not-for-Profit Organization
- For-profit Company
- Federal Government
- Tribe
- State Government
- Local Government
- *Interested Citizen (or, any of the others that apply to you)*
- Sport or Commercial Fishing Industry
- Recreation
- Other (please specify): _____

Question: **What is your primary interest(s)? You may select more than one.**

Please select any or all from the list below ...

- Breaching or removing the dams
- Prosperity of agriculture
- Economic viability of communities supported by the dams
- Recovery of salmon and steelhead
- Economic viability of communities supported by salmon and steelhead
- Transportation
- Cultural Heritage
- Energy supply and transmission
- Environmental/ecosystem function

Do not select this item ...

- Retaining the dams

Question: **Your Zip Code:** _____

The next questions are meant to gather your perspectives on various social, economic, and environmental categories that could be impacted by retaining or breaching/removing the four lower Snake River dams (LSRD). You do not need to answer every question. For those questions that you do answer under each category, a short (600 characters, with spaces) text box is included to give you space to describe why you answered the way you did.

Agriculture

In 2017, over 1 million acres of wheat were harvested in the 7 counties adjacent to the Snake River. In addition, the LSRD currently support approximately 37,000 acres of irrigated farmland drawn from the Ice Harbor Reservoir and allow for the transport of wheat and other commodities, generally at a reduced cost relative to other modes of transportation.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I disagree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Slightly harm agriculture in the region*

Question: **Breaching/removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant benefit for agriculture in the region*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Rail is now more cost effective than barging in nearly all cases in the region. Breaching will allow reclamation of 4000 – 5000 acres of former farm, orchard and vineyard lands.*

Transportation

The LSRD currently allow for barge and tourism navigation up and down the lower Snake River that supports shipments of agricultural products and other materials used or produced by local communities. Transport of materials by barge are less than their historical levels in 2000. Some forecasts include continuation of current levels or increases in the amount of barge transportation.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I disagree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Have a small negative impact on the transport of materials upstream and downstream*

Question: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Slightly improve transport of materials upstream and downstream*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Upgraded rail along the river is ever more cost effective than barging and there are no trends indicating river traffic increasing.*

Energy

The LSRD are a carbon free energy source, produce an average of 1,000 average megawatts of electricity annually, and currently support the reliability of the energy system regionally. Energy supply and markets are changing rapidly which may increase or decrease the role of energy provided by the LSRD.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I disagree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Significantly harm the region's energy system*

Question: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Significantly improve the region's energy system*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *The cost of the LSRD are so high relative to revenue. The dams are losing at least 200 million dollars a year which is pushing BPA into a financial crisis. The reservoirs emit methane a global warming gas equivalent to 80,000 tons of CO2.*

Salmon and Steelhead

There are significantly different predictions of the benefits of breaching/removing the LSRD on Snake River salmon and steelhead returning adults that range from a fourfold increase in returning Snake River salmon/steelhead to a smaller percent increase.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I disagree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Have a significant negative impact on the abundance of Snake River salmon and steelhead*

Question: **Breaching or Removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant positive impact on the abundance of Snake River salmon and steelhead*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Misleading. Breaching prevents death of 8 million Chinook smolts which is many times more than modeled predictions which provide significant increase food for Orcas.*

Ecological

There are differing interpretations of what the river will look like if the dams were to be breached, how long it will take the river to fully provide anticipated benefits, and what the impacts on water quality will be from sediment and turbidity.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I agree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Significantly harm the ecology of the river system*

Question: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant positive impact on the ecology of the river system*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Breaching provides a free-flowing river instead of warm predator filled reservoirs. Corps of Engineers report sediment and turbidity can significantly improve smolt survival.*

Recreation

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I agree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Significantly harm recreation*

Question: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant positive impact on recreation*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Economic reports clearly indicate that the recreational benefits of a free-flowing river will yield 2-3K jobs worth \$200-300 million dollars a year to the seven counties. Reservoir recreation currently provides less than 100 jobs.*

Tribal Cultural Resources

When the dams and reservoirs were created, tribal communities' sites were lost as well as sites for fishing, hunting, and gathering.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I agree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Significantly harm tribal cultural resources in the basin*

Question: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant positive impact on tribal cultural resources in the basin*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Restoring wild salmon runs and traditional fishing areas is critical to re-establishing the tribal people's cultural connection to place.*

Economics

There are differing estimates and perspectives on what the impacts will be on the local economy of the communities surrounding the LSRD as well as the state and region more broadly, due to shifts in recreation usage, shifts in employment, shifts in shipping, and shifts in energy and water supply.

Question: **Description of the statement above:**

- *I agree with how the statement is framed*

Question: **Retaining/Leaving the dams will:**

- *Significantly harm the economy of local communities and the region*

Question Title: **Breaching/Removing the dams will:**

- *Have a significant positive economic impact to local communities and the region*

Question: **Why?** (If you'd like, please provide a short (600 characters, with spaces) answer on why you answered the way you did for the questions under this category.)

- *Updated and unbiased economic reports show a free-flowing river will produce (or, *increase*) 3000-4000 agricultural, recreational and fishing jobs.*