



## **If I Were to Write a Letter to President Obama**

Our new President has been in office three months, but it could take him the next four years to read the stack of mail he has already received. Other issues aside – health care, the economy, the banking crisis, tax policy and pirates, to name a few – there is a furious campaign going on to get the Administration’s ear on the 2008 Biological Opinion for listed salmon and steelhead, as well as Snake River dam breaching, thanks to the outliers in the litigation.

While these groups throw around wild assertions that masquerade as facts, we hope reasonable voices prevail with the President and his Administration.

If I were to write a letter to the President, I would point out that the 2008 BiOp was developed in a court-supervised collaboration among federal agencies, states and tribes, and it has borne fruit. As a result of the collaboration, parties that were previously at odds in court – for decades – are now committed to working together.



I would urge the White House to support the BiOp, let the process play out, avoid a divisive debate about dam breaching and avert the risk of returning the region to another decade of litigation. In short, I would ask him to support this BiOp which is unprecedented in terms of science and investment and get on with the job of putting the “fish first”!

And in the most succinct possible way (that pile of mail on the President’s desk is growing by the day), I would add:

Dear President Obama:

- If you care about good science
- If you want to continue the positive gains that have been made for salmon
- If you respect collaboration among stakeholders
- If you appreciate the willingness of Northwest citizens to fund a billion-dollar-a-year salmon recovery program
- If you aim to encourage renewable resources
- If you share our concerns about climate change
- If you trust over 70 percent of Northwest voters who believe dam removal is an extreme and unnecessary solution
- If you value preserving Northwest jobs and the economy
- If you believe more can be done for salmon on the ground than in the courtroom, then

the 2008 Biological Opinion deserves your unmitigated support.

*Northwest RiverPartners is an alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and business that promote the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and Salmon recovery policies based on sound science. For more information, please visit [www.nwriverpartners.org](http://www.nwriverpartners.org).*