

Quality of Life Comparisons For Lewiston/Clarkston Residents

With a free-flowing lower Snake River

Many **sandy beaches** will return to the river's edge and with them swimming, locally owned marinas, and lots of fun in the sun.

The riverfront will become a key feature of **vibrant new downtowns** in both Lewiston and Clarkston. Rip-rap sided levee would be removed since there would no longer be a risk of flooding downtown Lewiston.

Ecologically diverse riverbanks will come back, and with them **shorebirds, waterfowl** and other **wildlife**. Favorite fishing and hunting spots would re-emerge.

A free-flowing Lower Snake River will become a **sought-after rafting and kayaking destination**. 140 miles of wild river with more than 66 named rapids and innumerable beaches lie buried under the reservoirs, just waiting to come back to life.

Robust returns of salmon and steelhead will support a **vibrant fishing industry**, boosting tourism and the local economy.

A **vibrant city life** will draw employers and workers and enable local graduates to return to their hometowns and find good-paying jobs.

With Lower Granite Reservoir

There is only one small **river beach** in Clarkston and none in Lewiston for swimming, picnicking, beach volleyball, or simply hanging-out.

A **tall levee separates downtown Lewiston from the reservoir**, blocking the access to and view of the water while posing a risk of **severe flooding** in the downtown core should the levee break.

Loss of **wildlife**. Flooding of the riverbanks when the reservoirs were created reduced fur-bearing animals over 96%, and game birds and songbirds 98% in the river valley.

There are no rapids to raft or kayak on a reservoir, only horrendous waves during strong winds. The reservoirs provide no whitewater opportunities.

Salmon and steelhead fishing is just a fraction of what it used to be, due to declining fish populations. Fishing seasons have been curtailed and even canceled in recent years, and we expect more of the same.

Job growth lags that of the region—13% for Lewiston v. 66% for the rest of Idaho over the period 1993-2018.

Quality of Life Comparisons For Lewiston/Clarkston Residents

With a free-flowing Lower Snake River

A **wealth of recreational activities** and natural amenities will draw tourists to Lewiston and will spawn many **new business ventures**. More tourists would also mean more daily flights being offered.

14,000 acres of land currently buried under the reservoirs **will re-emerge**. Favorite hunting and birding sites would return. Local farms would come back. All kinds of river activities would again make Lewiston an ideal place to grow up, raise a family, and enjoy an active outdoor life.

Free-flowing rivers are **healthy rivers** that don't pose a risk of toxic algae build-up

Restoring the river will make an **additional 9 billion gallons of water available**—enough to supply the household needs of 240,000 people.

Hundreds of thousands of salmon and steelhead will again **return to spawn** in Idaho's vast network of river tributaries, transporting ocean nutrients in their bodies. After spawning, their carcasses will be scattered far and wide, providing important fertilizer **to keep Idaho's forests alive and healthy**.

With Lower Granite Reservoir

Economic growth in Lewiston (6.7%) lags the rest of Idaho (43.4%) for the 25-year-period 1993-2018.

Much was lost with the flooding of 14,000 acres in 1975: places to hunt, fish and watch wildlife, including on the numerous river islands; river beaches to enjoy in a wide variety of ways; a river for swimming, water skiing, and playing in the rapids.

Toxic algae forces residents to abandon summer recreation on portions of the lower Snake reservoirs. Toxic algae covered 30 miles of these reservoirs in 2023 and is getting worse every year

Reservoirs promote evaporation. More than **9 billion gallons of water evaporates** from these wide, slow-moving reservoirs each year.

Idaho forest health is currently very poor due to lack of nutrients, making the trees less able to survive the stresses from pine bark beetle infestation and catastrophic wildfire