

As a taxpayer, and a lifelong Idahoan, I implore members of Governor Little's workgroup to acknowledge the validity of long term data on salmon runs, and to implement and execute a dam breaching plan for the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers now. Stop kicking the breaching can down the road!

Idaho community economies depend on these fisheries. Please don't sacrifice Idaho to preserve cheap shipping rates for grain exports to Asia, and to protect a select few Oregon/Washington agribusinesses.

Rampant dam building in the 1960/70s was a long term mistake, without environmental or economic considerations regarding ALL stakeholders, fish included.

Regards from an Idaho farm girl,

Lucy King Scopinich

Salmon are one of my family's staple foods, and an important part of our heritage as Idahoans. I don't have much optimism that the task force will, indeed, be willing to take bold action to recover Idaho's salmon and steelhead runs, but you, and we, must keep going down that road as long as the fish still exist.

I've lived near Payette Lake most of my life. Wild chinook and sockeye runs were documented at Big Payette Lake as early as the 1890's, and they came back until the construction of Black Canyon Dam near Emmett in 1924. Many decades and dams later, that seems a very distant historical fact, but it's important to remember and assert our history, good and bad, if there's to be any hope of changing course and sustaining our salmon.

At long last, Idaho's leaders must accept reality and agree that the lower Snake dams can and should go away. We - the vast, vast majority of Idahoans - can easily live without those dams, but not without the salmon and steelhead. These fish are lost through a death of a thousand cuts. You can help stop the bleeding, and I believe it is your duty to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

David Simmonds

PO Box 287

McCall, Idaho

Cell 208-634-6929

Hello - My name is Bill Schnupp and I have lived in Idaho for over 50 years.

The fish are an important part of what Idaho is and it makes me so sad to watch them fade away.

I appreciate the measures that have been taken thru the years to help them but, it's not working and we need to do more.

I hope we can.

Bill Schnupp

Dear Governor's Salmon Working Group,

Thank you for taking the time to read our comments, as Salmon & Steelhead are a sacred piece of Idaho's legend.

One of my most precious memories, was seeing Salmon spawn on the middle fork of the Salmon River in 2016. I was with my husband on our honeymoon fly-fishing for trout, when we walked up on the surreal sight of two Salmon spawning in a foot of water. Seeing their fins white from brutal travel, and their strength fading to eventually feed our rivers, wildlife & forests was something that will forever stay with me. From that moment on, I've had a bond with Salmon that has made me so proud to be an Idahoan.

I urge Governor Little to work with our Federal government to encourage the removal of the 4 lower Snake River dams. The only way to save Salmon & Steelhead is to restore the flow of the Salmon River; allowing spawning adult anadromous fish to return to their spawning grounds, and for smolts to safely navigate downriver to the ocean. We've spent far too much money and resources on repairing dams that don't work. We can ensure the health of our farms, and fisheries by removing the dams & investing in sustainable solutions. "To see what kind of salmon runs Idaho would have without the four dams, we need only look as far as the Yakima River basin, and other river systems in WA and OR. Salmon and steelhead originating in the Yakima must pass only four dams enroute to the ocean and back, and currently are rebuilding. Similarly, salmon runs in the John Day River (passing 3 dams to the ocean) and the Deschutes river (passing only 2 dams) are thriving. For Idaho fish, adding the four additional dams before 1975 proved to be too much. Historically, the Snake River populations were much more viable and productive than these other systems, and can be again if the four unnecessary dams are removed." As an Idahoan Native, I feel compelled to fight for these fish & the lodges and guides who make their livelihood around this fishery. Dams are a technology of our past, and it's time to move forward.

Please feel free to contact me for any further comment.

Thank you for your time,

Camille DeGabrielle
208-761-7718

Please support the removal of the lower 4 Snake river dams to save the salmon runs and improve our environment and economy of the Pacific Northwest. Thank you.

Eleanor Mattice

As an Idahoan, avid whitewater enthusiast, river-lover, hunter/fisher-woman, I would plead to the Governor's Salmon Workgroup to do everything we can to recover our anadromous fish populations. Salmon and steelhead recovery are vastly important for both economic and ecologic reasons. As a former Idaho County, Idaho resident (where the persons-in-poverty is a whopping 16.2% based on 2018 US Census), we should be doing all we can, based on scientific data, to recover our native fish populations and restoring natural riparian habitat for economics/tourism and so our residents may sustain the abilities to feed and provide for their families.

We are also seeing the increased benefits of wild places with the US ever-expanding population increase and urban sprawl. It is becoming more important to our citizens and visitors to maintain wild and open spaces and protect the flora and fauna that habitate and maintain these places.

We can clearly see with COVID-19 pandemic and crisis in the US, that decisions made on a solely economic basis are just plain bad all-around. The good news is fish recovery, specifically breaching Lower Salmon and Columbia river dams, is both good science and good economics for our wildlife and for Idahoans.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments.

Please think with your minds and your hearts.

Sincerely,

Jessi Smith

Dear Idaho Salmon Workgroup,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the precipitous decline in returning salmon & steelhead to Idaho. I know that this is a very delicate situation as many parties have a stake in this issue. For most of my life, I have felt that the Lower Snake and Columbia rivers dam system have been the primary factor in losing a large portion of our fish. These past few years; however, have led me to believe that there is something else going on--primarily in the ocean. It seems that, despite good water outflows to the ocean (which normally brings greater returns of fish to Idaho), the returning fish numbers have dropped. I believe our stream habitat in Idaho is great and is not causing fish fatality. Thus, the ocean is where the current issue lies.

The United States has a 200 mile exclusive economic zone. What kinds of activities does the US allow in this zone. Do they allow other countries to come into this zone and fish? Who monitors and regulates what commercial fishing takes place out there in this zone? Either the ocean is in a real bad state or

mankind is out there wreaking havoc. I am wondering if the U.S. could enforce a no fishing order for one year in this exclusive economic zone to see what kind of an impact that may have. This may seem extreme or excessive-yet extreme circumstances at times may require extreme measures.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your dedication to helping find a solution to this crisis.

Sincerely,

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Richard Hansen
Valley Insurance Center, Inc.
(208) 527-3494
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Dear Idaho Salmon Work Force,

I've watched a presentation previously given to your group in the January/February time frame . It is from the Rocky Mountain Research Station with Russ Thurow presenting. The statements and slides are all factually sourced and certified. The state of Idaho's anadromous fish is clearly defined and understandable. Idaho has the habitat for hundreds of thousands fish but needs returning fish to spawn. It is also clear why these fish are not returning. The science that everyone wants to see is defined.

The Salmon Work Force should be asking Idaho's Congressional elected officials why they defend the four dams on the Lower Snake River. For the sake of Idaho's fish they should state for the record, what benefit these dams create for the better good of Idaho. Then the citizens of Idaho can voice their agreement or not.

If one of those benefits is the Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only inland port, then they clearly need to define that benefit objectively. The Port of Lewiston business interest regarding the Lower Snake River is zero to negligible. The POL's budget reflects no revenue production from a river activity. The POL has never had a program to enhance Idaho's fish in 40 plus years of operation. Fish being of huge economic benefit seems to escape the POL's economic development scheme.

Please provide leadership for the Great State of Idaho. Let's get back the most important keystone species of the NorthWest—Salmon!

Rick Rupp

The most compelling reason to remove the Lower Snake dams and work towards restoring salmon and other anadromous fish runs is economic. Fish bring economic benefits to the communities along the rivers and the dams are no longer economically viable. It's time to end

the bureaucratic inertia and do what is right for the fish and for Idahoans. Please come up with a plan to remove the 4 Lower Snake dams and restore historic fish runs.

Cam Johnson

My comments to the Governor's Salmon Group are as follows:

As this group initiates developing recommendations to ensure that abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead will exist in Idaho, the recommendations must address the primary problem reducing salmon and steelhead populations in Idaho. The problem is there are not enough adult salmon and steelhead migrating from the Pacific Ocean to ensure abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead will exist in Idaho. The smolt-to-adult survivals (SARs) of Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and steelhead continue to fall well short of the 2%-6% SAR objectives needed to achieve salmon and steelhead populations. The 2%-6% SAR objective should be used to develop recommendations. Additional and improved hatchery installations are needed for recovery of Snake River anadromous salmon and steelhead to prevent extinction and recover salmon and steelhead populations. By increasing the number of smolts from improved hatchery installations, then you can increase the number of adult salmon and steelhead returning to Idaho.

The water temperature needs to be reduced in the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the mouth of the Clearwater River at Lewiston during July, August, and September. This group should recommend appropriate investigation, modeling, and standard water temperature standard setting to achieve 18 degree centigrade for cold aquatic species in this part of the Snake River. Salmon and steelhead need lower water temperatures than the present during the summer migration of these fish. This committee should also recommend opening the locks and spillways at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor Dams to reduce reservoir depth to reduce and minimize adverse temperature effects during July, August, and September during upstream salmon and steelhead migration.

With low salmon returns, there are fishing closures. Seasons get set and then closed, plans are dashed and disappointment/depression set in. You travel to places to enjoy fishing and catching salmon. Disappointment happens because there are no fish to catch. Businesses are closed because there are no fish. Forecasts for good salmon returns are made, but only the low numbers of fish return over the Snake River dams. The seasons are closed. Opportunities are taken away. Agencies develop Environmental Impact Statements that repeat past failures and spend more money without successful salmon recovery. Instead of fresh caught salmon to catch or buy at the grocery store, there are farm raised fish that this fisherman will not eat because of the poor taste and chemicals added to make the fish look like salmon. Fishery management agencies spend lots of money counting fish, adjusting limits, and closing areas to fishing. Grandchildren don't get to fish for salmon. Nature lovers don't get to view salmon spawning in Idaho streams. Idaho

salmon and steelhead guides don't have clients so they go out of business. Why should we spend hard earned money and not catch fish? When there are not enough fish, people don't get to fish. Recommendations are needed to be made that supports our outdoor lifestyle and heritage. Salmon and steelhead fishing has been taken away from me and it is time that you make recommendations that return the fish to abundant and sustainable populations to the public to enjoy in Idaho.

Thanks.

Don Vernon

Middleton, ID

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Growing up in Salmon, I saw the boom and bust economies of mining and logging. The one thing that has remained a constant is the river and the quality of life it has afforded to so many of us, including myself. After completing grad school, I CHOSE to move back to Salmon because this place has a way of getting under the skin. I now have two girls that I am raising in a town with a namesake that they've never seen and if we continue on this path, never will. Salmon and steelhead have always been an integral part of this ecosystem, culture, and community and now we are at a critical tipping point. I know that in order to bring the salmon and steelhead back in abundance it will require admirable amounts of leadership, collaboration, and ingenuity, but I also know that this feat is not unprecedented. Humans have accomplished so many incredible milestones, and I believe that we can overcome this challenge because we too are like the fish, full of determination and perseverance. The people of Idaho, including Governor Little have the opportunity to take a meaningful leadership role and champion the return of our fish. I'm asking you to please urge Governor Little to be bold, creative, and undaunted. We need to work together to do what it takes to bring abundant runs back. These fish matter in countless ways not only to the generations before me, but also to the future generations of Idaho.

Thank you.

Jo Philpott

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jolmyers@gmail.com

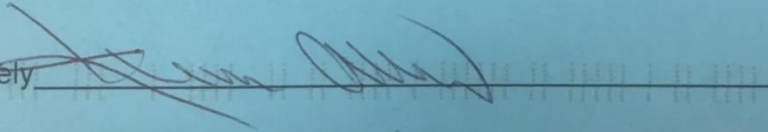
March 2020

To the Governor's Salmon Workgroup-

I am a proud consumer of United Electric Co-op, headquartered in Heyburn, Idaho. BPA sells its clean hydroelectricity to not-for-profit utilities like United Electric. I support the BPA hydroelectric system, including the four lower Snake River dams, and the communities that rely on them for irrigation, drinking water, transportation, and affordable electricity. Removing the dams will significantly impact the livelihood of those who live in communities like ours. We need to help the salmon but tearing out dams isn't the answer.

I urge the Workgroup to focus on recommendations that are less controversial and can be implemented in Idaho now – items such as improvement of habitat and hatcheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be a name with a surname.

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