

Comments for the Governor's Salmon Workgroup

December 4, 2020

Date: 11/30/2020

Name: Janet Higbee-Robinson

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Comment: Governors, Thank you for meeting about species conservation. For the survival of the Chinook Salmon, and thus the Southern Resident Orcas who feed almost exclusively upon them, it is imperative that the Lower 4 Snake River Dams be breached. Other measures, like running water over dams during peak spawning, have not been significantly effective. The dams are expensive for tax payers as they are and now require extensive costly repairs. They are 50 years old and agreements made with tribes were that they would come down at this time. Instead of reservoir water, farmers can use river water directly. Renewable energy must replace electricity as we face the realities of a planet in collapse. We have an opportunity to allow the Columbia River Basin to become once again a healthy system for life, one that saves Salmonids and provides for interconnected diversity. This area can become a model for the rest of the country and world as prime habitat for restoration, like the Elwha and now the Klamath. Do the right action, as fisheries experts, Salmonid scientists and Tribal leaders advise. Breach the lower 4 dams of the Snake River.

Name: Chris Pinney retired in Dec 2018 due CRSO deceit after 28 years (1991 sockeye listing) as Corps-Walla Walla Fishery Biologist/Salmon Passage and Lifecycle Demographics to Extinction RM&E Subject Matter Expert for regional coordination

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Comments:

My previous written comments appear to have never attached to your link. I wonder how many written comments that your system has not allowed to be actually uploaded or attached over the last year? The above link from this form has not worked for me, so I have had to do a go-around, as they say, to get a subset on your record.

My primary frustration is nothing new based toward this Idaho Gov Salmon WG as being just another victim of a decadal set of secondary, wasteful, heavily NWPCC/BPA directed and subverted processes mused to be doing something for Columbia River basin salmon and steelhead. Based on my experiences over 28 years, the dead-end sightedness by these arrogant corporate powers and purse-string command-and-controllers has once again wasted a high potentially fruitful endeavor towards actual meaningful salmon survival, recovery, and sustainable spawner abundance of critical wild remnants on expanded critical habitats under 'normative' hydraulic processes and functions. No degree of spill has ever or will ever prove to give the direct and latent freshwater survivals required to protect and expedite these salmon

lifestages and lifehistory types. Hatchery 'supplementation' experimentation has routinely failed only to lead to a much slower death to extirpation, then imminent extinction, even though it may sparsely and sporadically postpone some totality of complete salmon dependent and commonly held and legally recognized goods to all economic sectors. Back to my primary frustration, other than the WG structure's handlers taking extreme opportunity and advantage of the corona-virus pandemic safe policies and behaviours to suppress any meaningful public review and involvement, lies within your non-use of career experienced experts on all aspects of the hydrosystem.

Your IDFG salmon subject matter experts have been well-known through the region as, and well-formed by their institutions, fish biologists from the hatchery, harvest, and some limited habitat funded sectors within the state, whereas the Snake River (and Columbia River with some Oregon science base) hydrosystem science informing base lives and works in Washington. Not only that, but the WG basically just ignores the critical conditions imposing of the hydrosystem since the late 1950s. A greater than 2 steps back for every non-step forward processing that is still more political and corporate (including the military stovepiping) then science and Tribal treaty justice. As Jim Lichatowich's initial book 'Salmon without Rivers' elegantly describes that since following glaciation when the more ancient salmonids could first run all the way to utilize the ocean's foodweb production, and the mainstem channel was dominated in line with the Clearwater River runoff/flood regime over the mid-upper (what is now) Snake River tributarying arm (what was then), there would be no anadromy to what is now Idaho waters and habitats to spawn and rear without what is now Washington connecting waters. It is too late in your 'process' to re-attach my litany of comments in hopes that they would be incorporated and investigated, so I will attach just a few recent streams to document my continue frustrations in the salmon recovery hope.

I sincerely hope and pray/prey that the WG does not just defer policy and meaningful action to the next 'better' solidarity wishful process deemed the 4 Govners' Collaboration, just so that more wasted funded streams keep flowing into agency coffers while they are allowed to increasingly collect such endless monies from their truly mislead and dis-informed taxpayers and ratepayers. Beware, the CRSO process is now being vehemently exposed for its fraudulent management and authoritative qualitative-only babble content by up to the third new lawsuit on the CRSO and its BiOp to date. Even the long-running critical dam supporting irrigation lobbyists have actually contacted and interviewed the rail owners and operators of the rail lines that already exists and have ample capacity between Lewiston and Pasco if ag commodity barging is ceased through reservoir evacuation via dam breaching. They documented that such rail line operators were never contacted and questioned for data or operational capability discussion by the Corps, BPA, or BOR and/or their typical non-competitive awarded contractors for economic evaluation from WSU. The irrigation consortium is proposing a compromising spillway crest drawdown of Lower Granite and Little Goose reservoirs in order to get some salmon and cooling waters reconnection benefits beyond spill while protecting their Ice Harbor irrigation pumping. All shipping out of Lewiston will be by the 'ghost' (I suppose) rail lines that now exist. Smolt transport would be only at Lower Monumental, which is counter to the Corps' plans to shut that infrastructure down due to costs over-budgeting not warranted by the no benefit to salmon spawner returns (just like they did to McNary in mid-2000s). Still higher spill at all the rest projects. This is just a regurgitation of the Corps proposed (Draft EIS and BiOp supported)

biological drawdown testing for 1994 follow-up to the biologically successful 1992 Drawdown Test of Lower Granite and Little Goose projects. But Little Goose was not drawn down to spillway crest in 1992, only about 15 feet to accommodate the open gate spill of Lower Granite flows while keeping the adult passage operational. So, irrigators fail to do their due diligence in that if Little Goose is down to spillway crest outflowing, then Lower Monumental would require drawdown at least 15-20 feet deep to accommodate the Little Goose operational change (dependent upon inflow regime and seasonal frequency analysis for around the test period), and Ice harbor would not be functional as the indexing data collection site that would have possibly been comparable to the 1961 data collection start date when the upper three reservoirs did not exist, preconstruction, free-flowing (Raymond's 1965 through 1988 studies serving as the damn impact standard for historical comparison of salmon life-history type survivals).

From WG's October 2020 meeting:

From Me to Everyone: 09:24 AM what about the needs for continued litigation? - #6+ just put in the books.

Mr. Pinney, the chat is for Workgroup members only. You can submit written comment here: <https://species.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/82/2019/09/Public-Comment-Form-Salmon-Workgroup.pdf> From Me to Crystal Callahan (she/her): (Privately) 10:09 AM From Crystal Callahan (she/her) to Me: (Privately) 09:24 AM

From Me to Crystal Callahan (she/her): (Privately) : Not very transparent, following the WG structure to discriminate away from actual expertise from decadal experienced SR salmon production and ecology/hydraulic RM&E, those worked/working all lifestages in mainstem impacts affecting the seeding of your Idaho habitats. More and more silence on the part of the public is directly related to the public's loosing of confidence in this WG's stringing along. Only the guides are getting the WG internal pressures to pub comment, as usual in just another NWPPC/BPA managed project front. I will written comment once again in hopes that the public's and salmon's voices on what is truly needed for recovery for all will someday be purposefully addressed.

From Me to Everyone: 10:53 AM due flex and max spill... up to 10% lower damn survival at the few damns actually tested, hence >10% lower reach survivals in NOAA PIT-tag detection runs. BiOp spill was worked out due TDG and recirculating hydraulics in tailraces, BUT hardly even enough of a bandaid for even required survivals to keep even hatchery parr and smolts viable.

From Mike Edmondson to Me: (Privately) 10:58 AM Chris, the chat function is not intended for members of the public. I appreciate your knowledge, but please do not further group message. We will have to enforce our rules and ask you to leave the meeting if you continue to chat the entire Zoom meeting.

From Me to Mike Edmondson: (Privately): Not very transparent, following the WG structure to discriminate away from actual expertise from decadal experienced SR salmon production and ecology/hydraulic RM&E, those worked/working all lifestages in mainstem impacts affecting the seeding of your Idaho habitats. More and more silence on the part of the public is directly related

to the public's loosing of confidence in this WG's stringing along. Only the guides are getting the WG internal pressures to pub comment, as usual in just another NWPPC/BPA managed project front. I will written comment once again in hopes that the public's and salmon's voices on what is truly needed for recovery for all will someday be purposefully addressed.

From Will Hart/Idaho to Everyone: 11:01 AM I believe this chat area is for work group members?

From Crystal Callahan (she/her) to Everyone: 11:03 AM
Will, that is correct. It is posted in our Zoom guidelines shown during breaks.

From Mike Edmondson to Me: (Privately) 02:32 PM Thanks. I can talk offline later this week if you want. I appreciated all your contributions during the CRSO process, as painful as it was.

From Scott Hauser to Everyone: 02:58 PM
https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/OrcaTaskForce_FinalReportandRecommendations_11.07.19.pdf

From a recent Letter to the Editor submittal to Walla Walla's UB:

Be thankful that Biden/Harris will appoint competent leadership to immediately right all the wrongs bullied by the loser's cesspool of goons and convicts. The salmon quasi-extinction surgeon NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom will finally be replaced after his five loser-out litigation forays, ceasing his directed subversion to the Four Governor's Collaboration, ad infinitum. The dinosaurs assigned to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council need replacement, especially Idaho's Yost, for perpetuating salmon's slow death via Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) purse-string laundering covered by nondisclosure gag agreements.

The Federal agency deceit in dealing away their legal obligations to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has gone on as planned by the military stove-piping and their puppet-master pseudo-business BPA throughout my pre-retirement 28 years as Corps-Walla Walla Fisheries Biologist Subject Matter Expert for ESA salmon and steelhead Research Monitoring and Evaluation, passage and lifecycle survival, and risk probability modeling for extinction versus required recovery, clearly mandated in the ESA.

My scientific work and collaborations as Lead Biologist for the scientific and engineering for the 2002 Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) on Snake River salmon recommended in the Draft FR/EIS and its Draft Biological Opinion, signed by then NOAA Regional Administrator Will Stelle (until the strong-armed recant) that it was necessary to start the four dam and reservoir breaching process, since every other adaptive management 'experiment' had failed (smolt transport, side-channels, bypass and turbine repairs) or was in the overly-expensive process of failing (spill, production hatcheries mitigation). Just throwing money on paper for contrived structural technology jobbing and operational bandaids was not possible to 'save' these salmon stocks or their ecosystem functions.

Only a true and full 'normative' hydraulic channel geomorphology restoration in the Snake River mainstem to free-flowing form and function for wild fish recreating 140 miles of spawning, rearing, and cooling-water habitats re-connected back to sinuous rapid-run-pool configuration for which these species evolved would suffice.

I retired in 2018 partially in response to how BPA was accruing collateral-damage for the most experienced scientists' careers when their mantras from policy lawyers pre-designed the Columbia River Systems Operation EIS to be a well-commanded and controlled socially dis-informing deceptive 'qualitative'-only babble.

The UB needs to seek and speak truth in their editorials. Everyone, contact and dialogue with all your elected officials.

In closing.

Lower Snake River dam breaching with reservoir evacuation must be a WG recommendation to your Governor and legislature, just as Cecil Andrus and IDFG (interesting there was no Conservation branch entity to collect the monies and time and defer IDFG science) knew what had to be done. Do not defer to the 4 Gov Collaboration process. Idaho's common good (includes heavily on tribal rights ownership in critical recovery management) of salmon and free-flowing mainstem habitat expansion and healthy norm ecology is dependent on this WG's support for dam breaching, and not another status quo deadening bureaucratic process steered and lead by the same old NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom (which will and should be replaced under the new Federal administration of Biden/Harris), and those old dinosaurs of hydro-structural-protection-at-any-cost that are assigned to NWPPC, but never updated or evolved, beginning with your Idaho's Jim Yost who refers to wind turbines as Beanie Babies.

I defer the rest of my time to the next experienced hydrosystem scientist.

Thank You for Your Time, and Take Care in Further Hunkering Down due these Pandemic Episode Contortions,

Chris Pinney
Walla Walla, WA

Not now and never did agree with the Corps' lack of caring for our natural common goods owned, but rarely managed anymore, for the all the public including a concerning retribution for the inhumane colonization and resource extraction of each affected Tribe, whether officially recognized or not by the US governing schemes. Upon their forced removals to join the Yakama reservation under sheriff's sirens blaring, the Corps was promising the Palouse People's elders that they would return their river back in 50 years, the expected and planned life cycle expectancy of Lower monumental damn at the time. Near Seattle, the Palouse's Hereditary Chief passed away this past June by a major heart attack awaiting the promise to be fulfilled after having to shut down his march weeks early for breaching the 4 LSR damns due to the beginning of the coronavirus scare. Can we repatriate Jesse and his ancestors to be buried with their canoes back to their ancestral Palouse homelands? Please, push the right recommendation... breach and

evacuate immediately for all salmon, all Chinook dependent orca, and all humans (should be the 5th H).

For Salmon Restoration, Orca survival, and benefit of Mother Earth, please remove the lower 4 snake river dams.

Thanks very much,

Rusty West, Climate Action Youth Monthly Zoom Activity Coordinator
Climate Action Families (home of Plant-for-the-Planet Washington, Climate Action Youth, & Climate Kids)
mobile: 206-909-3664
rustytwest@gmail.com climateactionfamilies.org

Dear Work Group members,

Thank you for the numerous hours you have invested in tackling one of the most important issues of our time and place - the near extinction of Idaho's salmon. I appreciate your commitment to the urgent task of restoring Idaho salmon to abundance.

I'm sharing an excellent and indepth article by Seattle Times writer Lynda Mapes. She eloquently conveys an amazing story of a people who have made their home in Idaho for tens of thousands of years and for whom salmon are so much more than a fish.

Thanks.
Liz Paul
208-570-3013
Lizpaul16152@gmail.com

Dear OSC,

I am a Washingtonian who is concerned about the health of the Orcas living in the pacific. This dam removal is crucial to sustaining our ecosystems and a healthy salmon and orca population. Here is why the Snake River Dams should be removed.

The snake river dams are no longer economically viable, with a benefit cost ratio of 15 cents on the dollar according to Earth Economics. Snake River returns are currently unsustainable, and we've spent billions of dollars on other solutions with nothing, I repeat nothing, to show for it. The southern resident orcas get more than 50% of their Chinook salmon from the Columbia River, which Snake River is the largest tributary. The Dams are relied on by farmers and irrigators for wheat shipping with barges and for irrigation, but this can be fixed with slightly improved rail infrastructure and stronger pipes that go lower. The dams produce some hydropower, but it's a surplus and can be replaced with no new fossil fuel infrastructure,

according to the Northwest Energy Coalition. If we were to replace the power, we would still have a benefit cost ratio of 4 dollars on the dollar, as opposed to 15 cents.

Please consider this. It is imperative to our local environment that this action towards the Snake River Dam is executed as soon as possible.

Nicholas Chang

To Whom It May Concern:

Any conversation about Pacific salmon conservation must include dam removal as an option to save salmon. This is especially true when considering salmon in the Snake River basin.

The Snake River dams have for decades deprived tribes of their ancestral ways of life; deprived orcas of their primary food source; and, with a cost-benefit ratio of 15 cents to the dollar, has been expensive for stakeholders.

Often the topic of dam removal is dismissed by stakeholders who rely upon riverway shipping and reservoir irrigation. We already have extensive rail and irrigation infrastructure, we need only improve it to make dam removal a reality.

Please free the Snake!

Best,
Sam Bovarnick

I offer two links to studies that for the most part are now and have been overlooked although supporting reports have been available for a number of years. The unavoidable conclusions must become part of the Salmon Working Groups data if the group will have any validity. Governor Little for the most part has ignored or never received emails cover this subject and it is important for the success of salmon recovery that he is aware of these documents and should be briefed on this issue.

Ronald M. Harriman

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/faf.12514>
<https://wsfb.com/new-research-reveals-flawed-approach-to-salmon-recovery-programs/>

To whom this may concern,

Hello, my name is Elizah and I am a resident of Washington state. I care deeply about our planet and the life on it. I request that you please include Snake River dam removal in the conversation in your upcoming meeting.

The snake river dam is hurting the fishers and fisheries. It also is a very low source of income now, making it less valuable economically.

The Snake River dam is unsustainable, and is hurting and will continue to hurt many.

Thank you,
Elizah, 13 years

Dear Workgroup members,

The comments I have spoken aloud at the past 3 meetings/public comment periods are posted at this [link](#).

<https://damsense.org/idaho-governors-salmon-workgroup/>

All three of my spoken comments have been about the failure of the group to discuss the breach alternative for salmon recovery.

Sincerely,

Nina Sarmiento

Outreach – Dam Sense
Info@damsense.org

Date: 2 December 2020

Name: Chris Pinney retired in Dec 2018 due CRSO deceit after 28 years (1991 sockeye listing) as Corps-Walla Walla Fishery Biologist/Salmon Passage and Lifecycle Demographics to Extinction RM&E Subject Matter Expert for regional coordination

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Comments:

I applaud the WG administrators on getting the presentations by date of meeting and written public comment documented by date of meeting to the species.idaho.org website. I would like to re-iterate that the verbal public comment 3 minute clips are worthy of more than just ‘notes’, especially in the proportional dominance of pleas for a must recommendation in addressing critical and required dam breaching and reservoir evacuation. Are these meetings in their entirety recorded, hence each 3 minutes has also been recorded to indicate to the Governorship the public outcry for enough status quo, Idaho must address breaching dams and reservoir evacuations in the WG’s recommendations? Breaching of any one of the lower Snake dams can occur within a couple months during a winter maintenance outage of the adult ladders that is annually scheduled

at each dam project. What the Corps has spent on navigation lock repairs alone over the past 10 years would pay for a breach of two dam projects.

Even in lieu of the IGSWG subgroups not having consultation access with those directly career experienced hydro H 'subject matter expertise' for your alternative developing and ranking dialogues, but the Answer and its justification your WG has sought is in the book size ppt that Russ Thurow of USFS Research Station for habitat has graciously gave the WG in your January 17-18 2020 agenda in Boise (20_Gov-WorkGroup_Thurow_Show.ppsx), as clearly supported by many of the other biological science presentations provided by such experts in their field such as IDFG's Tim Copeland (CopelandGovSalmonWGOct2019 (1).pptx), et al, on October 30 2019. The problem remains that the WG pseudo-'consensus' building process that clearly appears to be overly-steered by the usual NPPC and BPA et al set-ups (including newer third party consortium contributions to get the most active players to the 'next process') through funding promises until the monies have to be re-allocated due their business modeling plans and loosing revenue streams due inappropriate management of their institutions remains status quo in that NPCC and BPA never truly listened to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB's) deliberations, let alone the ISAB's requested experiments or implementations for monitoring of any required 'normative' river functions (other than some minimized monkeying-around with spill, which was only sequentially forced by 3 separate courts that were actually seeking reservoir drawdowns and/or dam breaching, for which only the Corps' Walla Walla District's Draft 2002 Feasibility Study Report/ Environmental Impact Statement for lower Snake River salmon survival (and recovery) had the nerve to recommend the start of the breaching authorization and implementation process, for which it successfully collaborated for in NMFS's Draft Biological Opinion in justifying and supporting, finally after the Power Act of 1980 players and previous BPA-Corps EIS have clearly failed to do.

The issue to Snake River sub-basin salmon recoveries is still and always has been seeding adequate spawners to fill critical redd densities to near density-dependence distributed across the vast range of Idaho's upper basin stream spawning habitats (the good old fish science demographic standard on redd production, not NMFS' upper dam passage metric-ing and indexing), as addressed in Russ Thurow's ppt. Just like 30+ years ago when it was known that only dam breaching (reservoir evacuations) to normative free-flowing functions and ecology will not only extend an additional 140 river miles of spawning, rearing, and cooling water hydraulic habitat quantity and quality, but dam breaching will increase the SARs to adequately seed through less stressful dispersion of spawners to fill and diversify these capacities. The restoration through reverse type conversion under normative hydraulics of these 140 river miles of the lower Snake River mainstem gets the salmon >58 rapid-run-deeper pool complexes re-connected to cooling in-channel springs and intergravel aquifer inputs, especially in quite deep Anchor (pre-Ice Harbor damn) and Palouse/Pataha Canyons (pre-Lower Monumental damn). And, the few remaining beavers building dens in the docks of boat basins will expand significantly once again in the free-flowing mainstem to re-establish a robust distribution of actual in-channel lodge complexes and additional shallower pool ecologies.

Dam breaching must be an IGSWG recommendation and directive. If unjustifiably and ill-legally side-stepped once more, then the WG will just dead-end in adding to the not passing any 'red-face' tests that are routinely used informally by the military and other institutionalized agencies,

although the handler agencies have been ‘normalized’ in their acceptance of being accustomed to not externally express or acknowledge any ‘defeat’ in losing 5 salmon survival and recovery lawsuits, plus a few other extreme water quality and contracting lawsuits.

Spilling more volume at slowing increasing rates through time has been a 2-edged and multiple-edged cutting sword that does not repair or compensate for the systematic deleterious impacts of single dam and/or multiple dam passes and/or migrations. We have painstakingly learned over the past 40+ years, beginning with the spill during each multiple year construction events of each dam, that just spilling more water, and especially the newer surface passage spill phenomenon(s) that the combination of surface spill limited at only 7 kcfs of elevated heated shallower waters out of 30-60+ kcfs for each dam only creates powerful counter-intuitive eddying throughout the tailwaters that result in recirculating vulnerable smolt proportions back into the vertical TDG supersaturated violence and damage of the energy dissipating stilling basins, as well as hydraulic and/or temperature blockage of adult spawners to the ladder entrances. In order to reduce the eddying dis-effects of hotter surface water (common laws of physics principles that heat always rises) plunging for added TDG supersat and peeling off from the bulked flow within the tailwaters to recirculate smolts and block/confuse/delay adult passage for days (until operation of spill is reduced and powerhouse unit outflows are increased for sweeping, but slower hydraulic vectoring), the dam must increase volumes of deeper water kcfs bulks emitted through certain patterns of the traditional deeper spillbays (at 50 feet) for ‘entraining’ or ‘training’ the hydraulic pull of fish downriver. Even though the single only surface spillbay at the concentrated 7 kcfs becomes a washout, to the point that the ‘up to 125% TDG’ higher spill in 2018-2019, then the 2020 ‘flex’ spill hour blocks of ‘up to 125% TDG (but was hopeful for up to 130% TDG ops, but routinely unachievable in even any low frequency in actually getting fish downriver effectively, as our datasets clearly showed) actually showed in the 2020 analyses and evaluations that the usual higher spill survival for surface passage given to that higher concentration of spring Chinook smolts became lower than that recorded for the usually lower survival indexing for the vastly increasing bulks of traditional deeper spill. Unmeasured latent mortality due increasing spill regime shifts is only never been considered because, like most latent mortality due specific deciphered passage routes, is too difficult to tease out of the SAR calculations, even for those routes that NMFS make monies on from Corps and BPA, such as smolt transportation.

Adequate existing capacity for shifting agricultural product shipment to existing (supposedly ‘ghost’) rail lines are already present and operating, if the agencies would honestly ask the existing actual owners and operators of such lines, instead of referring to hearsay of the lobbying port reps. Why didn’t WG’s David Doeringsfeld for Lewiston Port make this information known to CRSO WG or pre-selected Preferred Alternative signatories, or did they not consult him for his usual deceitful disinformation and/or hidden realities? Or, did he just give them his smug look that we all saw on screen today alongside the other 4 of his sister ‘can’t touch my subsidies’ industry rep-pers on the WG, because this WG is just another cooked up poisoning drill that will be taken care of once again by their powers that have always been.

Irrigation screens in Ice Harbor pool only need updating along with extended piping with relatively cheap investment (mitigation for an original resource depleting wrong remains questionable, but the political realms will easily get that worked out quite quickly).

Several salmon economy dependent Tribes will rightfully get a greater proportion of their colonized Treaty promised home waters, homelands, and food resources returned to them, so their members can justly and truly move to realizing their Creator-given sustenance once again after it was dishonestly and forcibly taken away from them multiple generations again. Each lower Snake River dam was designed and constructed with no flood control capabilities and options. Just the opposite actually occurs aka the freeboard boondoggle in Lewiston and Clarkston due to placement and location and highest frequency flows for Lower Granite dam. The flood stage forced spill managed during the 1996-97 and 2013 and 2017 etc spates actually rattled the gates and spillway walls to a degree of extreme risk of losing it concern, especially in 1996-97 when the spillbay 1 cofferdam for flip construction was blasted out into the tailwaters downriver.

In conclusion, the WG was not really allowed to successfully accomplish a meaningful and realistic scientific and socially acceptable (pseudo-mitigated) path back to salmon abundance and distribution for which Rep Simpson intended by the end of his lifetime (or start of his death), and for which he asked Gov Little to have due diligence towards. Likely, Rep Simpson was correct in asking for a revised Power Act #2 to get what he sought for, instead of the continual handling of the bureaucratic ‘willful ignorance’ once again prevailed, in time memorial without the required change in leadership. I recommend a requirement that the dissenting opinions from the WG members that were spearheaded away from even mentioning any deliberated consideration dialogue on recommending a dam breaching and reservoir draining strategy or plan develop their logic in their dissenting opinion votes in the forms of an accompanying letter to the report (as well as in the proposed Appendix for ‘non-considerers’), and letters to the Governor and media. Also for the record, include those high ranked status quo minimized recommendations for which you did not fully agree consensus on and for which the ranking scaled table was excommunicated.

Does not the more recent lawsuit filings defining several additional rounds against the Snake River salmon ‘saving’ status quo failures of the Federal non-action agencies’ NEPA and ESA documents really make this IGSWG outcome just another mute point with no real applicable substance toward ‘saving’ and rebuilding stocks to ‘fishable’ abundances. The demographic standard needs to return to maximal redd counts and distributions near carrying capacity of the old remnant and protected pristine habitats including the newer restored natal stream and mainstem river habitats realized by dam breaches and reservoir draining. With the recent lawsuit #6 against CRSO and its NOAA BiOp by EarthJustice leading signatories to include newer partners Columbia RiverKeepers (yes, the ones with the successful court decision on rectifying the Columbia and Snake rivers water temperature heating due reservoir operations) and Idaho Conservation League, et al, to also include lawsuit #2 on same by headed by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, et al and a possible #3 on same by some Tribes and possible partners, I have come to accept the paraphrased adage by the highly respected salmon ecology researcher Dennis Dauble. Dennis’ ecology group shop worked under the Dept of Energy’s PNNL-Battle for decades leading the good old robust science investigative endeavors of the once standard Hypothesis Testing experimentation funded by the Corps, BPA, PUD, et al contracted and/or MIPR-ed, specifically their set of breach/drawdown evaluations that favored and justified necessity for breaching for which his shop produced for BPA across the spectrum of the CRB

dams and reservoirs (the same or similar also for which USGS-Cook lab research and statistical scientists independently verified and added substance to in the realms of predator controlling mechanisms and changing physical processes deemed by the Corps as ‘show stoppers’ but did not pan out as ‘show stoppers’ or poison pills once due diligently investigated and modeled). BPA thought funding an experienced DOE lab would get the BPA outcome results sought in the reporting, but when Battelle did honest work and reporting with vast regional collaboration on ranking and dialoguing to get to necessary breaching and/or drawdowns for reservoir evacuations to thwart non-native predator life-stage production, as well as salmon migration rate benefits to increased reach survivals, then BPA cut their funding to the point of reducing the study to near nothing. Battle published their methodology, process, and results with management discussion in its fullness anyway. When queried by other retired agency biologist researchers on speaking on the ongoing salmon fiasco of anywhere in the basin Dennis transmits and alludes to (like near all of the high respected biologist out here, retired or still serving, that are not trying to re-sell their institutional dis-informational mantras to the same institutions): ‘the level or degree of honest scientific re-education to the detail required to convince the bureaucratic engraving of the public to implement the necessary actions for meaningful salmon recovery that has been developed over the past decades would take too long and be too difficult to break through their ‘willful ignorance’ façade in order to accomplish in due time to prevent the imminent rate to extirpation that we are experiencing’ (paraphrased from its multiple explanative forms for which I have heard it stated). The leadership paradigms and ‘processes to process static progress’ has to have a directed substantive change if any hope remains to thwart Snake and certain Columbia river salmon ESU and steelhead DPS extinctions, including the failing deal of genetic engineering of increasingly domesticated ‘wild hopeful still’ sockeye which appear to be falsely appear to be the best strategy, but has been supplanted by the releases back to Redfish Lake for volitional and traditional sockeye spawning and production towards retaining wild phenology adaptabilities has proven to be the real honest hope of any stock preservation. Enough said, recommend an emergency 4 dam breach and propose tighter evaluation of at least minimally required summer seasonal drawdowns of John Day and/or McNary and Chief Joseph dams (and please fight to have the name of Chief Joseph dam replaced with something that is not a slap in the face of the Nez Perce ancestry and their Treaty Right salmon and ecological functionality).

Thanks for your time,

I will continue to pray for Idaho’s citizens and Tribal members that have unjustly lost their rights for their iconic salmon economy, with only the same old status quo minimizing prospects and misdirected false-mitigation schemes thrown at their increasingly marketed tax- and rate-payer expenditures that will not recovery salmon, but only increase the complexity of why the stocks went extinct soooo fast.

Chris Pinney
Walla Walla, WA

Dear Idaho Governor's Workgroup,

As a science teacher (now retired) I have enjoyed helping young people understand the vast importance of healthy salmon runs to all of the peoples of the PNW and Alaska. We have together watched the dam systems evolve on the Columbia and Snake Rivers with promises of accommodating the passage of salmon. We have followed the data and noted with great concern the continued and ongoing decline in salmon migrations.

While the many reasons for this decline are notable, the dam systems are the main barrier today. It is now time for all to recognize the extreme importance of breaching the LSRD to allow the natural passage of salmon. Now is the hour, time is our enemy least we continue to cause the extinction of this great and irreplaceable resource.

I ask you today to take action. Demand that the LSRD be breached.
Richard DeBusman

Hello,

My name is Buck Drew, DDS. I live in Ketchum, Idaho. My phone # is 208-309-2555.

I would like to thank Governor Little's Workgroup for studying and considering all options for wild salmon and steelhead.

I have practiced dentistry in the communities of Salmon and Ketchum over the past forty years. I chose to live and work in Idaho shortly after earning my graduate degree. I raised my children in Idaho because our state has what other states have lost to development: natural beauty and wild places.

One feature that sets our state apart from the others is our beautiful clean, cold rivers. These rivers and their ability to produce wild fish should never be taken for granted. Many people in the U.S., or the world for that matter, would enjoy having the opportunity to harvest wild salmon and steelhead.

I am hopeful the salmon workgroup will support bold solutions. The status quo will lead to the extinction of this valuable resource. The workgroup needs to work on solutions that will recover Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead.

Value comes from possessing those things others cannot.

Thank you,

Dr. Buck Drew
P.O. Box 899
Ketchum, ID 83340

Dear Governor Little & the Species Conservation Group;

In appreciation and respect for your committed involvement and time, I'm going to be brief and straight. This may be the only opportunity in each of your lives to make a lasting impression and difference. To do something that pays genuine homage to Idaho's natural history. To do something that will leave a proud legacy for countless generations to follow our brief time. Embrace this rare and incredibly short opportunity to save the wild salmon and steelhead that took countless thousands of years to evolve in our clear and cold mountain waters. Do it now. If it means breaching four dams, do it now.

Leave your mark on this world.

Thank You,

Rob Santa

102 Dakota Road

Indian Creek Ranch

Hailey, ID 83333

c. 208 720 2648

* 42 year Idaho resident & voter

Please prioritize the removal of the four lower Snake River dams to increase the Chinook salmon population. Salmon are crucial to the Northwest economy and are threatened with extinction. We need to save our salmon to protect tourism, fishing, tribal communities, and the environment.

The lower Snake River dams result in high mortality rates of adult and juvenile salmon. These four dams obstruct 140 miles of prime salmon migration waterways. These dams supply only 4% of the region's electricity based on a study by Energy Strategies. This energy can affordably be replaced with clean energy such as wind and solar. The lower Snake River dams are obsolete and inefficient, they generate their peak power during spring runoff when the region's demand for power is low. These dams are aging and require complex retrofitting expected to exceed \$1 billion.

Dam removal is a proven river restoration tool to revive rivers and salmon populations. Idahoans will reap the benefits of the dam removal for centuries through recreation and food. The removal of these four dams is essential to preserve our way of life for future generations.

Thank you for your time.

Madeline Burke

206-631-0729

maddieburke@gmail.com

Name: Chris Pinney retired in Dec 2018 due CRSO deceit after 28 years (1991 sockeye listing) as Corps-Walla Walla Fishery Biologist/Salmon Passage and Lifecycle Demographics to Extinction RM&E Subject Matter Expert for regional coordination

Phone: 5093010105

Email: wwpinneys@gmail.com

Comments:

Most recent Letter to the Editor submitted Union-Bulletin, Walla Walla, on 3 Dec 2020.

Suggested Title: “as if there were safety in stupidity alone.” H.D. Thoreau

-or- “it takes two to speak the truth – one to speak, and another to hear.” H.D. Thoreau

In dissent for all U-B’s unfiltered opinionated editorials blindly accepting Federal hogwash on Snake River operations without any investigative journalism, aided by their poster-children John McKern and Gene Spangrude’s twisting old data and truth, I fact check:

Everyone, please support necessary dam breaching actions that are coming. Please dialogue with every elected official for President Biden to Executive Order Sen. Tom Udall’s (D-NM) 372 Resolution for conservation protection of 30% of US lands and ocean/waters by 2030, thus ensuring critical connectivity of our natural arteries and veins for sustaining all our rightful common goods by demanding that breaching Snake River dams/reservoirs as emergency action for salmon recovery.

The Federal fraud, as strategized by the Corps of Engineers and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under puppet-master pseudo-agency Bonneville Power Administration policy honks, has run its course throughout my 28 years as Walla Walla District FishBio / Subject Matter Expert on Snake/ Columbia river salmon life-stage passage survival band-aiding for their increasing risk to extinction versus recovery. My old standard scientific-principled work and collaborations as Lead compiling the 2002 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Biological Opinion (BiOp) on Snake River salmon passage survival along Department of Energy 'contractors' at Battelle, Universities, independents, NOAA, and the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB), and states/tribes modelers recommended the Draft EIS and NOAA’s BiOp’s necessary start to process breaching Alt4 since every other adaptive management 'experimenting' had failed or was failing: technology and hatchery mitigation was incapable toward 'saving' salmon and their ecosystems away from extirpation. Only true and full 'normative' hydraulic restorative free-flowing mainstem geomorphology over and under 140 miles of re-created spawning, rearing and cooling-water habitats for wild genotypes and phenotypes for which they evolved, via dam breaching and reservoir evacuation, would suffice.

Retiring in 2018 due more disgust of being rabbit-holed in yet another EIS and BiOp (my 15th with 5 litigations, and now the 6th, 7th, and 8th in the making) with another go-around for water quality compliance (>18 years of blatant disrespectful, dis-responsible, and unlawful ignorances) for non-repair under same puppets dangling from BPA coffers’ hush-ordering schemes towards near all who dare speak in questioning their strategic extinction spiraling, led me to

refuse any more professional collateral-damage stylized abuse. They know honest scientists' voices that justify the bold actions sought for repair of the rivers and ocean plumes necessary to recover salmon smolt-to-adult (SAR 4-6%) survivals beyond delisting and recovery.

Chris Pinney

Walla Walla

It is high time for the governor's salmon work group to openly admit that Lower Snake River dam removal is the only realistic measure for recovering Idaho's salmon and to start negotiating implementation proposals that can be accepted by all stakeholders.

Barging, increased spill, and habitat enhancements are costly band-aids that have utterly failed to recover our salmon. Only by removing the primary threat to their recovery, the Lower Snake dams, can we restore our native salmon runs to their historic potential.

Erik Shultz
208-340-3397
erikbschultz@mac.com

The Board of Directors of the River Of No Return chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to share our letter to Governor Little. We also wanted to thank the Work Group for all the dedicated work toward making a future in Idaho, a future with salmon and steelhead.

Dec 3, 2020

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Dear Governor Little,

Thank you for your leadership and continued efforts to find a lasting solution that will restore sustainable returns of salmon and steelhead back to their home waters here in Idaho. We are the Board of Directors of the River of No Return Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The twelve of us represent approximately eighty local TU sportsmen and sportswomen who have prioritized recovery of salmon and steelhead as the number one issue in the Upper Salmon River region.

Our spectacular river, our independent rural community and the rugged mountains that surround us all take their name from these incredible fish. As residents of rural Idaho, we find a significant part of our identity from salmon and steelhead, it's our culture and tradition, our history, our economy and most importantly, our future.

Idaho salmon and steelhead will not survive much longer unless we decide to work together to implement some difficult tasks ahead. That involves working toward a more natural river system

while insuring that infrastructure is put in place to provide electrical power and transportation options that meet the needs of the affected parties. It's a big lift, but it is possible.

Losing salmon and steelhead forever, due to lack of effort, will never be an option. We should commit our most herculean efforts toward a future that includes having Idaho's waterways once again teeming with these amazing animals.

Governor Little, you have seen the success central Idaho citizens have had by working together to restore many miles of fish habitat in the Salmon River basin. That collaboration can work on a much larger scale with high level leadership. Our community stands ready to help you in any way we can.

Respectfully,

The Board of Directors, River of No Return Chapter of Trout Unlimited (RNRTU)

Terry Myers, RNRTU President

Terry is a co-manager of a small remote ranch near North Fork, a retired guide, grandmother of 5 and community organizer. She counts steelhead fishing and efforts toward recovery as her number one passion.

Stephanie Smith Latham, RNRTU Vice President

Stephanie is an avid outdoors woman. She wants her children and grandchildren to witness the wonder, beauty and challenge of salmon as she has. She wants our generation to be remembered for what we cherished and preserved vs reviled for what we lost.

Jeff Knudson, RNRTU Secretary

Jeff is an Assistant Fire Manager for the BLM in Salmon and the father of two children, an Idaho river guide and Environmental Science major at BSU. I see wild salmon and steelhead as the heartbeat of our great state and a legacy that we must pass on to future generations.

Gail Baer, RNRTU Treasure

I was born and raised in Colorado without anadromous fish. I have lived in Idaho since 1989 and have found the wildlife here an incredible asset. I currently live in Salmon, ID. named after the fish that were so common in these waters. I am so impressed that fish swim over 900 miles to and from the ocean to this area and I'm so disappointed that they are all but devoid from here. I would love to live to see the day that as many anadromous fish species frequent the waters of the upper Salmon River watershed as the day I was born in 1957!

Jim Juza, RNRTU Director

I have been involved in fishing and guiding for over 55 years. I spent over 40 years on the Middle Fork and have guided on the Main Salmon since 1985. The steelhead fishing over that time has been sporadic at best. We have the best spawning habitat for not only anadromous fish but resident fish anywhere. We need to seek a solution to improve the down stream conditions for fish and also be beneficial to those down stream interests. It would be great if we could all come together as the landowners and conservation interests have done on the Lemhi.

Tony Latham, RNRTU Director

Tony is a retired Idaho Conservation Officer, ex-steelhead outfitter, and author of several books. He has witnessed Lemhi County's salmon fishery disappear and fears the same for steelhead.

Jerry Myers, RNRTU Director.

Terry's husband and co-manager of the same aforementioned ranch. Retired river outfitter and restoration project manager. Jerry was born and raised on a ranch near a steelhead stream in the Clearwater River country. He finds life's meaning sharing Idaho's wild lands and rivers with the other wild critters.

Hanna Branz, RNRTU Director

Hannah is a natural resource professional who assists in managing local public land and water. She helps run the family cattle ranch and supports her partner's outfitting business. Hannah was born and raised in Ohio, but identifies Idaho as her home where she is an avid steelhead angler, hunter and horseman.

Gary Power, RNRTU Director

Gary is a retired IDFG Regional Supervisor, Former IDFG Commissioner, and whitewater boatman and fishing guide. Gary has spent the last 50 years working and recreating in the Clearwater, Selway, and Salmon River country and remembers what it was like catching salmon in drainages which have been closed for over 45 years. Hopefully through collaboration we can once again see them in harvestable numbers.

Tom Tremain, RNRTU Director

Tom is a semi-retired RN and fishing guide. A native of Nebraska, he has been floating Idaho rivers for forty years. He has witnessed the decline in salmon and steelhead populations and hopes we can reverse the trend.

Thyra Warren, RNRTU Director

Thyra is an outsider of the Lemhi Valley. Over thirty years ago she came here to the valley to become a river guide, then an outfitter and a retail business owner. She raised two children to appreciate the clean flowing waters, the majestic mountains and the amazing outdoor opportunities. The passion of her mentor to recover steelhead and salmon in the Lemhi Valley and beyond caused her to become involved with Trout Unlimited and the desire to restore steelhead and salmon to their natural habitat.

Cassidy Fry, RNRTU Director

As an owner of The Village at North Fork, a business which has thrived serving fishermen and rafters for over 100 years, I would like to hear our customers talk about salmon and steelhead in the present tense again. As a soon-to-be mother, I hope my kids are not only able to fish for salmon and steelhead, but also learn about the amazing round-trip journey to and from Idaho waters. These fish fight their way here, the very least we can do is fight to ensure they are around for a long time.

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for taking the time and energy to work on this very important issue. Salmon have tremendous environmental, historical, economic and emotional meaning for Idaho and its citizens.

I urge you to consider removing the four lower Snake dams as a solution to restoring these iconic fish. After the enormous sums of money spent to research the issue and to implement only partially successful measures, I believe we always end up back where we started....at dam removal as the solution.

I know that there are many implications of such removal for farmers, irrigators, shipping companies, and others. I believe that you all are collectively smart enough to figure out to make everyone whole....and to prevent the extinction of our beloved salmon. I am counting on you.

With thanks, Elaine French
Box 9320, Ketchum ID 83340

I have lived in Idaho all my adult life and have watched for the last 25 years or so the failure of every attempt to restore salmon. I love Idaho's wild country and wild species and have spent a lot of time working to protect it for my children and grandchildren. I've seen these magnificent creatures spawn in the Salmon River. I fear that soon we will have to change the name to the Salmonless River. But I still have hope that the Governor's work group will take bold action to bring back the salmon.

Billions of dollars and huge amounts of Idaho's water have gone to these failed attempts to protect salmon. Why is Idaho continuing to sacrifice our water to a lost cause? We have learned over time that the only measure that will work is to remove the 4 Lower Snake dams.

Please proceed with discussions that will build a new energy future for the Northwest and for Idaho and help farmers and stakeholders to continue to prosper. Idaho's economy and natural heritage will benefit greatly from the return of historic numbers of fish!

Sincerely,
Linn Kincannon
820 CD Olena Drive
Hailey, ID 83333