Northwest RiverPartners
For salmon, our economy and quality of life

New poll shows Northwest voters value clean, reliable, renewable, climate friendly hydropower

Recently, Northwest RiverPartners measured regional attitudes about the Pacific Northwest hydro system, energy and fish, in a poll of 700 registered voters in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Pollster Tim Hibbitts of Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. conducted the survey in February 2009.

Northwest RiverPartners is an alliance of river interests and businesses that promote salmon restoration efforts, on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, based in sound science, cost-effectiveness and collaboration with regional stakeholders.

Key findings include:

Northwest citizens value hydropower as clean, renewable, climate friendly and reliable energy

- 88% of the poll's respondents view hydro as a renewable resource similar to wind and solar resources.
- 69% understood wind is less reliable than hydro.
- Three-quarters of respondents recognize that hydro does not contribute to global warming.
- 79% support designation of hydro as a renewable resource by the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.

Hydropower is viewed as most sensible energy for the Northwest to rely upon

- 49% identified hydro as the most practical energy resource.
- Electric power generation and irrigation are seen as the most important uses of rivers.
- 93% described production of electricity as an essential or important use of the dams.

Northwest Citizens understand a comprehensive approach is needed to help salmon

- Improving habitat, helping fish around the dams, managing predators and reducing harvest were cited as the best ways to help salmon.
- Only 6% cited removing dams as a factor to help salmon.
- 72% favor or strongly favor reducing commercial fishing for five years or until salmon are no longer endangered.

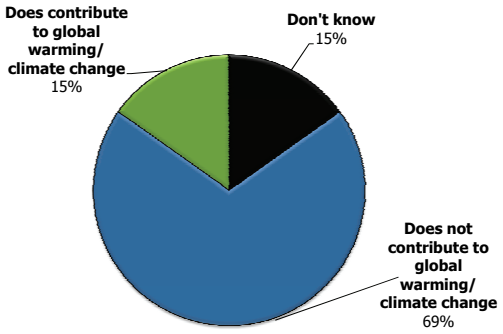
A majority of the public opposes removing the lower Snake River dams, a view unchanged since a 2005 survey

- 71% agree that removing the lower Snake River dams would be an extreme solution.
- 65% believe that the billions planned to be spent to improve salmon runs is enough; removing the dams is unnecessary.
- Two-thirds are unwilling to further reduce the electricity generated by hydropower to help salmon if it means fossil fuels replace the lost hydropower.

To learn more about the value of the Pacific Northwest's hydro system, go to **www.nwriverpartners.org.**

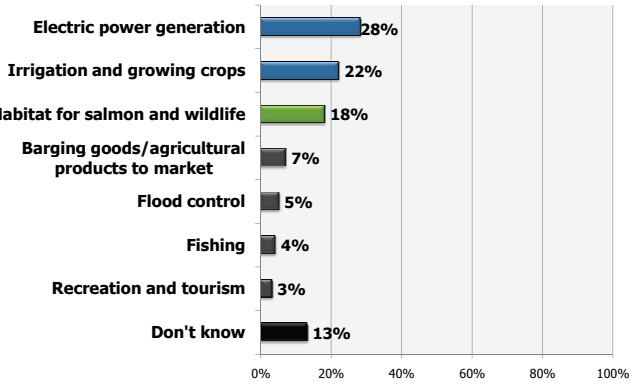
Hydropower and Climate Change

Is it your understanding that electricity generated by hydropower from dams does or does not contribute to global warming or climate change?



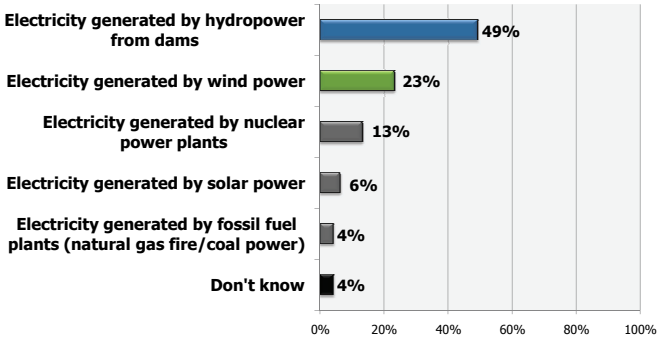
Most Important Use of Waterways

Thinking about the Columbia and Snake Rivers and their tributaries, which one of the following would you say is the *most* important use of those waterways?



Most Practical Renewable

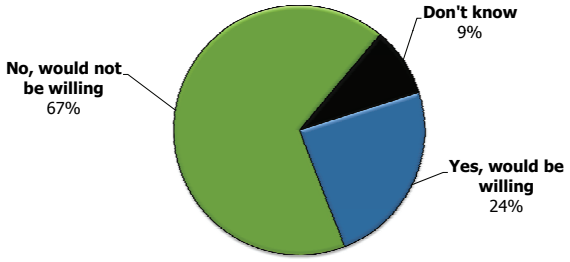
Of those different energy sources, which one do you think is the most practical source for the Pacific Northwest to rely on for *most* of its energy needs?



Willingness to Reduce Hydropower

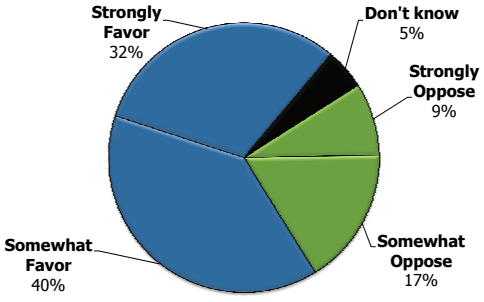
Currently, about 1100 megawatts of electricity (an amount that is equal to two large coal plants) that could be produced by northwest dams to meet energy needs is instead used to assist salmon recovery.

Would you be willing to have the amount of electricity generated by hydropower in the Pacific Northwest further reduced to help improve salmon runs, if the tradeoff meant using more fossil fuels to generate electricity?



Attitude Toward Commercial Salmon Fishing

One suggestion has been to reduce the harvest level of commercial fishing for salmon for a five year period, or until the fish are no longer listed as an endangered species. Would you favor or oppose that idea?



Attitude Towards Dam Removal