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7. Will the initial flush of sediment affect salmon populations?
According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the initial sediment releases will likely be lethal to any salmon in the lower White Salmon River (most likely Lower Columbia River Chinook). The trapping and transport of fish found in the lower river prior to dam removal will preserve the next generation of fish and reduce immediate mortality.

8. How will fall Chinook be protected during dam breaching?
PacifiCorp will lessen the impact by capturing returning fall Chinook salmon before the dam is breached and transporting them to the reach upstream of Condit Dam.

9. Will silt above the dam continue to enter the stream and affect downstream habitat?
Most of the sediment behind the dam will wash downstream during and just after breaching of the dam. Sediment concentrations in the river will gradually decline and cease, and a stable river channel will form.

10. How will the lower White Salmon River change after dam removal?
The October 2006 BiOp issued by NMFS states that “fish likely would have access to the new upstream habitat within a year and that habitat on the lower reach below the dam site would be useable within two years.” Because of gravel loss and low flows caused by the dam, very little natural salmon production currently occurs downstream of Condit Dam. Recent adult salmon radio telemetry studies have confirmed that very few salmon and steelhead reside in the lower White Salmon River. Dam removal will restore natural river processes, such as the transport of spawning gravel and large woody debris, and lower the water temperature downstream from the dam.

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