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Geology

**Salmon and Dams**

The snake river is a massive river system that starts in Idaho and makes its way clear out into the ocean. This river recently has become a source of power due to 4 dams that have been put in. The problem with these is that they are harming the population of salmon that also inhabit the river. After reading and watching the videos provided about the Snake River dams and the salmon that inhabit them, I have personally decided that the dams are doing more bad than they are good.

If we look at some of the things the dams are doing, they appear to be really great things. Supplying power to 2 million homes, creating jobs, reusing water, ect. But with these good things can come compromises. By putting in these dams, we are preventing the salmon from returning to their spawning grounds. This is actually killing over 30% of the salmon population. By modifying their natural habitat we are hurting the biodiversity of the snake river. People in favor of the dams say that there are things in place to help the salmon navigate back to their spawning grounds. They have installed a stair system for the salmon to use that helps them swim through the dam. Sadly this doesn't help all of the salmon, plus it isn't what they are used to. It isn't fair to the salmon that we can come in and totally change how they live their lives just to benefit ours.

Now I would argue that we need to return the river to its natural state, but I also feel we may be too far invested into it to completely do this. Rather, I think we need to do everything in our power to ensure the survival of the salmon. I don't think any amount of power is worth the extinction of a species.

If we got rid of the dams, I think that we could take the resources being devoted to that, and put them towards finding another source of energy. That way everyone can be happy. Energy is being generated for cities and houses, while the salmon population can be allowed to flourish throughout the river.