

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

The status quo is not bringing back Idaho's fish.

My people believe in the false choice of having a healthy environment (i.e. thriving salmon and steelhead populations in America's northwestern waterways) or a thriving economy. Yet, even more people know that a healthy environment would lead to a much stronger economy—and a much stronger, healthier, happier society.

With which group of people do you identify?

Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

I applaud the Governor's salmon workgroup for recently agreeing on goals for fish that aim for levels of healthy and harvestable abundance.

I agree that all factors -- habitat, harvests, hatcheries, and hydropower (dams) - need to be addressed in their policy recommendations to Gov. Little, which include ideas on how to make the Snake River safer for migrating fish.

I expect the workgroup to continue making progress in order to take bold action to find solutions for salmon and steelhead and Idaho communities.

I ask your workgroup to urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, building a new, green and affordable energy future for Idaho and the Northwest, and ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future.

I am looking to Gov. Little and this workgroup to lead these ideas forward.

Regards,
jeremy fryberger
151 4th St W
Ketchum, ID 83340

As I could not attach or paste to your public contact form I am emailing this paper to you. the data included within this is USGS. It will be sent to each legislator, the Governor and the press. Not knowing what you can receive and in what format, I have pasted it below and have also attached it in word.

Ronald M. Harriman

Nampa

Salmon Recovery

Why Removing the Dams Should be Prevented

The water in the dams on the Snake during the spawning season is too hot for the fish. "When temperatures get above 68 degrees, salmon have problems", states Dennis McLerran, former regional administrator for the EPA in the Northwest. However, the river water filling the dams exceeds 68F during the spawning season.

It's time to drop the myths, pseudoscientific suppositions, and incomplete studies that have prevented effectively solving Salmon passage from the ocean to the spawning grounds. The dams are in place and the culture of the Northwest is built around them. Without dam's hydropower and irrigation water agricultural development of Southern Idaho would be limited including the Treasure Valley. It's been 60 years and \$17Billion wasted paying experts and attorneys with negative results. This debacle is a matter of reliance on and failure to research previous flawed reports. Whatever it might be; the conservation and environmental groups, in a pretense of saving the Salmon, are aiding in their annihilation.

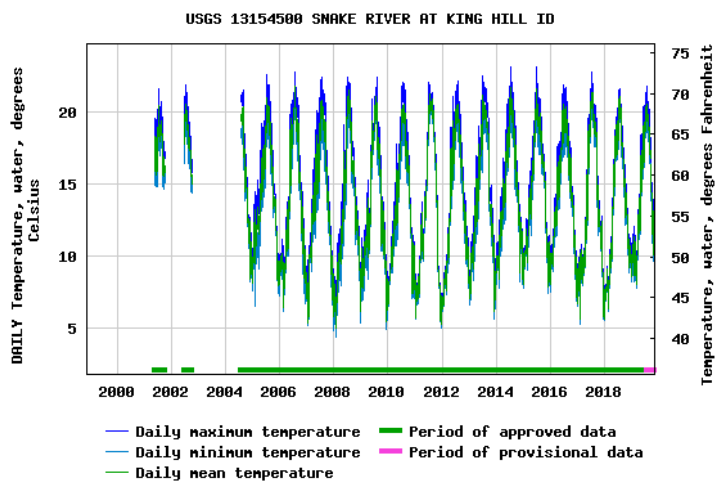
The water temperatures of the Columbia, Snake, and Salmon Rivers appear to be a natural condition that apparently existed prior to settlement. Frankly, not even the EPA has understood the fact that water temperatures of the rivers above the dams on these rivers exceed 70-75F or 15.56C during the spawning periods. The EPA has set a temperature for Cold Water Salmonid Spawning at 13.5C or 56.3F. This is not attained during anadromous fish spawning times south of the Clearwater Rivers or in Stanley Basin. Red Fish Lake averages 17.8C or 64F during spawning.



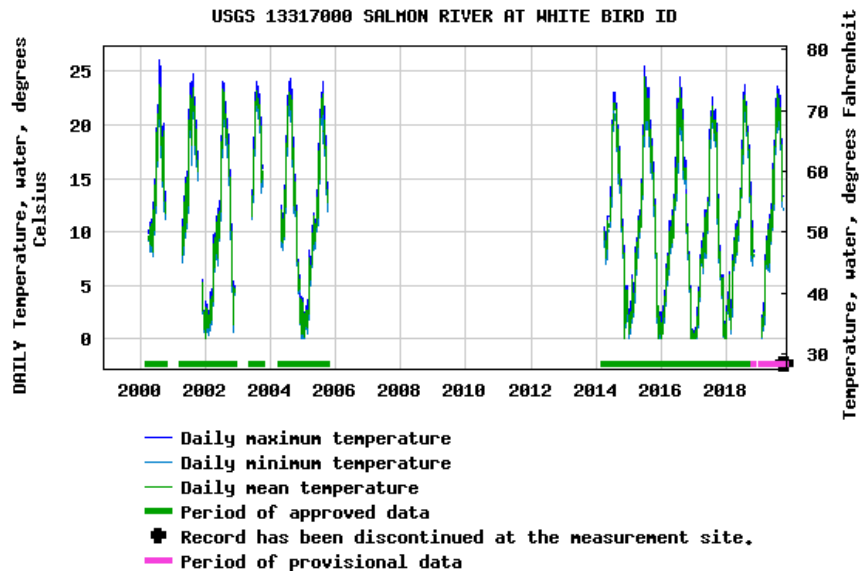
Backpacking trip along the Boise River shows extent of water pollution in Idaho.pdf2.pdf

USGS monitoring sites have been recording this prior to global warming. Two recording sites operated by the USGS above the dams posted below clearly show the temperatures during the summer months when the salmon spawn. (July 15-October 15)

The first records for 20 years at King Hill, Idaho on the **Snake River at 23C and 73F**.



The second at White Bird on the Salmon River 23C and 75F. Also 20years



This identifies the natural temperature as there are no dams on the free-flowing Salmon.

As there are many dams on the Snake River, the King Hill site was chosen as it is 12 miles downstream from the Bliss Dam, and represents the temperature of the tributary springs flowing into the Snake from the Snake River Plain Aquifer, which are recorded at 59F or 15C year around. This temperature is recorded on the sites of the Niagara Springs Steelhead Hatchery, the Clear Springs Private Fish Hatchery, and the Federal Hatchery in the Hagerman Valley.

No amount of work or expenditure will lower the water temperature of these rivers to 56.3F during spawning. As the fish exist, they must have adapted to these temperatures, but not the slack water of the dams. Also the atmospheric temperature worldwide has only risen 2.1F in the last 120 years. The answer appears to be the moving water of a river.

There is a solution that will keep the economies of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and allow the fish to recover. That is to reconstruct a river which would bypass the dams and allow the salmon to reach their historical spawning grounds. It should be designed to provide shade, Stones, and riffles to cool the water like a natural river. This would provide a continuous flow of water by-passing the dams from the spawning grounds to the ocean. The water required is 400-600 CFS would be less than Idaho's present allocation of 487,000 acre feet to spill water over the dams moving smolt down river. Without this the Sockeye are doomed.

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

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Regards,
Lindsay Kolpitcke
695 W Riodosa Dr
Meridian, ID 83642

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Regards,
Jesse Murphy
4156 N Eiguren Pl
Boise, ID 83703

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Regards,
Daniel Garipey
109 Greenhorn Rd
Hailey, ID 83333

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Jan Sommer
420 Mother Lode Loop
Hailey, ID 83333

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Regards,
Brady Turner
3678 S Caleb Pl
Meridian, ID 83642

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Jenny Estes
119 Highland St
Boise, ID 83706

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Regards,
Thomas Monge
100 Sun Valley Rd
Sun Valley, ID 83353

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Regards,
Karen Antram
3014 N Mountain Rd
Boise, ID 83702

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Regards,
Walter Gammill
483 S Walnut St
Boise, ID 83712

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Regards,
Wendy Shiell
6885 Fresno St
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

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Raymond Libby

505 Sitting Bull Rd
Sandpoint, ID 83864

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Regards,
Emily Berg
5235 W Morris Hill Rd
Boise, ID 83706

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Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

Not to mention the ecological impact lower salmon populations produce. Wildlife is an essential component to our state and we need to increase our salmon and steelhead populations!

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Heidi Mireles
2719 N 29th St
Boise, ID 83703

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Dane Stevens
2918 Woody Dr
Boise, ID 83703

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2704 S Shoshone St
Boise, ID 83705

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Johanna Denmark
1510 N 22nd St
Boise, ID 83702

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Regards,
Brent Davy
3742 S Caddis Pl
Boise, ID 83712

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Celicia Byington
1728 S Annett St
Boise, ID 83705

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Regards,
Jodie Moon
2308 N 26th St
Boise, ID 83702

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Regards,
Joan Reynolds
42 S River St
Hailey, ID 83333

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Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

Steelhead fishing has been an important part of our family's life as we make a trip every year to fish with other family members around Idaho.

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Regards,
Linda Larson
607 S Division Ave
Sandpoint, ID 83864

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Regards,
Jennifer Pierce
1201 N 16th St
Boise, ID 83702

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Jesika Harper
22541 N El Dorado Dr
Rathdrum, ID 83858

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Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

I applaud the Governor's salmon workgroup for recently agreeing on goals for fish that aim for levels of healthy and harvestable abundance.

I agree that all factors -- habitat, harvests, hatcheries, and hydropower (dams) - need to be addressed in their policy recommendations to Gov. Little, which include ideas on how to make the Snake River safer for migrating fish.

I expect the workgroup to continue making progress in order to take bold action to find solutions for salmon and steelhead and Idaho communities.

I ask your workgroup to urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, building a new, green and affordable energy future for Idaho and the Northwest, and ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future.

I am looking to Gov. Little and this workgroup to lead these ideas forward.

Regards,
Richard Williams
1538 Maricopa St
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

The status quo is not bringing back Idaho's fish!!!! REMOVE THE DAMS...salmon will go EXTINCT if the dams stay!!!! REMOVE THEM NOW!!!! THESE DAMS PROVIDE NO BENEFIT and ARE NOT OPERATING IN A FEASIBLE MANNER, INDEPENDENT FROM SAVING SALMON. IF THOSE DAMS STAY, IT IS ONLY CATERING TO CORRUPT CORPORATE INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE SALMON!!! YOUR CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THIS and we are a much much bigger portion of the Idaho economy than the BigAg ranchers, dairy industries. It is time you paid attention to the environment and citizens and not your corporate lobbyists!!!

Wildlife, ecosystems, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilit

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Regards,
Megan Davis
100 Sun Valley Rd
Sun Valley, ID 83353

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Regards,
Alida Bockino
1104 Pine Crest Rd
Moscow, ID 83843

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Regards,
Marilyn Olson
495 Deinhard Ln
Mccall, ID 83638

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

Idaho's salmon count has been dropping for years. We are now at the precipice of potentially losing them forever. We can find new ways to do business effectively, but we cannot bring back a species from extinction.

Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

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Please urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, building a new, green and affordable energy future for Idaho and the Northwest, and ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future. Most of all, we must have the wisdom and humility to accept and be guided by what the science tells us.

Please find a way, this year, to bring back Idaho's salmon for our future and our children's future.

Regards,
Lisa Hecht
4920 E Sagewood Dr
Boise, ID 83716

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

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Regards,
David Hoversland
100 Syringa Rd
Sun Valley, ID 83353

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Regards,
Robert Leth
3415 N Angie Cir
Coeur D'alene, ID 83815

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Regards,
Shayne Vinagre
684 Beach Haven Rd
Eastsound, WA 98245

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I appreciate the opportunity to write you a letter, and I hope that you'll consider what I have to say. There are many things that could help with the recovery of salmon and steelhead in Idaho but none greater than the removal of the four lower snake river dams. The removal of these dams is simply essential and I fully support measures to help ranchers farmers and other individuals that may be negatively affected by the dams removal, but let's be honest removing these dams is our only real shot at having sustainable healthy wild fish populations. I emphasize Wild Fish because hatchery fish have a negative impact upon wild salmon and steelhead populations and pumping more hatchery fish into the system is not the solution as you will see if you go to any of the hatcheries and look at the run data.

Please please please stand up for salmon and steelhead and urge the governor to push for dam removal, that is the only way we're going to really make aBy significant difference for these fish.

Regards,
Daniel Roper
2556 9th Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

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Regards,
Alan Reynolds
151 4th St W
Ketchum, ID 83340

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Regards,
Andre Kohler

403 S 10th Ave
Pocatello, ID 83201

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Regards,
Kelley Cooper
5418 N Liverpool Ave
Boise, ID 83714

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Regards,
Brenda Boyle
1106 E Washington St
Boise, ID 83712

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Regards,
Laura Rushing-Raynes

4986 E Sawmill Way
Boise, ID 83716

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Regards,
Jessie Campbell
1205 Kamiaken St
Moscow, ID 83843

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Regards,
Treacy Liebich
1650 E Holly St
Boise, ID 83712

A few years ago, after hiking out of the Sawtooth's with my nephews on their first backpack, we spent time watching salmon on their reds on the salmon. I explained the lifecycle of salmon and how rare it was to view their spawning. I fear they will never again witness this eons old natural event. Fast forward to today and, "We are all in this together", rings true across America today. Economic recovery is painful, requiring shared goals and cooperation lest we risk further loss. One of those goals must include recovery of Idaho's salmon and steelhead. This undertaking can grow jobs and biodiversity, across the Snake, Salmon and Columbia Rivers. The science has been clear for decades, the political leadership is slowly recognizing the potential economic and ecological benefits of harvestable populations. I am encouraged by the positions voiced by Senator Simpson, this Salmon Working Group and Lewiston business leaders.

Cheaper renewable energy production is collapsing and bankrupting the economic models of the regions antiquated hydro-dams. Now contemplate the scenario we are in today, precipitous economic times, meet abrupt economic opportunity.

Given the massive jobs loss and likelihood of a slow recovery, our elected leaders should recognize this as the perfect circumstance to work towards a "moon-shot" level strategic plan to recover the regions salmon and put people back to work. Thus, creating thousands of long term skilled jobs, by tactfully removing the four lower Snake dams, by rehabbing the watersheds and its many species, and by creating jobs built on renewable energy. Such restorative measures offer multiple advantages. Jobs and plentiful salmon runs will revitalize the historic values of fishing, reawaken the cultural values of river communities and the pride of the regions tribal nations and let us not forget, feed people. If we are to save Idaho's wild salmon runs, time is of the essence, please recognize that Idahoans of all walks expect this group to not let this opportunity to slip away.

Regards, Richard A Rusnak Jr
2400 S Wildrye
Nampa, 83686

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Regards,
Betty Hawkins
12338 N Humphreys Way
Boise, ID 83714

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Regards,
Phil Carney
1887 N Groveland Pl
Eagle, ID 83616

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Regards,
David Richardson
1155 N Garfield Ave
Pocatello, ID 83204

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Regards,
John Finlay
2840 W Cherry Ln Apt G207
Boise, ID 83705

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Regards,
Victoria Roper
820 S Main St
Hailey, ID 83333

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Regards,
David Klemer
103 Corrock Dr
Ketchum, ID 83340

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

The status quo is not bringing back Idaho's fish.

I am concerned about future generations ability to fish our rivers and streams and still have an abundance of healthy fish.

Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

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Regards,
Lori Salisbury
1121 Schneiders Rd
Sagle, ID 83860

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

As I have inferred in prior correspondence, urgent action is imperative and the status quo, after billions of dollars, is not going to recover Idaho's anadromous fish.

All stake holders are worried and dismayed by the dramatic and accelerating decline in salmonids, Besides Idaho's fish, people such as tribal nations, outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and river communities are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Additionally, Idaho irrigators, and farmers are also feeling the impacts of mitigation measures to recover salmon.

I applaud the Governor's salmon workgroup for recently agreeing on goals for fish that aim for levels of healthy and harvestable abundance.

I agree that all factors -- habitat, harvests, hatcheries, and hydropower (dams) - need to be addressed in their policy recommendations to Gov. Little, which include ideas on how to make the Snake River safer for migrating fish.

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Regards,
Richard Rusnak
2400 S Wildrye Way
Nampa, ID 83686

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

Greetings - Positive changes for salmon and steelhead need to start happening fast. It is encouraging that the Governor's salmon workgroup recently agreed on goals for healthy and harvestable levels of abundance.

All factors - habitat, harvests, hatcheries, and hydropower (dams) - need to be addressed in the Salmon Workgroup's policy recommendations to Governor Little; however, foremost is safe passage through the Snake and Columbia rivers.

I think it is time to commit to providing reliable transportation for goods shipped out of Lewiston, while removing dams that remain the greatest impediment for salmon and steelhead migrating in and out of Idaho since they were built. Although there are other pressures on our rivers and streams, dams remain the "charging elephant", while other impacts are not nearly as necessary to deal with in a short time frame. We can dance around this issue until the music stops, and no more wild salmon and steelhead return to Idaho, or we can address it now, using whatever means necessary to allow business interests to remain whole during the process. By subsidizing as necessary, both salmon and farmers can prosper in Idaho.

I believe time is of the essence in restoring wild anadromous fisheries in Idaho. Please step to the plate and do all you can to make this happen as soon as possible.

Regards,
Greg Mladenka
156 S 16th Ave
Pocatello, ID 83201

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

The status quo is not bringing back Idaho's fish.

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I expect the workgroup to continue making progress in order to take bold action to find solutions for salmon and steelhead and Idaho communities.

I ask your workgroup to urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead by supporting a transition to regenerative agricultural and natural resource management practices will provide ample benefits to the ecosystem while ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future.

I am looking to Gov. Little and this workgroup to lead these ideas forward.

Regards,
Amy Mattias
411 N River St
Hailey, ID 83333

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

The status quo is not bringing back Idaho's fish.

Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

I applaud the Governor's salmon workgroup for recently agreeing on goals for fish that aim for levels of healthy and harvestable abundance.

I agree that all factors -- habitat, harvests, hatcheries, and hydropower (dams) - need to be addressed in their policy recommendations to Gov. Little, which include ideas on how to make the Snake River safer for migrating fish.

I expect the workgroup to continue making progress in order to take bold action to find solutions for salmon and steelhead and Idaho communities.

I ask your workgroup to urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, building a new, green and affordable energy future for Idaho and the Northwest, and ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future.

I am looking to Gov. Little and this workgroup to lead these ideas forward.

Regards,
Gail Matthews
110 Mullan Ave W
Kellogg, ID 83837

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Regards,
Maria Held
240 W Concord St
Middleton, ID 83644

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

This task force has the opportunity to save the species by restoring migration of these fish. We have the technology to do this and replace any clean hydroelectric with alternative energy projects. Across party lines, these fish have deep meaning to most Idahoans. I pray you choose a legacy that put people and their love of the salmon above any special interests. If you do, I predict you will go down in history as one of the greatest leaders this state has ever had.

Regards,
Lorri Quas
4802 W Denton St
Boise, ID 83706

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Regards,
Butch Olson
10314 Turner Dr
Middleton, ID 83644

Governor's Salmon Workgroup Public Comment
Jean-Marie Bousquet
PO Box 5215 Ketchum, ID 83340
970-231-1380
thejeanbug@gmail.com
May 26, 2020

I made the decision to move to Idaho just under two years ago and I'd be bluffing if I didn't mention that much of the reasoning had to do with fly fishing. The allure of finally being able to fish for anadromous species close to home was more than exciting. Before moving, I researched a lot about Steelhead and on

one particular evening I landed on an article that read *"In one to three years, Steelhead migrate out of their biological streams and travel over 800 miles from the ocean inland to Idaho's Salmon, Snake and Clearwater rivers."* That statement had such an impact over me, and I couldn't help but feel a relatability to these fish, as I was about to be traveling the same distance in less than a couple days. Fast Forward 2020 and I'm an official Idaho resident and I'm just as, if not more allured by Steelhead. They are one of the few fish species that are truly memorable for everyone who has the pleasure of seeing one in person.

If we work collaboratively, I believe we have the opportunity to get more wild Steelhead into Idaho's existing healthy river habitat. I urge the salmon workgroup to keep making progress in order to take bold action to find solutions for salmon and steelhead and Idaho communities.

Thank you for your time reading my comment today, please help save Idaho's Steelhead so future generations can have a shot at enjoying a truly special experience

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

It is time to take action to save our salmon and steelhead with the removal of the 4 Snake River dams. All of your proposals can help but the dams remain the biggest obstacle to recovery.

Outfitters, guides, anglers, local businesses, and communities along our rivers are hurting because returns of salmon and steelhead are so low. Idaho utilities, irrigators, and farmers also pay a price.

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Please urge Gov. Little to embrace bold plans around saving Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, building a new, green and affordable energy future for Idaho and the Northwest, and ensuring farmers continue to prosper as a result of new, regional investments in our collective future.

Thank you for your efforts to move these ideas forward.

Regards,
SARAH MICHAEL
100 Sun Valley Rd
Sun Valley, ID 83353

Dear Governor's Salmon Workgroup Members,

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Regards,
Susan Grieger
2395 E Gloucester Pl
Boise, ID 83706

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Regards,
Teresa Browne
724 E McKinley St
Boise, ID 83712

Hi Salmon – Steelhead Working Group,

My name is Bruce Connery and I live in Teton County Idaho. Idaho's landscapes are unparalleled, mountains, peaks, grass and sagebrush hills, and rivers. These natural areas are why we ... I live here, to see, enjoy, and experience these areas. But the rivers are missing a key component, salmon and steelhead fish. The number of returning adults has declined to dangerously low levels, and they, I, all Idahoans are counting on this workgroup to find bold recommendations that will put these fish back in Idaho and in self-sustaining populations. These fish are an important to these rivers, to the mountains and forests, and to us and future generations.

The latest federal draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)(plan) has again failed to find solutions or offer recommendations to bring salmon, or steelhead, back to their native homeland, ..Idaho. Federal efforts and the groups (BPA, Etc.) responsible for safe passage for these fish from the ocean to Idaho have tried for more than two decades and spent billions of taxpayer dollars that has resulted in few or no fish reaching Idaho in the last few years. A lot of cost, ...NO benefit. What was tried has largely failed, and wasted valuable time regarding the recovery of these fish, and offered "NO" assurance to Idahoans that things will be better in the future. The fish, and we cant ... don't want to wait any longer to start the recovery.

New energy producers (wind, solar, geothermal, etc.) and energy efficiency are lessening the need for hydro energy, and it is time to take a careful look at the cost-benefit analysis in the EIS plan regarding a decision to retain or refurbish the decades-old hydro producers. I ask you to check the facts in the EIS plan, to confirm the numbers and information, and to use the information that is discovered and learned to build forward-looking recommendations. Recommendations that the workgroup will present to Governor Little that benefits Idahoans now and into the future. And recommendations the Governor can present and use in working with the Governors of neighboring states to recover salmon-steelhead and build a green affordable energy and economic future for Idaho and the Northwest States.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to Thank You for your time and effort on this critically important issue to Idaho and Idahoan's future....returning salmon and steelhead and doing so with a bold new energy plan.

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Regards,
Kyle Irby
3519 Rose Hill St
Boise, ID 83705

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Regards,
Rebecca Reed
11486 W Silverview St
Boise, ID 83713

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Regards,
Kenton carruth
110 Crosscut Ln
Ketchum, ID 83340

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Regards,
Sarah Burke
213 S 2nd St
Bellevue, ID 83313

Written Testimony Governor's Salmon Workgroup

28 May 2020

Bert Bowler

The Columbia River Basin is the most data rich watershed on the planet. The salmon and steelhead time-series data from the Snake River alone spans 70+ years. Restoring both wild and hatchery salmon and steelhead to abundances needed to satisfy ecological goals and harvest demands will require a free flowing lower Snake River.

The workgroup has already seen numerous presentations on the environmental variables that influence the lifecycle of Idaho's salmon. Of particular significance was today's presentation on marine derived nutrients supplied by abundant spawning salmon.

In the remaining time to a final report the schedule should include detailed reporting to the workgroup related to Congressman Mike Simpson's *What If question?* How to replenish the benefits of the lower Snake River dams and reservoirs if the dams are removed?

The completed policy recommendations should include levels of consensus. Suggestion – grade (A through F) the recommendations for the efficacy of meeting the workgroup goals.

Hatcheries – The efficacy of supplementation to bolster wild/natural fish populations is well documented in the Idaho Supplementation Studies 1991-2014 (23 years). IDFG, USFWS, Nez Perce and ShoBan tribes authored the report. *The sheer length and breath of the study make it one of the biggest manipulative experiments ever attempted in the fisheries field.*

Several report conclusions – out-of-basin effects (e.g. hydrosystem and ocean conditions) were the primary factors determining adult abundance and out weighed any supplementation effect. Unless the out-of-basin effects are ameliorated, increases resulting from supplementation are unlikely to persist.

David A. Cannamela, Boise, Idaho

Testimony for Governors Salmon Work Group, May 28, 2020.

I see that we are back to the 4 H's, though I have no idea why. I fail to see how following in the federal footsteps will lead us someplace other than where it led them.

The science, the empirical evidence, and five court cases (soon to be 6) make it abundantly clear and indisputable that there is only one H we need to be concerned with- the Habitat H. I don't mean spawning, rearing or even overwintering habitat, we've got the most and the best salmon production habitat anywhere in the world, and only 2% of it is occupied. Besides that, Mr. Beyeler and his crew are building more of it.

I'm referring to the migration corridor habitat that was once the lower Snake River; that 140-mile piece that had its identity stolen only to reappear as the Hydrosystem H.

There is no Hydrosystem H. I've never Heard of a river coming complete with a built-in Hydrosystem – have any of you?

The 4-H approach created by the federal government was a red-Herring-intended to keep us from addressing the 4 Ds, the concrete overshoes that have dragged our salmon, and salmon-dependent cultures, economies, and ecosystems to the bottom of salmon poaching Hot tubs.

In my not-so-Humble view, this group only has to do one thing: Be Honest. Tell the boss the truth about dams and salmon, namely that any plan to save salmon must start with restoring the lower Snake River.

After that, he can follow the science and join forces with Congressman Simpson, and governors Brown and Inslee to draft The lower Snake River Restoration and Salmon Recovery Mitigation

Plan or not. Either way, you will have done your job, leaving it to the citizens of Idaho and their governor to work it out.

I'd be willing to bet that Governor Little knows that there is no magic elixir, no HydroxychloroquinOncorhynchus that will fix this: The only magic is the magic that the River and only the River can perform.

We should welcome the opportunity to be part of one of the most promising and profitable restoration endeavors ever undertaken – our opportunity begins with reclaiming the migration corridor Habitat, which, in turn facilitates far-reaching and long-lasting cultural and economic prosperity.

For the record, Here's what I care about:

I care about salmon and orca and everything in between that relies on the life blood of salmon;

I care about the native peoples who are still waiting for reciprocity and promises-made to be fulfilled;

I care about the blue-collar workers who make an honest living on the backs of these fish; the outfitters and guides, hotel, motel, restaurant, gas station, and tackle shop owners and their employees- people who value the fish; as opposed to those who are Highly paid to defend useless, senescent dams to the benefit of the few and impoverishment of the many.

I care about the people who in good faith, have invested time, sweat, and our money to restore spawning and rearing habitat, and who will not be rewarded with the sight and sound of salmon until the salmon Harvesting Hydroblockage is removed.

I care about future generations and my obligation to them. I care that I can say that I did something, however small, to preserve the gift of salmon for them.

Breaching dams is NOT the solution:

May 29, 2020

Governor Little's Salmon/Steelhead Recovery Committee

Many years ago in a river that runs east to west before dumping into the ocean unique sub-species of fish was identified. Due to its long sloping forehead it was called a Steelhead. That river was the Thompson River in southern British Columbia. This fish was bigger in size and vastly superior in numbers than its counterparts to the south in the Columbia River system.

The official count of returning steelhead to the Thompson River at the end of 2019 was 86. Eighty-Six returning fish!!! (1)

The Thompson flows into the Fraser and hence into the Pacific and nowhere is there any mining, nor oil/gas, the agriculture is limited to bovine and population is limited until it empties into the ocean near Vancouver B.C., which is in proximal geographic location to it's sister river to the south.

There are NO DAMS on the Thompson/Fraser system! What they do have it's lots and lots of predators – birds, sea lions, seals – and miles and miles of an indiscriminate killing device called gill nets.

I demand that you do not fall into the regurgitated rhetoric of the eco-psychotics and tear down a single dam on the Columbia river system until you accurately and scientifically answer the question of why the number of steelhead on the Thompson has dropped so precipitously without the so called killing machine of the eco-psychotics, i.e., dams. The Columbia River topic is ample evidence of the ineffectiveness of micro-managing, and public involvement that includes too many publics who are non-involved. In reality, this is macro-meddling that predictably results in failure.

There is not a single federal or state agency nor a single federal or state employee that has the integrity of honesty, or backbone, to tackle the elephant in the room and that's the Indians and their gill nets! And do not fall victim to Hollywood's rhetoric about "tradition". *Running up and down the river in aluminum boats with outboard motors to drift nets or to retrieve set nets strung from any suitable location and then delivering fish to pick up trucks parked at boat launches is quite another matter (2).*

There is nothing "traditional" about aluminum boats stringing hundreds of yards of "traditional" nylon rope held up by "traditional" PVC milk jugs to salvage long dead fish to be hauled off to "traditional" asphalt parking lots and sold for six cans of "traditional" aluminum.

How about doing something that might actually benefit the fish! Ban all gill nets of whatever size and owner for ten years and observe the increase, or lack thereof, in the numbers of returning fish.

I do recognize that this is not the solution to end all solutions and that there is not one single solution that solves the complex problem. And unlike the eco-psychotics I do recognize that the dams provide an uninterrupted supply of "clean" electricity, flood control and a navigable river. The dams also provide for adult fish up and over and smolts, both naturally and hatchery produced, back down over them safely. But before we destroy these important infrastructural necessities, let's look at how others are dealing with their declining salmonid populations. We need to stay geographically and look northward to British Columbia. Specifically the Fraser, Skeena, Nass Rivers. Except for the Kenney Dam on the upper Neckako, a Fraser tributary, NONE of them are dammed and fish counts are still down!!!

The cost for this experiment is millions of dollars less than your pontifications to breach dams and is years and years less time than the effort to get a permit to breach in the first place.

Lonnie Mollberg, P.G., MBA
PO Box 51486
Idaho Falls, ID 83405

(1) October 24 update from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, B.C.

(2) Hooton, R.S., Skeena Steelhead Unknown past, Uncertain future, 2011

I have come to Idaho for the past 25 years to fish Steelhead in both the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers. Over these years it has become clear that the numbers of returning fish have significantly declined, and are nearing extinction. It is a concern for those of us who know these fish are the lifeblood of many small towns, as well as an icon unique to Idaho. Losing them would be a tragedy.

It's also clear that over the past 20+ years that the Army Corp, BPA, NOAA Fisheries and all State wildlife agencies have worked to recover these fish. However, it has not been successful. Let's be honest - trucking & barging out-migrating smolts, increased spill, habitat restoration in headwaters, and other actions recommended by BPA, USACOE, NOAA, and others have not worked. Why would we think doing more of the same will work now? It will not.

These fish are anadromous and require as unimpeded as possible access to both the ocean for out-migrants and to headwaters of their birth for returning spawning adults. The one action never yet tried is to remove the dams on the Snake River, and allow the fish an easier path to home or the ocean. These dams are not now needed. The power market has changed, and the dams on the Snake only contribute to the surplus level of power in the NW power grid. Barge traffic has decreased to the point that public money is needed to make it viable. Water for farmers is easily replaced by pumps. The dams are not necessary.

I have not come to Idaho to fish for the past 3 years because there are too few fish. I no longer spend the approx. \$6,000.00 I normally spend on lodging, food, gas, and other support. I love Idaho, and come for the recreational outdoor experience. That experience is no longer available, so I don't come.

You can fix this by supporting the one untried option - breaching the dams on the Snake. You owe it to the small towns on the Clearwater and Salmon rivers and owe it to Idaho to provide the increased fishing opportunity for both in-state and out-of-state people. /we want to come visit, but need a good reason. No fish means fewer visitors, and less economic support for small town Idaho.

Be bold. Take a path not yet taken. Advocate for breaching the dams on the Snake. Thank you!

Dr. Mark Rockwell

Dr. Mark Rockwell, D.C.
President & VP Conservation,
Northern Calif. Council,
Fly Fishers International
5033 Yapple Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
mrockwell1945@gmail.com
530 559-5759 (cell)