

Meeting of the Governor's Salmon Working Group

6-28-2019 - Boise

See sign in sheet for attendance

Meeting started 8:08 am

Welcome and Intro

- Scott Pugrud -thanks for coming, great turnout
 - Proceedings are being recorded for a possible documentation
 - Katherine Himes, thank you for co-facilitating
 - Invited students
 - Thank you, State Historic Preservation Office, for organizing the space
 - Excited for the process and to see what results
- Member Intro
 - Each member introduced name and who they are representing
- Idaho State Museum Staff describe space and artifacts
 - Were closed for 4 years and recently opened in October of 2018
 - The Idaho room we're in now is a rentable space for events
 - Encourage you to visit museum

Governor's Welcome

- Thank you, museum, for the space
- Thank you, workgroup members, for agreeing to participate. This is an important group for Idaho
- Idaho always does better when we come together for collective solutions
- Breaching would be high hurdle. I want to be upfront that I do not believe at this time that breaching dams would recover salmon
 - For now, the group should avoid the breaching question and address other aspects of salmon recovery to develop a collaborative solution going forward
- I believe operational and infrastructure solutions are the answer to salmon recovery, especially as ocean conditions improve
- We should be proud of the efforts Idaho has already done on salmon recovery and water management
 - Idaho leads the nation in innovative ways, hatcheries, and science in broader Norwest salmon recovery
- Not interested in efforts to reinvent wheel of efforts that are being done elsewhere
 - Am interested in realistic actions from the workgroup and possibly recommendations for discontinuing programs that are found to not be effective
 - Process requires ensuring regulations do not unduly burden Idaho citizens
- What is currently happening in with dams

- Federal government is in the tail end of a study on how operation of federal dams on Columbia and Snake can be done to maximize fish survival
- A recent flexible spill agreement has been reached
 - This agreement needs time to succeed
- At the end of the day we are here to achieve salmon recovery

Questions for Governor

- Justin Hayes (Idaho Conservation League) Governor, thank you for workgroup but you've done it a disservice by putting sideboards on it. Putting limits on the effectiveness of workgroup by stating what is not on the table.
 - Governor Little Response – Perhaps you misinterpreted my position. The issue is that we don't want to focus on one issue at the expense of exploring others. If it's all about breaching then we are likely not going to get anywhere.
- Hayes - I will take that as a clarification, and its not all about breaching for me but working together for a solution
- The workgroup being dedicated to salmon recovery makes me excited, I am encouraged by the dedicated effort of this group
 - Governor – the science shows that there are many aspects to issue and I think its important to bring a collective of groups like this together to be able to address as much as possible
- Joe Oatman – Nez Perce – Salmon are important for salmon treaty fishing rights
 - Tribe is ready to explore all options for salmon recovery to support abundant and sustainable salmon and steelhead populations

Facilitators Comments

- Presentation on the value of collaboration (Katherine Himes, U of I McClure Center)
 - Other people have faced similar challenges and have found a way forward
 - This presentation is to show successful efforts
 - Aspara River
 - Owyhee Initiative

Group Perspectives

Workgroup members state what they've done and what they expect from the Workgroup

- **Brian Brooks** Idaho Wildlife Federation
 - IWF is one of oldest hunting and fishing organizations, founded in 1936
 - Salmon populations and fishing is an issue that our group focuses on
 - Our message is frank: we want our fish back
 - Acknowledge that issue is complex both politically and ecologically
 - Acknowledge that there have been many efforts done
 - Hatcheries have been really beneficial for rural communities that rely on salmon returns

- Despite efforts fish are still not here and people are hurting
- If we don't allow our salmon to meet the proper smolt to adult return ratio (SAR) then they will be gone, and we will lose a part of our economy we will never get back
- Big issue for us is smolt to adult return ratio
- We do not want salmon back at any effort whatsoever, there is an important human impact to consider
- **Will Hart (Idaho Utilities Organization)**
 - Represent rate payers
 - Have seen rate payers pay upwards of 17 billion dollars on salmon efforts
 - Want science based and cost-effective solution
 - We provide power to 137,000 Idahoans
 - Want to protect green hydro power that backs up solar and wind
 - Anything we do in this room should complement the NOAA study that is going on right now
- **Richard Scully (Sportsman Rep)**
 - Grew up in Idaho in Lewiston
 - Spent a lot of time on rivers
 - What fisherman want are seasons that are long, with a reasonable limit, with the expectation that healthy populations will persist now and future generations.
 - Need to have wild fish and can't rely too much on hatcheries
 - To many issues with disease and narrowing of genetic diversity
 - We need to have a smolt to adult return between 2-6%
 - That's recovery looks like
- **Brett Dumas (Idaho Power)**
 - Hells Canyon Complex is nexus of Idaho Power and fish recovery
 - Idaho Power has been involved in salmon management for at least 50 years
 - Have been operating hatcheries for over 50 years
 - Produce over 7 million smolts
 - Conservation efforts have been implemented by Idaho Power
 - Operation of the Hells Canyon complex is highly focused on salmon recovery
 - In early 1990s, the redd counts were in the 10s now they are in the 1000s to tens of 1000s.
 - One of our goals is to see realistic recovery goals and metrics
 - Resilient sustainable populations of anadromous fish are essential to our flexibility to operate dams
- **Michael Gibson (Trout Unlimited)**
 - Our mission is to conserve, protect, and restore
 - Over 300,000 members nationwide, over 2,000 in Idaho
 - Should aim to exceed ESA recovery standards to robust salmon numbers
 - TU Values

- Get families and kids outside (several programs to do so)
 - Fishing available to all Idahoans
 - Maintaining vibrant rural communities that thrive
 - Healthy environment and cold clean water
 - One that can survive climate change
 - Work with landowners to improve and restore salmon habitat
 - Need to work collaboratively to recover salmon
- **Justin Hayes (Idaho Conservation League)**
 - We're here because we care about Idaho and Idaho salmon recovery as it affects Idaho and Idahoans
 - Lots of work has been done but we have not reached the results
 - We're not interested in just delisting from ESA, we want better salmon recovery than that
 - We are aware of science and we want to participate
 - This is not an issue of fish v farmers. We want to find solutions that are just, equitable, sustainable, and prosperous.
 - I think we will be able to find such solutions if we work together and consider all the options and recognize there is no silver bullet to this issue
 - Everyone will have to give and get a little
- **Stacey Satterlee, (Idaho Grain Producers)**
 - River system is critical component of Idaho's grain production
 - Gives farmers access to international markets as well as recreational and other purposes
 - River transportation is the most efficient, cost effective, and cleanest way to transport grain
 - Interested to see where conversation takes us
 - We think some programs have been successful, but numbers have not improved
 - Many factors at play
 - Glad to be here and part of conversation
- **Chad Colter (Shoshone Bannock Tribe/Director of Fish and Wildlife Dept.)**
 - Represents the tribes in this forum to make sure voice is heard
 - Tribes have given up a lot
 - Fish in Idaho have been a big part of our lives
 - What we would like to see is meaningful fisheries that is beyond just recovery
 - Want to see anadromous fish throughout historic range
 - Helps protect cultural values that are reliant on fish
 - We have cultural practices we can no longer share with children or grandchildren due to (the status of) salmon populations
 - Even Idaho's most pristine waters are lacking in what is needed for anadromous fish recovery
 - Need some level of the proper nutrients
 - Currently these waters are lacking the proper nutrients for salmon

- **Mary Hasenoehrl (Commissioner for port of Lewiston) Sitting in for David Doeringsfeld**
 - Idaho's only sea-port
 - Love Idaho
 - Also a farmer of native grass seed
 - Raise native grass because you don't get the sediment flowing into the river
 - As a commission, our main goal is economic viability
 - Every year in our budget we provide money to IDFG to have schools raise fish and return them to river
 - Youth are important
 - Salmon recovery is important, extinction is not an option for us
 - We are tired of litigation
 - We look forward to working with everyone here to try to come up with solutions
 - Want a solution that is equitable for generations to come
- **Mike Adams (Idaho River Community Alliance)**
 - Idaho River Community Alliance was created to support Idaho communities that rely on fish as major part of their economy
 - Recently worked to get seasons opened on fish in order to prevent devastating effects on fishing communities
 - We were successful in getting the river opened
 - IRCA promotes sustainable and successful fisheries for the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers
- **Joe Oatman (Nez Perce)**
 - The Tribe is supportive of this effort given its stated purpose to “ensure that abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead exist for present and future generations to enjoy.”
 - Looking at common interest to recover
 - Rivers in our area were considered some of the best fishing areas in the area
 - Today salmon and steelhead are not near as abundant as they once were
 - Many factors at play in anadromous fish populations
 - We do projects like fix habitat, run hatcheries, protect water flows and passage for upstream and downstream migrants, seek ways to address the impacts of dams and human development, and participate in forums, among other things
 - Tribe supports breaching the four lower Snake River dams — and making investments in local communities such as Lewiston
 - With the SRBA Agreement providing certainty for irrigators with respect to the flow augmentation contribution from the Upper Snake, the Tribe focused its efforts even more on addressing the impacts of the federal dams
 - Everyone wants a healthy system and salmon recovery
 - Abundance and productivity is far below what it needs to be
 - Innovation may require trying new things
 - May need to explore what we have not yet tried

- We believe that Idaho's interests have substantial overlap with Nez Perce Tribe
- **Mark Menlove (The Nature Conservancy)**
 - Perspective is one of hope
 - We still have recoverable populations and think this group will help
 - Are very concerned about salmon populations
 - Our collective efforts have not been enough as we have approached them
 - We are here to listen, be open, and do whatever it takes to recover fish populations
 - TNC is experienced in working in collaborative efforts to find solutions
 - TNC does many projects related to anadromous fish recovery
 - Working to ensure that there is adequate spawning habitat when salmon populations do increase
 - We work closely with our TNC counterparts in WA and OR for a regional approach
 - All of our work is focused on working with local partners
 - Grateful to be part of this group
- **Paul Arrington (Water Users Association)**
 - Represent irrigators and water users
 - Our river system is lifeblood of Idaho's lifestyle and economy
 - Irrigated ag contributes billions to our economy
 - Water community has long history of finding collaborative solutions to complex water issues
 - In early 2000s crafted Nez Perce Water Rights agreement
 - If you look throughout Idaho, you can see collaborative efforts that lead to solutions
 - Thankful to be part of this group to be working towards a collaborative solution
 - Convinced that there are real and collaborative solutions (out there)
- **Fred Wood (Idaho House of Representatives)**
 - No silver bullet to solve this issue, probably not even 2 or 3
 - We have come a long way
 - Remembers a time when predation and ocean conditions were not considered issues that seriously affected salmon
 - Today we understand and recognize that these are both major factors
 - We have come a long way in terms of science and what we recognize as threats
 - There is still much to learn about the complete life cycle of anadromous fish
 - Large knowledge gaps
 - Much predation occurs in the ocean (harvesting)
 - Support the federal efforts, don't get in way of their efforts
 - Need to support gathering science to fill in knowledge gaps
- **John Simpson (represent water users in Upper Snake)**
 - Represent surface and groundwater users

- Interests are: adequate water supply for irrigation, power supply, among other things
- People have gone through the Snake River Basin Adjudication
- Flood control addresses many issues in the region
- For almost 30 years these people have provided flow augmentation
 - Whether they agree or not they have participated in flow augmentation on a reliable basis
 - Have provided it even when not requested
- Support relicensing efforts in Hells Canyon Complex
- Want to ensure that proper conditions exist for recovery
- Support the state's efforts
- **Scott Hauser (Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation)**
 - USRT was founded by tribal leaders and works to preserve and enhance tribal rights
 - Salmon for millennia provided tribes with sustenance and cultural fulfillment
 - Promise by government to tribes was access to abundant populations of salmon forever
 - Today their levels of salmon consumption are a fraction of what they were
 - Hells Canyon Complex Fisheries Management Plan
 - Three goals: 1) ceremonial fishery in historic, currently blocked habitat in Idaho, 2) sustainable/harvestable populations of spring/summer Chinook and steelhead in historic, currently blocked habitat in Idaho, and 3) sustainable/harvestable population of fall Chinook in mainstem Snake River.
 - Ceremony Fishery could be implemented immediately
 - There are many roadblocks to salmon recovery; none of which cannot be overcome
 - No one around table bears the burden of past injustice to the tribes
 - One injustice is being deprived of salmon and that can be addressed here
 - Primary objective is to engage in meaningful conversation to restoring salmon to historic, currently blocked habitat
 - Thankful for being here
- **Aaron Lieberman (Idaho Outfitters and Guides)**
 - Non-profit organization. Only one dedicated to representing Idaho's outfitters and guides in Idaho
 - Our membership has been engaged in this question for a long time
 - When fishing seasons are short, limited, or fish are not returning it has an astronomical effect on communities and outfitters and guides that rely on them
 - Maintain viable hatchery populations and ensure the future abundance of wild origin salmon and steelhead in Idaho while keeping all vested parties and stakeholders whole
 - Excited for what we can accomplish with workgroup
 - Need to visualize where we want to go then figure out how to get there

- Appreciative of Governor for this effort and happy to be here
- **Merill Beyeler Rancher in Leadore (represents landowners)**
 - We value our resource, our community, our children, and our future
 - Much of that is tied to salmon and steelhead and we would like to address it
 - When thinking of salmon recovery, I think of things we have done that were not right, things that may need to be changed, and things that we've done right.
 - Some things that we have done
 - Landowners now have much better understanding of issues than they did
 - Have added many words to their vocabulary related to salmon recovery
 - Landowners have worked with large number of partners on restoring habitat in the Lemhi
 - Landowners in Lemhi came together to spearhead efforts of salmon recovery in the region
 - In 1992 got together with BOR, SBT, IDFG and decided how we could change how the land was managed for grazing on the Lemhi
 - The Lemhi region is an example of successful collaborative effort aimed at anadromous fish recovery
 - What are some things that have happened in the Lemhi?
 - Fenced riparians
 - Diversions have been screened
 - Many tributaries reconnected
 - Habitat restoration/improvement
 - Efforts have even helped parts of local economy
 - Thankful for this effort and to be here
- **Jim Yost (Northwest Power and Conservation Council)**
 - Been in the salmon business for long time
 - Very encouraged by what I've heard here today
 - Many of our issues are a result of downstream impacts
 - Efforts at least need to partly focus on working with downstream users to allow for more salmon to return upstream
 - Actions take a significant time before the result can be determined
 - This isn't something that is going to be cured by next year
 - Will likely take small incremental steps
 - If we can figure out how many fish we want to kill we can determine what the effort to get to recovery looks like
 - Probably have to use hatchery fish to start but would like to someday transition from hatchery to wild fish returns
- **Thoughts from Senator Johnson (on the phone)**
 - Legislature must have knowledge of environment
 - Legislature must stay committed to process because it's the right thing to do
- **Scott Pugrud (Co-Facilitator)**
 - Encouraged by everyone's thoughts and comments

- Encouraged that the theme of group is a willingness to work together, to understand the science, and recognize the social and economic aspects.

Presentation by Idaho Fish and Game on salmon and steelhead efforts in Idaho and the leading causes of decline. (Jim Fredericks, Chief of Fisheries for IDFG)

- 4 Hs
 - Hydro System (Hydropower)
 - Hatchery
 - Harvest
 - Habitat
- Ocean Conditions
- Predation
- *Presentation is posted to Office of Species Conservation Website on the “Governor’s Salmon Workgroup” page*

Break for Lunch 11:30 am, plan to reconvene at 1pm

Reconvened Meeting at 1pm

Open Discussion

- Scott Pugrud
 - Goal this afternoon is to identify knowledge gaps, economic and community needs, and ideas for group going forward
 - I envision this process taking about a year and end goal is a collaborative policy recommendation for the Governor
 - Would be good to have a mission statement for the group
 - Open to group to share thoughts
- Justin Hayes
 - Thanks to IDFG for their presentation, covered topic well
 - Would be interesting for group to spend time in the field to understand work that has been done and opportunities for future work
 - Would like to talk about workgroup traveling
 - Talk to people in field and those most involved with issue
 - Visit hatcheries, Riggins, Tribes, etc.
 - A lot of learning should occur before making decisions
- Paul Arrington
 - Would agree with Justin and have participated in Columbia Basin Partnership
 - Currently, do not have good perspective of all that is going on in Idaho regarding current recovery efforts

- Identify areas of opportunity
 - Would like to learn more from the hydro power side
 - Identify things we can actually do in Idaho vs things that we can just have policy on for factors outside of Idaho's borders
 - Idaho can only do so much in our borders so identify what it is that we can do in the policy arena
- Scott Pugrud
 - Governor has charged us with coming up with policy recommendations but that could take many forms
 - Not necessarily looking for the Hail Mary solution but are looking for steps to move forward
 - Policy recommendation could cover near, medium, and long term
- Joe Oatman
 - IDFG had a good presentation
 - Think a lot of us share a similar perspective on many things
 - What we would like to see considered here
 - Agree with Governor that we don't need to reinvent the wheel but need to identify possible additional things we can do
 - Review current status of natural populations
 - Knowing population levels is important to know how far away our goal is
 - What additional info is available not yet conveyed by IDFG
 - Review mortality sources of salmon and their relative impact on fish
 - 4 H's, Predation, Ocean
 - Review comprehensive list of restoration activities occurring in the state
 - What are existing salmon restoration policies and actions that the various members have in place
 - Review of federal recovery processes, policies, and laws
 - Other topics to cover
 - Any other helpful data (social, economic, etc.)
 - Group could use perspective and info on what a salmon-based economy needs
- Chad Colter
 - Agree with much of what has been said. A lot of learning needs to take place
 - We're all on different levels of understanding
 - There are processes going on outside of Idaho that are relevant to decisions that we're are trying to make here
 - Could use more info on how that affects and ties into our decision-making process here
 - Get familiar with Columbia River System Operations EIS
 - There are models out there for improving SARs in other ways
 - Are their models that show what recovery could look at that show dam removal

- What would be economic impact of removing those as opposed to continuing spill
 - Would like to see more information on things like this
 - Let's get the bigger picture of what is going on in the larger Snake/Columbia picture
- Scott Pugrud
 - We can acknowledge that there is a lot that is going on in the region and we're not operating in a vacuum
 - We are hoping to get policy recommendations to help inform the state's position in regional actions
- Brian Brooks
 - Traveled and talked to many about fish and one common question he gets that's hard to handle is the economic standing of BPA
 - If BPA goes down then we lose source of money for hatcheries and other projects
 - I think that answering that question would be a good job for this group
- Richard Scully
 - Would like to see presentation by BPA that would clarify what their economic status is
 - There are factors at play like power coming from CA and the fact that they have to replace turbines in ageing infrastructure; would like to know how that is going to affect them
 - Would like to hear from BPA on the issue so we're all working from the same info
 - Would it be possible to get outside speakers?
- Scott Pugrud
 - Not on agenda but we can ask
- Brett Dumas
 - Idaho does control our water
 - How are we using our water? What are the benefits of augmentation flows etc,
- Stacey Satterlee
 - Liked IDFG presentation
 - Looking at the population trends and different factors. Can we identify those factors that have greatest effect?
 - Are there other states that have successful programs that we could replicate here?
- Aaron Lieberman
 - Lot of good ideas and some common ideas
 - Does the group think it would be useful to make a flow chart to identify the issues to address going forward?
 - Finding what we agree upon and what we don't
 - What happens when we change certain variables etc.
- Scott Pugrud
 - We are going to address those issues later in the meeting so keep that in mind
- Will Hart

- Agree it would be helpful for BPA to come in
- Thinks there is some misinformation floating around on BPA's economic health
- Think that having them come in could alleviate some concerns
- Should look at commercial harvest as an issue to address and its effect on returns
- Are there studies we should be supporting?
 - If we see ocean conditions decline it could be more important
- Scott Hauser
 - I would like the opportunity to have the tech staff from Tribes that helped write Hells Canyon Fisheries Management Plan come in and speak
 - Think we could have fruitful discussion and identify areas of common interest
- Justin Hayes
 - Looking at the range of timelines (now, future, far future)
 - We should identify things we can do things immediately that will have an effect
 - Predator control is an example that could have an immediate effect but need to keep in mind the scale of effect
 - Would be good to get a good matrix on our actions and how long it may be before we can expect to see our effects
 - Also would be good to measure replicability and success rate of actions
- Jim Yost
 - I think that looking at near term, mid-term, and long term is good perspective
 - Group should talk about defining these terms to understand what a realistic view is
 - Are we talking about 20, 50, and 100 years?
 - Actions on issues like this don't see results for 3-4 years at the soonest
 - May take 3-4 salmon lifecycles (9 to 20 years) before we see results
 - Should identify how long we plan to give actions before we measure success
 - Can't expect actions to result in benefit too soon
 - Would be beneficial to define realistic expectation for timeline
 - Should have a presentation on the regional actions that are going on
 - There are many processes in the region that I think that could address many of the questions coming up today
- Simpson
 - When looking at a matrix we should also consider local vs. regional issues
 - Are there areas in which we can provide recommendations on a state or local level and policy statements on a regional level?
 - May find consensus in Idaho issues but not regional issues and vice versa
- Mary Hasenoerhl - Port of Lewiston
 - Would invite group to Lewiston to show them how important that river system is
 - Even if you are just in town, let me know
- Katherine Himes – Co-facilitator
 - Are there any other comments?
 - Thought it would be helpful for group to provide some response in writing

- Passed out paper with 2 questions
 - What info would you like to see presented in future?
 - What does success for this process look like to you?
- Answers will be compiled and posted to OSC website

Public Comment

Gene James

- Member of the tribes
- Thank you to the Governor and workgroup on helping us with our salmon
- No matter where we are from we can all fundamentally agree something needs to be done
- Represents Coeur d'Alene tribe and represents humans and all beings that live in my country
- Our people are a salmon people
- Happy to see other tribe members on the workgroup
 - When it comes to tribes and salmon, people sometimes forget folks in the far north
- We have practiced our own form of science on salmon for thousands of years
 - Have interacted with fish, water, and land for many years
 - We have a special direct relationship with salmon
- We are not whole because of the lack of salmon
- I believe this group is a step forward to give those people opportunity to be whole
- Got to present to Jim Yost that there is technology to get fish past dams to get them into habitat
- If we could do so and get influx of salmon it would help with returns
- I hope the best for group
- I look forward to seeing what group comes up with and looking forward to participating

Raad Ray Hooban

- There are two dams that provide more power in the Northwest than all others combined
 - Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dam
- Two Indian reservations are built around those dams
- Another thing the Governor emphasized is lack of science
- I've heard that there is refrigeration in some dams but never seen it
 - Using this refrigeration to attract smolts is something that we need to study
 - Need science on cold water and its affect
- Grand Coulee had a 300' fish ladder but when dam was raised around WWII then the fish slide (ladder) was taken out
- If you get past the dams you open up all north Idaho and Canada
- Want to emphasize need for science on cold water

Brayden Jensen (Farm Bureau Idaho)

- Agricultural industry is backbone of state economy
- Its existence is only possible through functional and reliable water systems
 - Some man made and some natural
- State relies heavily on water resources and they are a valuable asset
- ID Farm Bureau supports multiple use and defends water rights
- The topic of breaching is being raised and Idaho Farm Bureau is opposed to it
 - Too much benefit to citizens, agriculture, and others to support
 - Too important economically
- Increase construction and ensure the existence of dams and storage units to store and use water
 - Farm Bureau opposes any suggestion of destroying them
- Look forward to working with the workgroup

Doug Stowers (Middleton grew up in Riggins)

- Not representing any group other than sportsman
- Fished my whole life around Salmon and Clearwater rivers
- Everybody has an opinion or an idea they want to jump behind
 - Definitely a plethora of ideas
- What's cool about this group is that I see about every side of the issue represented and you sat down and broke bread together, that's encouraging
- Let's get something done, leave out personal issues and work together

Ted Howard - Shoshone Paiute Tribes Chairman/USRT Vice-Chairman

- Thank you, Governor, for putting this together and was good to hear the group share ideas
- Previous leaders and elders said that we have discussed this issue for years and talked about it for years
 - We've studied the salmon almost to extinction and we're still studying it
- When talking with agencies it's important to go to beginning
 - Our people have been here since the beginning of time and have lived in harmony with our surroundings
 - Everything was put here by creator for a purpose
 - We as a people are not above creation
 - Now it is seen as we control the destiny of species
 - Salmon is not just a fish to us; it is a spiritual icon
 - It is spiritually and culturally important
 - When it is absent things change
 - Loss of ecology
 - Loss of culture and tradition -without salmon, aspects are lost
- Salmon are amazing that they come up into these reaches
 - This is where the system begins
 - We're not end of system, we are beginning

- Salmon go out to ocean for about 3 years and then come back to the very same place they were hatched
 - It's amazing that the creator made them to be able to do that
- It is important to remember that everything has a purpose
- Water is the essence of life
 - Without good clean water we cannot survive
 - Without good clean water the salmon cannot survive
- We hear various interests speak about various things
 - When Secretary Pruitt signed water quality over to state of Idaho I was there, and I shared my concerns with Governor Otter
 - Shared that the Snake River was considered to be the most endangered river in the lower 48
 - Issue was not addressed
- If we want to see salmon come back, we must work towards common goal
- Reservation is in southern part of state. Part of Idaho, Part of Nevada
 - We are in the Colombia River drainage

Pat Ford

- Live in Boise, want to make 2 quick points
- Thank you, governor, for putting this together
- Pre-emptively thanked those involved
- Recognize that this will be a lot of work
- Has strong views and recognize that there will be differing views but thank you for attempting it
- Raise timing issue
 - If this process takes over a year, then that will be after the Federal Process (CRSO EIS) has already heard from Idaho on the EIS on alternatives
 - Need to address how that issue will coincide with this group's effort

John Szymouiak

- Group dynamics
 - Get familiar with certain terms
 - Forming (from forming, storming, norming, performing)
 - Get a briefing book with info that has state of science
 - You cannot read enough
 - If you don't have the time or resources, then you may need to look for a replacement
 - It's a complex issue and not the only big issue in Idaho
- I think water quality is probably one of the biggest issue Idaho can deal with
 - Get information from IDEQ for temperature and other info and understand the state of the river
 - River is what Idaho controls

- Look at whole system
- I worked on an air quality study and showed that the river is polluted
- Silver bullet – there are components to silver bullet
 - Build each component to have a complete silver bullet

Kyle Poppletonton

- Thank you all for volunteering and taking this on
- This is not a single issue; it is bigger than that
- Affects livelihood of people in state and downriver
- Fish are important and I spend a lot of time chasing them across northwest
- I hope that you all work together to come up with a realistic solution
- Fish spend such a short time here that we will not be able to do this alone

Nic Nelson ED Idaho Rivers United

- Thank you, Governor, for doing this and tackling this issue
- Idaho Rivers United has been involved in this issue for a long time
- We are not formal members but will stay engaged with group and provide our expertise
- Idaho salmon cannot recover with Idaho efforts alone. Need a regional approach
- Need to identify what the limiting factors of recovery are
- Can't just look at status quo of what we have now
 - Should take a hard look at dam breaching
- Have to look at alternatives
 - Is there an alternative to BPA power, Port of Lewiston barging, etc.
- Again, we will be here and would love to lend our expertise
- Looking forward to engaging

Next Steps

- **Katherine Himes**
 - Want to talk about meeting frequency
 - We will talk about dates and will post to OSC website
 - Talk about meeting length, locations, field trips, communication with group and Governor's office, etc.
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - I've had conversations and have seen interest in having out of Boise meetings and in seeing some projects. We are open to doing those things
 - Is there appetite for 1.5 or 2 day meetings?
 - Half day field tour, presentation, and then meeting?
 - Would that work for everybody?
 - Group agrees
- **Meeting frequency (Scott Pugrud)**

- What we are proposing is to have one meeting a month from now and then try to have one every 6 weeks after
- **Chad Colter**
 - Some large decisions are going to be made and it would be good to try to have something done for Idaho to have when making comments (CRSO EIS)
 - Need to know what we're trying to change
 - If we're trying to impact the comment stage then we may need to have meetings more frequently so we should figure that out.
- **Scott Pugrud** – my understanding is that Admin draft of EIS is out in February 2020 and it's a 45 or 90 day comment period
 - I think we can get what we need to get done in 9 or 10 months
 - Not opposed to meeting monthly but understand that workgroup members may not be able to make it that often
- **Scott Hauser**
 - Clarify that he was told the comment period was 45 for the DEIS and 30 for the FEIS
- **Paul Arrington**
 - I like the proposed schedule
 - Need to recognize that there is a lot to this issue but not all of it is relevant to what we'll decide
 - If we go with the 1 month and then every 6 weeks that would likely give us a good idea of where we are when comment period occurs
 - With my schedule it would be tough to meet monthly
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Good point is that we're going to have two bites at the comment apple and may also be asked for a Governor's review
 - Meaning there will be opportunity to comment at different stages of the EIS process and at the Governor's Consistency Review Stage
- **Brian Brooks**
 - Tough because there are lots of things to learn, need to get to know each other, and have tough conversations
 - Fish populations are not getting better
 - May be more conducive for group development to meet more often
 - Would prefer to move them closer together, a month is suggested
- **Katherine Himes**
 - Suggests that not all meetings need to be 1.5 or 2 days
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Takes time to gather and put information together and I think that meeting more often than once a month would likely not be any more helpful
- **Brett Dumas**
 - Agree that any more frequently than monthly is not doable

- Agree it's going to take time to develop and get to know each other
 - Think it's important to think about the timing of the issues we discuss
 - May need to take up some issues before we need to take up others
 - Let's think about how we phase our education and discussions
- **Stacey Satterlee**
 - Would propose that we can all be somewhat flexible (we all have work and other things going on)
 - Makes sense to travel and to talk about issues where it makes sense
 - Suggests 6 week intervals
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Thank you, big point of this meeting was to get feedback from workgroup members
 - Suggests July 30th and 31st for next meeting in Salmon, ID
 - Have our OSC staff out there and do half day tour
- **Mary Hasenoerl**
 - We all have preconceived ideas, we have good ideas of what other people think
 - We should go on other people's websites and such and try to know where other people are coming from
- **Richard Scully**
 - Would you be able to send email addresses to whole workgroup so we can communicate back and forth with each other?
- **Brian Brooks**
 - Would people be willing to stay on with this group for over a year?
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - I think that's a more appropriate discussion for a later date
- **Aaron Liberman**
 - If we are doing something we should do it well
 - Recognize that many people are busy
 - Would support meeting more frequently
 - Would it be possible to have sub-groups to discuss certain issues?
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Haven't put much thought into sub-groups but willing to take input
 - Largely depends on how much info is needed and if we can provide that
 - Sub groups could be appropriate if it's issue specific and helpful to the group
- **Katherine Himes**
 - We're starting to make the running list of topics for meeting 2 and sub-groups is something that should be on there and that the group should think about
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Been informed that Salmon at end of July is high tourist season so book hotels now.

- **Scott Hauser**
 - Relates to sub-groups
 - In regard to developing a mission statement, how would that process look and be accomplished
 - From past experience it took a long time to come up with a mission statement
 - Would it be appropriate to have sub-group do it?
 - Don't want to spend months on that
- **Scott Pugrud**
 - Would suggest discussing that at next meeting
 - Can talk about what we want in there and whether we would like to put that to a sub-group
- **Sam Eaton**
 - For the mission statement suggests workgroup members sending mission statements to OSC and who will try to compile into one to present at next meeting
 - There's an importance in informing the group to get knowledge of the issue all on the same level
- **Sam Eaton**
 - Wasn't a whole lot of structure around group and that was intentional
 - Wanted to avoid the thought that there is a preconceived outcome
 - We want the solution to come from the group but have no preconceived notions of what that solution is
 - Value is having a group with a broad spectrum of stakeholders that can agree on some issues
 - When anyone is writing comments, they can point to the group in addition to their own points. Stronger when you can point to set of issues that a diverse group has agreed upon
 - We decided it would be valuable to have a facilitator and have students here as well
 - Important to educate students
 - We also have staff
 - Once we end today, that's not the end until next meeting. Would encourage group to stay in contact until then.
 - If you want to talk or meet with each other before next meeting that's great
 - Would encourage informal contact before next meeting
 - Want to recognize how much effort it takes to put these things together
 - Big job for OSC for others
 - Thank you
 - IDFG
 - Power Council
 - OSC

- Thank you to the group for agreeing to participate
 - Know we will accomplish something big here
 - Will be important to take small bites of apple
 - Let's discuss at the next meeting the potential for sub-groups

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:54 pm