

Dam breaching and drawdowns are not the answer

1992 Snake River drawdown test. Lower Granite Reservoir, Clarkston, Washington. March 17, 1992. River elevation is 706 feet. Normal minimum operating pool is 733 feet.

Waterfront facilities damaged. The Red Wolf Marina was destroyed and went bankrupt.



Silt blocks river access. 100 yards of ten-foot-deep silt separated the river from the river bank, leaving the Port of Clarkston high and dry and eliminating access between the river bank and the water for beaver and other wildlife.



“Down along the port’s riverfront the Snake had receded, leaving an oily mud flat. As the water was withdrawn, the banks had begun to slip away at some places and cave in at others. Davis showed Vanselow a dock that had two weeks before been at water level. Now it looked like it was on stilts and leaning dangerously toward a nosedive into the mud.”

Joseph Cone, A Common Fate: Endangered Salmon and the People of the Pacific Northwest, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1995.

Fish stranded and killed. Tributaries were cut off from the mainstem of the Snake River. Thousands of smolts and adult fish were stranded and killed.

