

**Governor's Salmon Workgroup
Public Comment Form**

Comments to the Governor's Salmon Workgroup will be accepted in-person or by email submitted to species@osc.idaho.gov

Date: 9-20-19
Name: Ian Tanimoto
Phone: 208-596-3242
Email: tanimoti@gmail.com

Comments:

Debunking Arguments in Favor of Dams

Shipping: Rail would be cheaper and faster if subsidized at a fraction of the rate of dams. Operating dams and locks and ~~fueling~~ fueling tugboats costs millions from the government. Rail also has more futurization potential, capable of being upgraded to be faster and cleaner than boats ever could.

Power: This region has been ^{more than} capable of powering itself with wind, solar, and other clean non-hydro sources for years. For a while our surplus hydro-power was in demand by California, but now, they too are self-sufficient. Hydropower is unnecessary.

Economics: These dams are LOSING MONEY! If they were privately owned, they would have been breached years ago. This is WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING! Bonneville Power Association is a dinosaur from the New Deal ~~that~~ whose only remaining purpose is perpetuating its own existence. It should join the many other wasteful government projects on the ash heap of history. They will resist this inevitability.

Salmon Ladders: These help adult salmon, but young salmon die in the reservoirs from heat and predators. Also, they are wandering around reservoirs so long, they lose the ability to become saltwater fish, dooming them to death even if they reach the ocean.

NOT TO MENTION THE ORCAS

All this without mentioning salmon

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Date: 9-20-19
Name: Ep-NOW-MO-Club (L.P. Simpson)
Phone: (208) 790-8817
Email: 1p940rge msw2013@hotmail.com

Comments:

We need to be concerned with water
temperature pH levels
Not too much alkaline or acidic nitrate levels
Should be high from the rivers to the ocean

Illegal fishing??? Fine amounts raised??
Permit costs?? (Raise)

Polluted water ways.

Algae levels building up
oil spill concerns

Water levels

Straighten Kinks in fish ladders

Farming soil being depleted.

From
Palouse Chief, Charleton J. C. Nightwalker
801 S. 7th ST, #2
Tacoma, WA 98405
cjcnightwalker@aol.com

July 08, 2019

Addressed to: Governor & Senators of Washington State, USA;
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Northwest Region,

My name is Chief Chow-Wow-What-Thii-Yuk; My English name is: Charleton Jesse Nightwalker; I am a hereditary Chief of the Palouse People of the territory known as The Palouse, on the Ceded Territory of the Snake River.

I addressing you on the following matters, as an Aboriginal Indigenous Headsman of the Palouse Tribe. My People came from the regions surrounding the Snake River territory, in Southwest Washington, Idaho & Oregon.

I am here to speak in honor of my family – my Grandmother, Mary Jim Chapman & my mother, Carrie Chapman Schuster, both honored Matriarchs of the Palouse People & Keepers of our ancestors Bones, by which, our People who have been verified to exist on the Snake River for over 14,000 years.

My People, the Palouse, are an Endangered Species. Our numbers are so small, in our bloodlines, there is no true number available to account for our population, with the exception of my family and a few others.

In the summer of 1959, as the last existing, living encampment upon the banks of the Snake River, my Grandmother & Mother were wrongfully removed off our lands for the sake of building the dams in question today along the banks of the Snake River Territory. We were displaced from our homes, our habitat and our sustenance - all species of Snake River Salmon. The waters of the Snake River, the indigenous foods found there, is a part of our ceremonies from sunrise to sunset, by which we partook in drinking of the waters in prayer, everyday. We are no longer able to practice our culture & traditions on our own land because of our relocation. On the day an archeological team removed the bones, to assist in the building of the dams, our People ceased to be able to continue as we always had. My family, personally were never compensated for the taking of our lands, when we arrived at the Yakama Reservation, we were homeless. Many of us are still wondering around, displaced by alcoholism & drug abuse – with no culture or home, to call our own, on our own original land.

Agreements made in exchange for the land and the dams, were all done with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville & Yakama Nations, not the Palouse People, whose headsmen signed the document, out of fear of death and were coerced into doing so, of those who lived and existed right there on the Snake River for millennia beyond any other tribes, we remained there until 1959. We were only given a verbal agreement & a handshake. Our People relied upon verbal agreements as binding and I stand as Headsman, seeking correct the errors of the past. In 1976, The Ruling of the Supreme Court stated as, "In prior appropriation systems, recognition of a tribe's water rights is often times more contentious because, in times of shortage, junior users may receive none of their allocations after a tribe with senior takes its share under the Winters doctrine. Tribes often have seniority because the laws, treaties, executive orders, and other legal agreements that created the Indian reservations (and thus the priority date for purposes of seniority) **predate other settlement of the area.**" [1908 Winters V. United States, pg. 2, <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wpcontent/uploads/assets/crs/RL32198.pdf>]

The Palouse Peoples predate any other settlement of the area, for over 14,000 years. This recognition of the dating of allocation of water use, goes beyond all those who have knowledge of the use of the Snake River. My People, my family & ancestors, The Aboriginal Palouse, were there over 14,000 years ago, according the archeological evidence found when the Palouse were removed for the building of the dams projects began ["Keepers Of The Past", Audobon Magazine article dated May 1993, in detail about the building of the dams and the effect on the Chapman Family].

Of the Endangered Species of our regional area, the Chinook Salmon the Southern Resident Orca Whales feed upon, come from the Palouse lands. The Salmon & Orca, like the Palouse People, **are endangered of becoming extinct**, unless the dams are removed to increase their numbers, just as the removal of the Elwa River Dam in Western Washington, has benefited the population and health of the Chinook Salmon.

There is no reason for the dams on the Snake River to remain and the agreement created 50 years ago, has expired and needs to be honored just as the handshake was honored so long ago with my ancestors, in the signing of the 1855 Yakama Treaty, my Great-Great Grandparents, and my Grandmother, Mary Jim Chapman.

Respectfully,
Inherent Palouse Chief,
Charleton J. C. Nightwalker

Sept. 19, 2019

LOWER SNAKE RIVER WORKSHOP

From the first dam on the lower Columbia River (Rock Island in 1933), the next 40 years produced 13 dams on the main stem. In the same period, 36 more dams were built on the Columbia tributaries. A total of 49 dams on the West's greatest river. Talk about a "harness"!

In the process, some of our 'trade-offs' have proven unjustifiable in either economical or environmental assessments. The power producers are subsidizing the system. The need for "storage, irrigation, and flood control" is an ongoing myth, and the habitat degradation, environmental impact, and contributing devastation of the anadromous fish runs is obviousin spite of the efforts of fish hatcheries and artificial seasonal river flows.

Some other dams have not stood the test of time. Those rivers are being restored and there is evidence of recovering environmental assets and economic benefits to that action.

There are ten (10) dams on the Snake River and it's tributaries. The 4 on the lower Snake are the least defensible by commonly accepted criteria. Idaho and all of the Snake drainage area would benefit in both the short and the long run if we restore that section of the Snake. The Federal subsidies to freight transportation on the lower Snake, the fish mitigation costs, the subsidy for power production, the cost of channel dredging would cease or be modified, and the historical and natural activities of the region would be an asset, not a drain on the Federal budget.

One final note, if the cost of dredging the Snake to allow Cruise boat access was factored into the economic valuation to the region, the 'bottom line' to the River Cruises would join the list of subsidies caused by slackwater, and the \$400,00 plus that NezPerce county taxpayers are shelling out annually for the "Port" would get the "subsidy" title also. But of course, that Annual cost is only "temporary" and I haven't even mentioned the Port of Clarkston.

William E. Chetwood, Lewiston, ID.



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Date: 9/20/19
Name: HOWARD E MILLER
Phone: 509 243 3435
Email: _____

Comments:

CUT BACK DRASTICALLY COMMERCIAL
FISHING OFF THE PACIFIC COAST
THE WORST PREDATORS IS CANADIAN
AND JAPANESE FISHERS,

SAVE THE WHALES AND ORCAS

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Date: 09/20/2019
Name: Blaine Jacobson
Phone: 208-332-1522
Email: blaine@idaho wheat.org

Comments:

- Need to balance needs of all interest group. Snake River is a working river.
- Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties. About half of the wheat is exported. Without an export market those bushels will glut the domestic causing economic stress on farm families and farm communities throughout the state.
- Wheat from Oregon, Washington, Montana, North Dakota also go down Columbia/Snake system. About half of all wheat exported by U.S. goes Columbia export terminals. Ag exports is a leading ~~source~~ way for balance of trade improves.
- Dam breaching is a "red herring" or distraction. Salmon runs are down on both dammed and undammed rivers in western North America. Depletes of salmon on Columbia/Snake ~~system~~ occurred before lower Snake River dams were built.
- It would have taken more than 35,140 rail cars or 135,000 trucks to replace what was carried by just 244 four-barge tows last year.

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Date: September 20, 2019
Name: Mark Brigham
Phone: 208-291-5203
Email: brigham1203@gmail.com

Comments:

- There are four key points:

1. Hydropower is essential to our region's economy and efforts to meet clean energy standards, and the four lower Snake River dams are a critical and cost-effective part of the system.
2. I believe very strongly in the need to recover endangered and threatened species, and there has been some great work that has taken place over the last three decades.
3. The Columbia Snake River system, including the four lower Snake River dams provide critical and significant transportation benefits that can't be easily replaced. This includes the cruise boat industry, to our region.
4. As the state legislature considers issues related to the Columbia-Snake River system, the Ports can be a resource to policymakers and the Governor's Salmon Workgroup.

Keith E. Carlson
2018 14th Street
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
208-746-7322
kec201814@cableone.net

20 September 2019

Statement of Keith E. Carlson Delivered at Governor's Salmon Workshop Group, Lewiston, Idaho

Mr Chairman and members of the Salmon Recovery Group Welcome to the Lewis-Clark Valley through which every one of Idaho's salmon and steelhead must pass from spawning grounds to the ocean and back.

My wife and I are Lewiston residents for the last 38 years. We have sent our two children through the Lewiston school system and the U of Idaho. Our grandson is a U of I grad. We love this valley and appreciate that the Port of Lewiston, the mill and the surrounding farms and ranches contribute greatly to our valley, our economy and our way of life.

However, these are not the groups you should be talking with concerning salmon and steelhead recovery.

I suggest that you must hear from the Attorney General, the US Attorney and the Nez Perce Tribe to understand what the Endangered Species Act and treaty obligations require.

The last few years we have had poor returns of Spring and Summer Chinook and steelhead. This past spring the chinook run was almost non existent and provided almost no fishing.

Today's closure of steelhead fishing in our region shows how dramatic the loss has become.

I urge that you invite fisheries scientists to provide answers to the real questions you should be asking if you are to find solutions for salmon and steelhead recovery.

A few basic questions you must attempt to find answers to are :

Why are wild fish important ?

We are blessed with wonderful under utilized habitat in the Middle Fork Salmon, Selway and Lochsa Rivers- what must we do to get the fish back to breed ?

What are the odds that wild fish will survive with the four Snake River dams in place ?

If the wild fish are important, what effects do hatchery programs have on the genetics of the wild fish ?

There are many obstacles to fish recovery, but we can not do much about ocean conditions or climate change. Eliminating or reducing Sea Lions, Cormorants, Caspian Terns, pike minnows, bass and other natural predators is likely just nibbling at the edges of the problem.

Most fish and wildlife problems are habitat, habitat and habitat.

The most important habitat over which we citizens of the Pacific Northwest have control is the 465 miles from Lewiston to the ocean and the four unnatural lakes we have created in the Snake River.

I believe that we all do a disservice to our fellow Idahoans and to the Governor who formed this committee if you do not consider all options that the science offers, including removal of the four Snake River dams.

Before Idaho Governor Little - July 30, 2019
I am at My Peru tribuna (L)
I am James Sawyer. I am here to

present a statement in regard to the
United States Supreme Court ruling this
last summer which was decided in the
Indians favor. The case is called the
current case but is the United States v.

Washington. The state of Washington
claimed before the United States Supreme
Court that the Indian treaties empower
the state to block all fish run into the
state. The state of Idaho supported their
claim along with user groups such as
farmers, miners, grazers, etc. The state
of Idaho's position would be that the

(2)

state of Idaho could block all fish
run into the state at the mouth of the
Clearwater river at Lewiston. I would
disagree as did the United States
Supreme Court. The United States Supreme
Court affirmed the ruling of the ninth
circuit courts. The ninth circuits ruling
reinstated phase II of the Washington v.
Licking vessels. This established a long
standing environmental servitude a fishing
servitude. This would allow the Mey Rance
to reopen the Mey Rance v. Idaho Power
Company. In Mey Rance v. Idaho Power Company
the judge legal analysis was that

if phase II was in effect then the
Nay Poree had standing from treaty
time for the Nay Poree tribes damage
claim. Now that phase II has been
reinstated the Nay Poree can reopen Nay Poree
v. Idaho Power Company. Also the
effect will be to clean up the Snake River
for fishing all the way where the Nay
Poree fished in the time of the treaty.
The opposition assert that the clean up
effect will be too costly. But, this is not
an honest assertion. at the time of the
Snake River Basin ^{adjudication} Idaho legislative hearing
at the Boise State University the head of the

Bankers association stated that the approval of the Meg Perce Settlement would stabilize a four billion dollar a year economic sector. This was over 10 years ago. If there had been behavior in good faith for what the Meg Perce did then perhaps a 5% alignment of that stabilization would have resulted in a \$200 million per or for the past 10 years a "2 billion dollar expenditure for the banks since clean up. If the banking industry would be unwilling to make alignment financial loans that the Meg Perce should join the

banks for damage to the Nez Perce
interests. The question is what will
you do so the Nez Perce can
receive what the United States
agreed to.

James Lawton
Ref on the Idaho Fish &
Game Commission

May 16, 2019

II James Lawton
Before Idaho Governor Latta
July 30, 2019

I am James Langer, I am a member of the Nez Perce Tribe. I am before you to advocate for ~~the return~~ of the restoration of the ocean going fish to the Shoshone Falls and the whole Snake river basin in south Idaho the sooner the better. When I presented the issue before the Nez Perce General Council the ~~my~~ response was the Tribe will ~~pursue~~ ~~pursue~~ ~~pursue~~ pursue the issue with great diligence. This ~~to the~~ is the third that I am presenting the issue to a state of Idaho office. First was the ~~Idaho~~ Idaho fish and game commission on May 16, 2019 at Grangeville. The second was before ~~Idaho~~ Idaho Governor Brad Little on July 30, 2019 ~~at~~ at Grangeville.

My rationale to ~~pursue~~ pursue this restoration to the Snake River Shoshone falls is in the last year and a half three cases were decided in the Indian's favor by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The first case was U.S. vs. Washington also called the absecon case. One important ~~point~~ legal point is that it reactivated phrase II of Washington vs. Washington Fishing Vessels. The second ~~case~~ important legal point is the statement of Justice Gorsuch at the oral argument: "The point of a treaty I would have

thought would have been to -- to freeze in time certain rights and -- and to ensure their existence in perpetuity, regardless of what other social benefits a later municipality might be able to claim."

A ~~second~~ ^{related} case is *Nez Perce Tribe vs. Idaho Power Co.* In this case the federal court stated: "6.) Treaty Rights to Preservation of Fish Runs."

"The ultimate issue presented is whether the treaty provided provided the Tribe with an absolute right to preservation of the fish runs in the condition existing in 1855, free from environmental ~~caused~~ ^{damages} caused by a changing and developing society. Only if such a right exists is the Tribe entitled to an award of ~~monetary~~ ^{monetary} damages."

Phase II is this environmental servitude treaty servitude from former case has now been reactivated by the current case. This is that ~~right~~ right.

Before the fish recovery committee

Sept. 20, 2019

James Louye

1 ability to make some types of decisions, even
2 if they affect the treaty fishing right when
3 there are substantial interests involved.

4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I guess that's --
5 for me, I think that's really where the case
6 boils down, and -- and -- and I'm struggling
7 with that. Right? You -- you assert that you
8 have rights to pursue other public goods and
9 that those can outweigh the treaty effectively.

10 And -- and -- and so any violation of
11 these culverts has to be weighed against the
12 benefits they provide to other persons. But --
13 but -- but doesn't that potentially eliminate
14 the treaty altogether, and doesn't -- wouldn't
15 it defeat it entirely?

16 The point of a treaty I would have
17 thought would have been to -- to freeze in time
18 certain rights and -- and to ensure their
19 existence in perpetuity, regardless of what
20 other social benefits a later municipality
21 might be able to claim.

22 MR. PURCELL: Your Honor, we're not
23 saying at all that they outweigh the treaty.
24 We're saying that the treaty recognized -- in
25 the treaty, it recognized that there were other

When interpreting Indian treaties, it is well established that certain canons are of special importance and the courts are required to consider the treaties' central purpose and construe the treaties as they were originally understood by the tribal representatives. In addition, the courts have traditionally resolved ambiguities in favor of the tribes and interpreted the treaties in the Indians' favor. *Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Ass'n*, 443 U.S. 658, 676, 61 L. Ed. 2d 823, 99 S. Ct. 3055 [9 ELR 20517] (1979) (hereinafter referred to as "*Fishing Vessel*"); *Jones v. Meehan*, 175 U.S. 1, 20 S. Ct. 1, 44 L. Ed. 49 (1899); *Tulee v. Washington*, 315 U.S. 681, 62 S. Ct. 862, 86 L. Ed. 1113 (1942); *Seufert Brothers Co. v. United States*, 249 U.S. 194, 39 S. Ct. 203, 63 L. Ed. 555 (1919); *United States v. Winans*, 198 U.S. at 380-81; as cited in *United States v. Washington*, 759 F.2d 1353, 1358 [15 ELR 20813] (9th Cir. 1985).

In interpreting the several Stevens treaties, the courts have consistently held that the reserved fishing rights grant the Indians an "opportunity to take, by reasonable means, a fair and equitable share of all fish from any given run." *United States v. Oregon*, 769 F.2d 1410, 1416 (9th Cir. 1985). Similarly, the United States District Court for Oregon has held that the tribes have a right to harvest "a fair share of the fish produced by the Columbia River system." *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899, 911 (D.C. Or. 1969). While construing the Medicine Creek Treaty, the United States Supreme Court in *Fishing Vessel*, 443 U.S. 658, held that "[b]oth sides [Tribal and non-Tribal] have a right, secured by treaty, to take a fair share of the available fish." *Id.* at 684-85. According to this doctrine, the percentage of the total available fish the Tribe is entitled to take may be limited by tribal population, the abandonment of the fisheries by the tribal members as they find other means of support, and the number of fish necessary to provide the tribal members with a moderate living. *Id.* at 686-87. In any event, the maximum percentage of fish the Tribe is entitled to take was held by the United States Supreme Court in *Fishing Vessel* to be fifty percent (50%). *Id.*

It should be noted, however, that the "fair share doctrine" was adopted for the purpose of protecting Indians as well as non-treaty fishermen. In *Fishing Vessel*, the various state game and fishery departments argued that the treaties gave the Indians no more rights than that given to non-treaty fishermen with the exception of the right to cross over private land to access their usual and accustomed fishing grounds. *Id.* at 670-71. In *Fishing Vessel*, the Supreme Court held that the treaties reserved more to the Indians than the mere opportunity to fish, therefore, while both the Indians and the non-Indians have the right to fish, neither group may deny the other of their fair share of fish. *Id.* at 685. Thus, the fair share doctrine protects, as well as limits, the Tribe's treaty fishing rights.

In summary, the cases demonstrate that the relief granted to both treaty and non-treaty fishermen for violation of the fair share doctrine to this point in time has been injunctive, rather than monetary. Historically, according to *Fishing Vessel*, tribes deprived of their fair share of fish in one season are granted a larger percentage of fish in a subsequent season to make up the fair share deficit.

The Tribe's right to fish is also limited by the need to protect the fish runs from over-harvest. It is well established that the states and the federal government can regulate the total treaty and non-treaty fish catch if regulation becomes necessary for the preservation of the species, is tailored to the conservation of that species, and is non-discriminatory in its treatment of the Indians. See *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. at 908; *United States v. Oregon*, 769 F.2d at 1416; *United States v. Oregon*, 657 F.2d 1009, 1016-17 (1981) (affirming a total ban on tribal harvest of spring chinook salmon); *Puyallup Tribe, Inc. v. Department of Game*, 433 U.S. 165, 176-77 [7 ELR 20558] (1977) (affirming the right to regulate on-reservation fishing).

The instant action, however, does not involve either limitations on catch or exclusion from traditional hunting grounds. Rather, the Tribe seeks compensation for the destruction of the fish runs themselves. In other words, the Tribe argues that developments such as dams which damage, reduce or destroy the fish runs violate their 1855 Stevens treaty fishing rights and entitles them to an award of monetary damages.

b) Treaty Rights to Preservation of Fish Runs

The ultimate issue presented is whether the treaty provides the Tribe with an absolute right to preservation of the fish runs in the condition existing in 1855, free from environmental damage caused by a changing and developing society. Only if such a right exists is the Tribe entitled to an award of monetary damages.

The parties have cited, and the Court's own independent research has disclosed only three cases which directly address this ultimate issue. *United States v. Washington*, (hereinafter "*Washington 1982*"), 694 F.2d 1374 [13 ELR 20126, 20441] (9th Cir. 1982); *Muckleshoot Tribe v. Puget Sound Power and Light*, CV No. 472-72C2V (W.D. Wash. 1986); and *Nisqually Tribe v. City of Centralia*, No. C75-31 (W.D. Wash. 1981). However, *Washington 1982* was vacated by

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Date: 9/25/19

Name: Don Vernon

Phone: 208-401-6183

Email: vern2dkv@gmail.com

Comments:

Not enough is being done to recover Idaho steelhead and chinook and sockeye salmon. In 2019, steelhead and salmon returns are less than the 10-year average. Since the steelhead and chinook and sockeye salmon were listed as threatened species in the 1990's, the current efforts have not produced the return goals for steelhead and salmon returning to Idaho. The multipurpose Federal Columbia River Power System projects in the lower Snake and Columbia River main stem corridor remain a primary threat to the viability of Snake River salmon and steelhead. The system of dams and reservoirs continues to affect these species during their juvenile and adult migrations. The fish must pass up to eight large main stem dams on their journey to the ocean and back. Governor Little tasked his Office of Species Conservation with establishing a workgroup dedicated to addressing salmon and steelhead issues. The purpose of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup is to develop a unified policy recommendation for Governor Little to assist him as he shapes Idaho's policy on salmon and steelhead recovery. The Salmon Workgroup's recommendation should include removal of the three Snake River dams upstream of Ice Harbor (Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite) and updated barge loading facility at or near Ice Harbor Dam and additional salmon and steelhead hatchery facilities to increase the number of adult salmon and steelhead returning above recovery levels.

From: [Howard Garrett](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: premature deaths and spiral into extinction
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019 1:48:01 PM

Dear Gov. Little,

Please break the BPA fish accords contract, so that Idaho can speak with one voice for its Snake River salmonids. We can fix every mile of stream in Idaho and our salmon and steelhead will still be facing extirpation throughout the basin because the problem is not in Idaho. The problem is in the migratory corridor. We must breach four lower Snake River dams to give our salmonids their best opportunity to recover. Now is the time to breach. The fish accords buy silence from Idaho on breaching and spill, they prevent Idaho from going to court over illegal BiOps produced over and over again by NOAA. Break the status quo, break the fish accords, breach the dams, and be the generation that saved the salmon and steelhead of the Snake River rather than the generation that watched as they passed into history.

While we grieve for them, and more so for the dwindling and pending extinction of Southern Resident orcas, a vital and unique orca community, we also have been searching for over two decades to find actions our society can take to protect theirs, or more precisely to quit causing them to suffer untimely deaths.

We've learned that the drastic declines in abundance of their specialized diet — about 80 percent Chinook salmon — over the past few decades, and the resulting prolonged hunger, have compounded the effects of their accumulated toxic loads, causing reproductive failures and premature deaths and spiral into extinction.

Further studies, many conducted by the Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island, showed that, among all the known habitat degradations, including fishing practices, pervasive toxicity and myriad other factors reducing salmon populations, the blockage of the 5,500 miles of spawning streams in the Clearwater and Salmon river watersheds in Idaho by four dams downstream on the Snake River in Eastern Washington, have caused the most severe reductions in Chinook salmon of all.

If the Snake River could be restored by breaching just the earthen berms beside each dam, up to a million more adult Chinook would be available to Southern Residents within two to three years.

More recently we've learned that the dams are essentially worthless, and in fact since the salmon were listed as endangered under the ESA in the late 1990s, have been costing taxpayers and ratepayers uncounted hundreds of millions per year, mainly for remarkable hardware attachments to the dams and truck and barge transport systems in futile attempts to save the fish, while producing no useful hydropower or revenues of any kind, and no services that can't be easily replaced.

In fact those four dams were sold originally on the premise they would bring great wealth to eastern Washington, Oregon and Idaho, which they've done none of. Instead they've decimated the largest salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest in both number and size of fish and wasted up to a billion dollars a year.

If we follow the money benefiting the federal agencies and commercial interests justifying the dams, it's found to be a boondoggle with no real benefit to anyone but the recipients of the subsidies pouring in to those agencies and via the multiplier effect, the entire region. That's why no elected officials, or PUD or port authority, or chamber of commerce, will speak up to breach the dams and save the salmon and orcas. When any military base or major factory is scheduled to close, the local politicians and civic leaders tend to close ranks and fight to keep it.

So where will the political leverage come from to breach the dams and restore the river and watershed, the salmon and the orcas?

My only hope for a bipartisan economic and environmental champion to make it safe for politicians and environmentalists to support immediate breaching is Idaho Republican Rep. Mike Simpson, who said in April at a conference in Boise that he is extremely alarmed by the steep declines in wild salmon runs to near extinction after \$17 billion and counting has been spent to save the fish, and that the river must be restored and the dams must be on the table to do that. Since then he's caught flak from all directions, although natural-origin spring/summer chinook were reportedly down 78 percent from the 10-year average with only 4050 estimated to have crossed over the dams as of Aug. 22. This number will be refined and reported typically in February.

That \$17 billion only counts the salmon mitigation funding over the past 20-plus years that five U.S. District Court decisions have concluded haven't worked and the salmon are going extinct anyway. Not included in that total are dam and lock maintenance and administrative overhead by multiple agencies and contractors.

One potential Democratic partner to such an effort could be Rep. Jared Huffman of Mendocino, Calif., chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, and on the committee that oversees the ESA, and a staunch environmentalist. If we could find a brave Washington Republican or Democrat or two to partner with those two,

Congress could twist the Army Corps of Engineers' arm to breach the dams, especially given the pending insolvency of the BPA due to wasting that \$17 billion plus overhead and having nothing to show for it but a smidgen of surplus electricity and an aging, bankrupt, subsidized barging service that could be easily replaced by rail transport.

With a few influential people standing up for any of those reasons, the Corps could suddenly decide to issue a Record of Decision to breach and get it started within months. We'd all be better off, and the Southern Resident orcas wouldn't keep dying.

-- Howard Garrett
Orca Network

Orca Network - Connecting whales and people in the Pacific Northwest. Orca Network is dedicated to raising awareness about the whales of the Pacific Northwest, and the importance of providing them healthy and safe habitats. Projects include the Whale Sighting Network and Education Programs, the Free Lolita Campaign, The Langley Whale Center, and the Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

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Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments:

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Date: 9-18-19

Name: Link Jackson

Phone: 208-869-7384

Email: link@streamtechboats.com

Comments:

Having monitored the situation with wild fish stock declines for many years, and having read much of the biological study done on the topic, it is clear to me that the only real chance our fish have to avoid extinction lies in the removal of the lower four dams on the snake river. Further study has revealed the dramatic decline in use for locks and of the decaying status of improvements that demand massive investment to refurbish. In short, it is clear the contribution of the dams is far less than the cost of maintaining them long term. This is one of those "low hanging fruit" issues. Removal of the dams will produce great benefit and save the fish. This needs to be done NOW while there is still time. And time is short for the fish. I have heard all the arguments against removal and see none of them as powerful enough to deter removal. The cost to "subsidize" or assist those impacted by removal would be vastly less than continuing to leave the dams in place. PLEASE come to understand the sense of urgency. The fish have little more room for delay.

Governor's Salmon Workgroup Public Comment Form

Comments to the Governor's Salmon Workgroup will be accepted in-person or by email submitted to species@osc.idaho.gov

Date: September 18, 2019

Name: Matt Green

Phone: 208-251-0197

Email: 12tobias@gmail.com

Comments:

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this working group's effort. I live in Salmon and have for 28 of my 36 years (8 years were for undergraduate and graduate school at ISU in Pocatello). I grew up fishing for steelhead with my grandpa, brother, uncle, and most importantly my dad who taught me all there is to know about steelhead fishing. It breaks my heart that I may not be able to take my kids fishing for Chinook salmon and steelhead as my father did with my brother and me because we may not have enough fish in the coming years if dismal trends continue. People are hurting here in Salmon, Idaho. Hotels are vacant in October, RV sites are empty, gas stations are not filled with out of town plates filling up for the weekend adventure, and fishing shops don't have answers as to why there are so few fish. I own a rafting company that used to fish for steelhead in Idaho's wilderness and we have not booked a trip for three seasons. Our river and our town are named after a fish that may no longer swim by us to spawn unless we act soon. Salmon, Idaho is a unique community with a wide range of people with even wider ideals of what is right and wrong. But, when an issue affects so many of us, we are able to bond together because we care about this place that we live and what it stands for. We have screened our irrigation diversions, we have improved our irrigation practices to allow more water for fish, we have improved habitat for both spawning adults and their offspring to survive. Sure, there is much more work to be done, but we are doing our part in our own backyards. It is time that others take care of their backyards. We in Idaho are taking on all the burden while downstream issues have tried to be "fixed" with barges and hatcheries and predator control and ladders and spillways. It's NOT working. PLEASE allow all possible solutions to be on the table for your working group, otherwise it is not an effort to restore our once enormous runs of anadromous fish, rather, it is just another effort to "fix" a problem that has an obvious solution.

Thank you,

Matt Green-Salmon, Idaho

From: [Steve Brown](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Comment to Governor Little and Members of the Salmon Workgroup
Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019 1:04:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Governor Little and Members of the Salmon Workgroup:

My apologies for submitting my comment to the Workgroup in this email rather than your form. But for some reason, I couldn't get your form to work. Per the form:

Date: September 19, 2019
Name: Steven K. Brown
Phone: 208-520-8103
Email: stevebrown@hopkinsroden.com

Comments:

I was disappointed to learn of the Governor's recent comments regarding breaching the lower Snake River dams as an aid to recover Idaho's wild anadromous fish populations. In my view, it is the single most effective step we could take. Accordingly, I'd like to comment on your process by submitting the relevant portion of a comment (set forth below) I submitted in 2016 during the scoping process for the Columbia River Operations Environmental Impact Statement.

" . . . I think it is absolutely essential to include breaching the four lower Snake River dams and restoring a free flowing lower Snake River as one of the alternatives that is fully evaluated and seriously considered in your draft EIS. In my view, nothing short of that has any hope of restoring anything that remotely approaches the historic wild fish runs on the Salmon River, as the last 30+ years of failed mitigation efforts have clearly demonstrated.

I was born in 1955, and when I was a young boy, the upper tributaries of the Salmon River still ran pretty thick with wild fish naturally spawning in their native streams. My grandparents fished for those fish for a month or more each year, and had done so since the 1920s. They packed into what was then the Idaho Primitive Area to fish the Middle Fork of the Salmon, where they said the country still had dew on it from the morning of creation, and the fishing was beyond belief. They also camped for weeks at a time at O'Brien Campground on the upper Main Salmon where every salmon fishing hole for eighty miles was named and noted for the gigantic wild fish it produced. They witnessed the reason Redfish Lake is called Redfish Lake, when it teemed with blood red sockeye. In the 40s and 50s, my Dad jumped on forest fires in the central Idaho wilderness and talked of all the salmon he saw spawning in nearly every stream. The stories from those times that they shared with a young boy around the campfire are still vividly etched in my mind.

Eventually, I got big enough to join them in the hunt, and in their appreciation for those incredible fish. I can still see giant chinook hanging from the clothesline in camp. I still recall traveling to Bear Valley Creek, on the headwaters of the Middle

Fork, to witness the miracle of all those enormous fish roiling and spawning in that small stream. Then they were easy to spot, even for a small boy, because there were so many. I even saw a few red sockeye swimming toward Redfish myself. Most of all, I still cannot forget the thrill of catching a wild chinook of my very own on the banks of the Salmon River, a memory that never fades for anyone who has done so.

But during that same time frame, things were changing. Suddenly, it seemed like fewer and fewer fish were around. One no longer routinely saw them rolling in the eddy lines along the upper Salmon. One had to struggle to find a spawning pair in Bear Valley Creek. Seasons were curtailed and closed. By the time I was working in the central Idaho wilderness during the mid 70s, you didn't see them rolling much along the still pristine Middle Fork either. When I guided on the Middle Fork in the early 80s, we used to count ourselves lucky to see a very few jump at Dagger Falls in an entire season, even though we were there once a week. Likewise, it was no longer possible for generations younger than my own to see for themselves why Redfish Lake even bore that name. Instead they had only rumors from the past, and eventually, sad newspaper stories about a poor sockeye named Lonesome Larry.

So what happened? Even at the time, I remember rumors of giant dam projects hundreds of miles downstream that were impeding the fish. But I didn't really know, I just knew that there had once been many fish in the Salmon River, and suddenly, there were damn few. I have since learned that between 1957 and 1975 the Corps of Engineers built six new dams on the Columbia/Snake system between then existing Bonneville Dam and Lewiston, Idaho -- the Dalles in 1957, Ice Harbor in 1962, Lower Monumental in 1969, Little Goose in 1970, John Day in 1971 and Lower Granite in 1975. Suddenly Salmon River fish had to negotiate eight dams and reservoirs instead of only two (Bonneville and McNary). Six new dams in 18 years, the net effect of which, from the fishes' standpoint, was to turn the largely free flowing lower Columbia and Snake Rivers into a single 325 mile long stagnant pond, and place six new concrete impediments in their path to boot.

Should we really even be surprised that the wild fish populations that once spawned above all those new dams and the resulting slack water declined so sharply during that same time frame? Indeed it is remarkable how well the dramatic decline in wild fish on the Salmon River directly correlates with that 18 years of dam building. To cite one simple example, redd counts over time are often used as a trend indicator of wild fish abundance. During the dam building period, Chinook red counts on the Middle Fork of the Salmon declined from 2,686 in 1957 to just 47 in 1980, five years after the last dam came online. But I don't need redd counts to prove it happened, I saw it happen with my own eyes, year by year, as I worked and recreated in central Idaho during the dam building period, and so did a lot of other people.

Now Salmon River anadromous fish are a tough bunch. They're strong and they're resilient. They have to be, because they travel over 800 miles from the ocean to spawn in their natal streams, farther than any other anadromous fish in the Columbia Basin, and perhaps, in the world. Then the next generation has to navigate that same remarkable distance back down to the ocean to start the cycle all over again, a cycle

that was endlessly repeated over and over again by millions of fish for thousands of years, through volcanic eruptions, floods, earthquakes, landslides, fires, adverse ocean conditions and other assorted natural disasters. So Salmon River fish are tough and they can handle a lot of adversity, whatever mother nature threw at them. By all indications, they could even handle the 40 some odd miles of slack water behind Bonneville Dam and another 40 or so behind McNary. But to me it's clear that they couldn't handle the continuous 325 mile slack water pond and associated concrete impediments placed in their path between 1957 and 1975. At that point, eight dams and the continuous slack water they created became just too much, more than they could bear, even for a tough bunch of fish.

Since those dams were built, it seems to me that the dam builders and their allies have spent the last 30+ years focusing on and/or attempting to mitigate other collateral issues, apparently desperate to avoid directly confronting the obvious issue, which is the existence of those dams and the slack water they create. Oh, no fish? No problem they say, we'll finance more and more hatcheries with all these hydropower dollars that are rolling in. To me, that's somewhat akin to saying we can let the elk all die out because after all, we can just replace them with more cows. But it's not the same thing. The fact is, hatchery fish are no substitute for wild fish, and that is particularly so when it comes to the Endangered Species Act. Yet in recent years, the powers that be continually tout the "record salmon runs," as if all those hatchery fish were somehow the equivalent to true wild fish recovery. To me, that is nothing short of a shallow political ploy intended to disguise the fact that wild fish are and have been in serious trouble for a long time. Indeed, a truly cynical mind might wonder if the actual design might be to ignore the plight of wild fish long enough for them to go extinct.

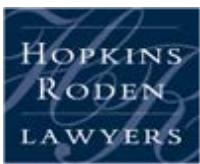
Or they say, oh, we need to focus our efforts on habitat improvement and restoration. I'm sure habitat deterioration is a serious issue in some places. But the extensive high quality habitat on the Middle Fork of the Salmon hasn't deteriorated one bit since it was first administratively protected by the Forest Service as the Idaho Primitive Area in 1931. Yet despite that all pristine habitat, the fish have not been there since those dams were built. That ought to tell us something. Or they say, oh look, the terns are eating all the little fish in the estuary and the sea lions are eating all the big fish before they even reach the dams. But the pre-dam historic record documents that sea lions have been eating returning adults all the way up to Celilo Falls since the 1800s, and I suspect terns have been eating the small fish in the estuary for a long time too. Then there is the ultimate work around, oh, it's the adverse ocean conditions that are causing the fish to struggle. But is there any doubt that the fish have successfully struggled through and survived changing ocean conditions, including "adverse ocean conditions," for thousands of years?

In short, these sorts of issues and more just like them are all diversions from the real question, which is should we seriously consider removing some of those dams to ease passage for the wild fish? From all that I know and have read, the four dams on the lower Snake were marginal projects from the beginning, built at the end of the dam building era by an agency looking for more projects to build, and sold to the public as a means to turn Lewiston into a great port city filled with bustling barge

traffic, and to generate a little more hydropower, an already abundant resource in the pacific northwest at the time. They serve no significant flood control, irrigation or recreational need, and they never did. Today, 40 plus years after the last dam came online, Lewiston is far from the bustling port city that was touted at the time. In fact to my eye, it hasn't changed much since I was attending college just north of there in the mid 70s. Barge traffic has been declining for years from an early peak, and now the Corps has to periodically dredge the channel for several miles downstream to clean out the accumulated sediment caused by Lower Granite, and thereby hopefully avoid flooding the town and assuring the largely unused port stays open. The hydropower the dams generate remains un-needed, and some say the continued operation of them is nothing more than a burden on the taxpayers. In the meantime, recent dam removal projects elsewhere in the pacific northwest have demonstrated how quickly natural anadromous fish runs can be restored when dams are removed. For all of these reasons, I urge you to fully analyze and seriously consider breaching the four lower Snake River dams and restoring a free flowing lower Snake River as one of the alternatives in your draft EIS.

Finally, I think you should also evaluate and consider alternatives to current hatchery operations as part of your draft EIS. I know that in many cases, you don't actually operate the hatcheries, but you do fund and control many of them. Based on what I read, there is growing evidence that current hatchery operations are having a significant impact on wild fish populations. In my view, if curtailment of hatchery operations is necessary to aid the recovery of wild fish, then so be it, even if that adversely affects the sport fishery. Now don't get me wrong, I like catching a hatchery fish as much as the next guy. But if curtailing hatchery fish will aid the recovery of wild fish, particularly during the dam removal process, then I'm all for it.

Thank you for your consideration."
And thank you for yours. Steve



Steven K. Brown
Hopkins Roden Crockett Hansen & Hoopes, PLLC
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Tel (208) 523-4445 | Fax (208) 523-4474 | www.hopkinsroden.com
Email: stevebrown@hopkinsroden.com

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Idaho Governor's Salmon Workgroup

September 19, 2019

Idaho Grain Producers Event at Lindsey Creek Vineyard, Lewiston, Idaho

Members of the Workgroup,

In the 20th Century, my wise predecessors had the foresight and determination to make constructive use of the river system of the Pacific Northwest. They envisioned by harnessing the combination of gravity and water a natural resource could be used by everyone in the area. Some of these benefits are a large recreation resource, a 465 mile inland waterway, a huge electrical generation resource, downriver flood control, aquifer recharge and irrigation. Nearly all who lived in the PNW received benefits from this vision.

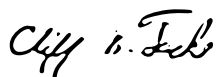
Then the Northwest Power Act of 1980 and The Endangered Species Act of the early 1970's gave environmental elitists power to spread their influences in this area. These two acts in and of themselves could serve useful purposes. But that is not what is happening. Power hungry wealthy environmental groups have seized the reigns of the movement to influence government decisions to be not only undesirable but very expensive.

Nuking out dams to allegedly increase anadromous fish returns is one such tactic. A lot of expensive work has been done on the Columbia and Snake rivers to improve fish returns. Some things have helped, some have not. But few are looking at the ocean part of anadromous fish cycles. One study by the research group Kitama points out that nearly all salmon runs in rivers from Oregon to Alaska have greatly diminished during the last 50 years yet only the Columbia has dams on it. In fact the Columbia is no better or worse than any other river in the area.

As a grain producer I obviously benefit from the increased efficiency of the inland waterway. But I get satisfaction in knowing the products I grow are transported in a safe and energy efficient way. As a user of electricity I also understand using water and gravity is a very efficient and renewable way to generate my needs. Furthermore, until a quantumly new way of storing electricity becomes available, storing water behind a dam is a very good battery. The dams also make costly and more importantly unreliable wind and solar energy better because of dams water storage capacity. Wind power does have one possible advantage over dams though. They beautify the country side. I wonder how come there is not a windmill on about every fourth block in Portland and Seattle? I wonder if that is a NIMBY problem?

In conclusion, I support keeping the hydro system in operation. The dams have far more positive environmental impacts than negative ones.

Thank you.



Cliff Tacke

Greencreek, Idaho 83533

From: [Stephen Pfeiffer](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Lewiston Salmon Work Group Public Comment
Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 5:31:39 PM

Please consider the following as a submission for the public comment period at the Lewiston Salmon Work Group meeting:

Thanks to the Governor for creating this work group and acknowledging the dire state of our salmon and steelhead. It was an important first step, but now the process must be carried forward to create meaningful, timely recommendations that well represent Idaho's interests at the federal level.

It would be a disservice to Idahoans and citizens across the Pacific Northwest not to discuss all available recovery methods, including what has been scientifically shown to give Snake River salmon and steelhead the single best chance at recovery: breaching four dams and restoring a free flowing river.

I implore the work group members to speak honestly and candidly and to be guided by sound scientific advise. There is a future where wild salmon and steelhead can once again return to abundant, sustainable populations alongside thriving agricultural communities, but it will not be reached without difficult conversations and recommendations that diverge from the status quo.

Thank you,
Stephen Pfeiffer

--



Stephen Pfeiffer
Conservation Associate
Idaho Rivers United
208.343.7481 office
www.idahorivers.org

If you love a river... Take Action [Now](#).

From: [Rick Rupp](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Written Comments for the Salmon Work Group Committee
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:07:20 PM
Attachments: [Orcas To Governor Little.docx](#)

Dear Salmon Work Group Committee,

In my Orca attire, I had hoped to make these comments in person this last week in Lewiston. Without that opportunity here I submit my comments as a member of the Orcas of the Puget Sound or SRKW's- Southern Resident Killer Whales.

To Governor Little's Salmon Working Group 9/18/19

We Orcas from the Puget Sound traveled 500 miles up 8 dams. We've come a long way to say hello and support you on your mission.

My name is Mega, L-41 Puget Sound L Pod of the Southern Resident Killer Whales, SRKW, a Grandfather and very sad. My children and our pods are dying from starvation. We are facing an unwarranted extinction.

99% of our diet is salmon and 82% is Chinook. Salmon and Orcas are both on the endangered species list. Starvation for lack of Salmon is a NW issue. Orcas are starving for nutrition and sustenance, Communities are starving from lost economy's, Native Americans are starving for their lost culture. The NW cannot exist without this Keystone Species Salmon. We must follow the science and get on with the corrections.

To quote your Idaho Congressman Simpson, "we need our salmon back."

Preparing for our visit, we studied your area, organizations and your agenda.

We commend your visit to Dworshak. This dam initially destroyed the world's finest spawning grounds of the B-Run steelhead, but just maybe, because of Climate Change there's a silver lining. We have learned studies have shown Dworshak's waters will cool a free flowing Snake all the way to the Tri-Cities. . The Free Flowing Snake would become a superfast and less lethal Salmon highway to and from the Ocean. A first step to more Salmon.

However, we were bewildered with your visit to the Port of Lewiston, POL?? Our research shows the POL has little to no connection with the Snake river. Their 2020 budget shows "NO" revenue generated from the river. They do not ship wheat as everyone thinks. They employ less than ten people. There is no mention of fish in their marketing plan, none in their strategic plan and non in the operating goals and objectives. They words "FISH" and Salmon simply do not exist anywhere on their website. The POL has never proposed a program to improve the condition of the Salmon. Never recognized the economic hardship imposed on the local commercial and recreational fisherman and the economies of central Idaho. Never mentioned the economic benefit of millions of tourism dollars a year from a robust salmon population.

They have demonstrated neither the knowledge nor will to save the Salmon.

On the other hand, we Orca's noted the Nez Perce and their generations of caring for the Salmon. The Nez Perce actively employ hundreds bolstering the economies of No Idaho and SE Wa. They have worked tirelessly to get the salmon off the endangered species list. They want their fish back and going to make it happen. Their brothers and sisters of the Puget Sound support them.

We Orcas have seen the independent study of 34 accredited salmon scientist recommending the fastest and most effective way to increase the volume of Salmon is to breach the Lower 4 Snake river dams for long term sustainability. 19 of those 34 scientists are from Idaho. Who knows better how to get fish back. Have you listened to them???

50 years of dam history tells us a lot about the truth, the facts and the science. The dams have been an ecological disaster.

The federal agencies have failed the NorthWest or we wouldn't be here today. The State of Idaho can change that. Return to a Free Flowing Snake River and look for the return of salmon, better economics, return of culture to the Native Americans, besides significant contributions to the climate, flora and fauna of the Lower Snake River Valley.

The current system has failed us for years and it is broken. Change it to fix it for Salmon's sake.

Salmon is the Keystone Species of the NW-the common denominator of NW life. It is the healer of the communities, the life of powering economics, it's return is a winner for all.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to be here, to speak and support your program and efforts.

Sincerely, The Orca Pods of the Puget Sound Mega L-41

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Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to be here, to speak and support your program and efforts.

Sincerely, The Orca Pods of the Puget Sound Mega L-41

From: [Terry Myers](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Lewiston meeting comments
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 2:55:40 PM

September 24th 2019
Terry Myers
jntmyers@gmail.com
208 394-2126

Members of the Salmon Task Force,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment in regard to the September 20th meeting in Lewiston.

I appreciated the presentations by the Nimiipuu and their accomplishments on habitat work. Seeing restoration efforts far downstream of my home in the upper Salmon is a confirmation of the dedication that both professionals and volunteers in Idaho have when it comes to fish recovery. Traveling to Lewiston from Salmon is a reminder that anadromous fish habitat extends throughout the state and beyond. Recovery solutions in Idaho must follow the fish, even if it extends beyond our state boundaries. A narrower vision will not accomplish recovery goals.

I was also thankful of the presentations on Snake dams and their power generation. Perhaps the task force and the public would benefit from a counterpoint economic analysis of BPA's financial status and/or hear from an advocate of NW alternative energy possibilities.

One of the main hurdles of recovery seems to be pointing toward the barging needs of Palouse farmers. We learned that farmers need a fast and efficient means to get wheat to market. What does fast mean? Is barging subsidized, if so to what amount? What are some bottom line economic and logistical issues of barging? Further conversations and exploration of this topic is necessary.

I was concerned about comments from within the task force toward the end of the day that there will be areas where "we won't come together". This sounds self defeating so early in the process. I have faith in this group of "problem solvers" that with courage and innovative thinking, and a healthy respect for affected parties, difficult problems can and will be solved in an effort to save Idaho's salmon and steelhead runs.

Thank you again for your time and commitment toward one of Idaho's most precious natural resources.

Sincerely,
Terry Myers

PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE GOVERNOR'S
SALMON WORK GROUP
SEPT.30, 2019 LEWISTON IDAHO

submitted by Jerry Myers - North Fork, ID

Thank you for allowing me to comment and for your commitment.

My name is Jerry Myers and I live near Salmon, Idaho and am a recently retired river and fishing guide and outfitter of over 40 years. I believe that Idahoans can find a path forward. Success can only happen if those of us on all the different sides of Idaho's salmon issue agree to listen to each other's concerns and respectfully work to prevent a preventable extinction. We need to understand each other's points of view and trust the best available science.

I grew up 15 miles from this meeting place on a modest grain and cattle farm. I understand the value of having viable options for getting grain to markets. Barging being one of them. But after 40 years of promises that we can have healthy sustainable runs and an impounded river from Lewiston to Portland, Idaho's fishing families are realizing that we have a bleak future. We have lost faith in past recovery plans. This year will be one of the smallest runs ever recorded.

Palouse farmers and salmon steelhead fishing business have a lot in common. Beyond the economic reasons, we fish and farm because we have a connection to places, we value working outside, we are appreciative of the sustenance we receive from the land and the rivers. We raise our families in rural settings with neighbors we know and care about.

We know there are pressures Palouse farmers are facing. Many of these threats are outside of their control. So it is with those of us, who fish for a livelihood. If salmon and steelhead continue their decline, fishing will cease. Idaho will lose a lifestyle, we will lose a renewable bounty that has supported families, we will lose common ties that fishing brings to communities, we will lose a spiritual connection to those natural forces we cherish and respect. Extinction likely means that our unique salmon centric lifestyle and the small businesses that rely on salmon will be gone forever in Idaho, for us and for our children's children. A salmon economy cannot rebuild from nothing.

We need to spend time with each other in the cab's of combines during the wheat harvest, at salmon celebrations with the Tribes, in a drift boat on the Salmon River chasing a steelhead, at Dagger Falls witnessing the strength of salmon 750 miles from salt. We need not fix blame to anyone in particular. We

are all responsible for the dilemma in which we find ourselves. We need to reach out to our partners outside of this panel and make new connections. We can do this most difficult thing. We need to understand that we all stand to lose if we fail.

Thank you.

Governor's Salmon Workgroup Public Comment Form

Comments to the Governor's Salmon Workgroup will be accepted in-person or by email submitted to species@osc.idaho.gov

Date: 9/25/2019
Name: Judy Noel
Phone: 509 979-9933
Email: Judy.noel9933@gmail.com

Comments:

I was able to attend the Public Comment section of the Salmon subgroup meeting at the Idaho Fish and Game building on Friday, 9/20, 2019, in Lewiston. It was interesting to hear from so many different perspectives including biologists, tribal leaders, farmers, fishing guides and others. One idea that was repeated by just about everyone was that all the different stakeholders value the salmon and want to work together to solve the problem of the near extinction of the wild salmon. But where to start? I came away from the meeting feeling like the empirical evidence gathered through scientific inquiry should be an area that everyone can agree on. Yet different factions produce data that is contradictory. But "scientific evidence" should be irrefutable. If the studies were conducted correctly they should be reproducible. "Statistics don't lie but liars use statistics" is an age old adage. Clear away the misleading, incomplete, slanted data and you should have something that can stand. How many smolt make it to the ocean? What options for transportation are economically feasible? How much money is being spent on salmon restoration versus the value the dams produce? I understand that restoring wild salmon is an extremely complex issue. But we created this mess in about 50 years. Let's fix it!

From: [Species Conservation](#)
To: [Irina Voyce](#)
Subject: Office of Species Conservation Contact
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 4:02:36 PM

From: Darius Semmens at darius.semmens@gmail.com

Message Body:

Hello. I am writing to encourage you to invest in salmon recovery in Idaho. Yes, I see it as an investment because it will come with a cost, but it will provide even bigger returns in the future. The lower Snake River dams need to come out AND the wheat needs to get out. We need a solution that works for everyone, which means it may cost more that we would like but if that is the only way to get everyone on the same page then so be it – you've got my support. Hope it goes well on Friday.

Sincerely,
Darius Semmens
Research Physical Scientist, Rafter
Property owner, South Fork Salmon.

Testimony before the Idaho Salmon Task force
September 20, 2019
Lewiston, ID
Presented by Potlatch Joe Anderson

I am Joe Anderson from Potlatch, Idaho. I am fourth generation on our family farm that my great grandfather acquired in 1903. Since shipping on the River system became available from Lewiston, nearly 100% of my wheat and much of my edible legumes have gone down river to a facility for loading ocean going vessels. Maintaining this system of transportation is critical to my operation. I am basically in the business of exporting food to those in need all over the World and our river system provides a means to accomplish this Worldwide distribution in an environmentally sensitive and economically efficient way.

Today, I will not dwell on how many trucks or rail cars would be needed to replace barge shipping. Nor will I again point out the energy savings involved. Nor will I try to explain how many factors, some not well understood, effect fish survival and return. There will be conflicting testimony, exaggerations, accusations, enough as this hearing progresses.

What I will say is that we live in a World, in an environment, in a political and economic system, where tradeoffs are always necessary. Biology is not always an exactly science. There are many and, at times, conflicting factors that must be taken into account. How much weight should each of these factors receive? There will always be tradeoffs.

I will also say that attention needs to be taken as to cause and effect. Correlations do not establish cause and effect. At times we see more fish and at times less. In Nature, populations of species are cyclical. Just because there is a correlation in the number of a species with some factor does not establish cause and effect from that factor. Since the dams on the Lower Snake River have gone in, we have seen fish populations at lower levels at times, but we have also seen fish populations that have come upriver at an all-time high. There are many, many factors that enter into these cyclical variations. Since the dams have been put in place, efforts to sustain fish populations, as a whole, have been successful. Yesterday the Lewiston Tribune had front page head lines indicating that fall run steel head season may be curtailed (timely?). As we investigate, we must conclude that there are many factors, some as yet unknown that account for variations in this population. To conclude that the four dams on the Lower Snake River are the

cause of fewer fish does not properly take into account the various other factors that influence population variations.

There is no doubt that if we take hysteria and emotion out of the equation, and utilize the best science and technology, over time, we can maintain the Lower Snake River Dams and have sustainable fish populations.