

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

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

Date: 17-Jan-2020  
Name: Alex McKinley  
Phone: 208-901-5167  
Email: alex@pacificu.edu

Comments: I appreciate the idea of the working group, however there needs to be more direct action. Scientific evidence is clear. The 4 lower Snake dams need to come down. We also need to provide opportunity for impacted parties to not be harmed in a ~~big~~ significant manner. This can be done. The money exists. That is a starting point, there will be more work.

More opportunity for public comment as well please.



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Date: 1/17/2020  
Name: Don Vernon  
Phone: (208) 401-6183  
Email: vernadkv@gmail.com

Comments:

I want to express my viewpoints as a fisherman who has fished for salmon and steelhead since my childhood. As a fisherman I travel to locations where adequate numbers of fish are present to enjoy ~~and~~ fishing. In 2019 salmon and steelhead returns were below recovery returns. My point is that within Idaho the number of adult salmon and steelhead need to be increased. How can Idaho increase the number of smolts and adults? By increasing the number and capacity of salmon and steelhead hatcheries within Idaho. Idaho needs to work with Washington and Oregon on ways to increase smolt and adult migration. Suggested work areas are to address water temperature problems in the Columbia River and removing dams coupled with enhanced grain handling facilities downstream of the removed dams.

## Governor's Salmon Workgroup Public Comment Form

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Date: 1/16/2020

Name: Link Jackson

Phone: 208-869-7384

Email: link@streamtechboats.com

### Comments:

For a decade I have researched the decline of anadromous fish in the Snake River Basin which was once one of the most prolific runs of fish on Earth. Having learned how the fish have been decimated by a variety of human development and extraction activities, I then turned my attention to solutions. The primary attempts at mitigating the decline of the fish have focused on activities that are without scientific merit. One of the primary tools, fish hatcheries have been repeatedly used to try and mitigate for the disastrous man caused stream impacts of trapping, logging, ranching, extraction, dams, over harvest of fish and a host of other activities of man. Very little science was considered in the creation of hundreds of fish hatcheries. The fact that hatchery fish are dramatically different than wild fish was not considered. The fact that hatchery fish after several generations are de-evolving in disturbing ways was not considered. The fact that hatchery fish are beligerant to the wild fish and have detrimental impact on them was not considered. It is clear if one considers the science that anadromous fish have evolved over tens of thousands of years to be biologically connected to specific spawning streams. These "Stocks" of fish evolved through droughts, floods, earthquakes, tsunami's, volcanic eruptions, shifting tectonic plates and came to be very specifically and biologically meshed with very specific streams. They spawn at very specific times dictated by the water and eco system conditions specific to the stream that each stock of fish evolved to be in harmony with. They are not like Sheep or Cattle or Corn that can simply be put out on any range in mass and expected to thrive. the fish need to be granted access to their biological stream of origin and further given adequate clean spawning habitat. That said, it is very clear that human activities and hatcheries are degrading the natural genetics of these specific "Stocks" of fish to the point that roughly 40% of the stocks are now extinct. The rest are in peril. Study after Study by biologists and scientists point to dramatically reducing the reliance of hatcheries and to removal of the lower 4 dams on the Snake River as the only real hope we have of recovery in the entire snake river basin, one of the largest remaining wild habitats left in America. The lower 4 dams kill roughly 90% of the smolts and fry that encounter them. It is estimated that only 1% of the fish return to spawn, a level far below the minimum 4% required for sustained populations to survive. The fish are not equipped to deal with the hazards the dams present including warming of water in the dam pools to fatal temperatures, predators that are prolific in the dam pools and elimination of water current that young fish require to make their migration to the Pacific Ocean. Fish ladders have not worked. Barging fish around the dams has not worked. Spending nearly \$17 BILLION on mitigation efforts has not worked. Dodging scientific reality of the eco system has not worked. It is time to face the science and remove the lower 4 dams on the snake river promptly before all of the fish go extinct. Given that the lower 4 dams cost more than they produce, that they are in need of hundreds of millions of investment for deferred maintenance and they are very low value assets to Mankind, it is clear that removing them to save the fish and the river communities who's economies depend on the fish is THE RIGHT THING to do. It is also the right thing to do for the taxpayers and electric rate payers who continue to pay for the dams and get roughly \$.15 on the dollar spent of value in return. The right thing for the fish and the right thing for the taxpayer.....this is a win win proposition. Remove the lower 4 dams on the snake river NOW!

**From:** [Ott Clark](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't consider dam breaching  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:17 PM

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Dear Director Pugrud,

I write to address the Governor's Salmon Workgroup. I ask that they not consider dam breaching as part of their efforts to address salmon-recovery.

There are many factors that should play a part in Salmon recovery, But breaching dams shouldn't be one of them. Each year farmers and ranchers depend on those waters to feed the world. Every year cities are protected from spring floods because of the dam system we have. Each day citizens turn on their lights with the help of the most reliable renewable resource.

Thank you for your time and work to keep Idaho the greatest state.

Regards,  
Ott Clark  
717 W Eldredge Rd  
Pocatello, ID 83201

**From:** [Dave Veselka](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:18 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. I appreciate your efforts to help salmon. While breaching dams might be a great solution in a world where irrigation, flood control, power, transportation, and recreation was no longer needed, I don't think it is applicable today.

Regards,  
Dave Veselka  
714 Indian Valley Rd  
Indian Valley, ID 83632

**From:** [GREG PAYNE](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:18 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. I write today expressing my desire for the group to work together to develop alternative solutions which will improve salmon returns without breaching crucial dams. The dams are the lifeblood of the Northwest. Renewable Hydro- electricity, Agriculture, and Commerce all benefit from these dams. Please focus on developing realistic solutions.

Regards,  
GREG PAYNE  
24295 Farmway Rd  
Caldwell, ID 83607

**From:** [Sheila Ford](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:19 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Please work diligently to develop solutions that do not involve breaching dams. Wheat farmers providing up to 10% of America's wheat depend upon the dams and lock systems for transportation of their product, much of it going to the very people advocates of dam breaching claim to need it most. Proponents of breaching also claim to be concerned about CO2 emissions which would increase manyfold were river transport replaced by trucks and trains.

Additionally providing irrigation and clean, reliable, renewable energy, dams cannot be replaced by intermittently reliable solar or wind power. Considering the exponential population growth in this area, it would be unwise to relinquish the efficient hydro-power we get from the dams.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Regards,  
Sheila Ford  
16313 Frost Rd.  
Caldwell, ID 83607

**From:** [Ron Wilcox](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Dams are crucial for agriculture  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:20 PM

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Dir. Scott Pugrud:

As an Idahoan who values agriculture, I am asking the Governor's Salmon Workgroup to protect important dam structures while seeking solutions for salmon recovery. Years ago when dam breaching was first being discussed I attended some meetings where the so called environmental groups bussed people from out of the area specifically to protest the dams and demand removal. During these meetings it was learned that the harvest of salmon was still very much active, that seals and other marine life were feasting on the salmon and yet the salmon were still returning in greater numbers. Since then we have improved passage over the dams and recently a new method has been discovered that can increase the numbers exponentially. Therefore I plead with you to look for solutions that will work for Idaho and not be beholden to some agenda that will never work

Regards,  
Ron Wilcox  
1470 Twin Butte Rd  
Menan, ID 83434

**From:** [Daniel Garner](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Dams are crucial for agriculture  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:21 PM

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Dir. Scott Pugrud:

As an Idahoan who values agriculture, I am asking the Governor's Salmon Workgroup to protect important dam structures while seeking solutions for salmon recovery. These dams are vital for farming in Idaho and for the water needs of the future.

Thanks for your time

Regards,  
Daniel Garner  
3579 N Westside Hwy  
Dayton, ID 83228

**From:** [Marjorie French](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't consider dam breaching  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:36:51 PM

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Dear Director Pugrud,

I write to address the Governor's Salmon Workgroup. I ask that they not consider dam breaching as part of their efforts to address salmon-recovery. Breaching the dams will not help save the salmon. There is so much sediment behind the dams that the salmon will not survive.

If the terns at the mouth of the Columbia River were controlled and thinned out more fish could get to the river to start their journey to come and get thru the fish ladders at the dams. There is also a huge population of sea lions that is multiplying at astronomical rate. Control of these two predators to the salmon should be accomplished immediately.

Regards,  
Marjorie French  
1071 O'Reilly Rd  
Princeton, ID 83857

**From:** [Sidnee Hill](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't consider dam breaching  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:37:38 PM

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Dear Director Pugrud,

We know that science and technology have come a long way, and will continue to improve beyond our wildest imaginations. As we move forward as a state in addressing the needs of wildlife, like salmon, that we work first to utilize all the technological advancements available and work on creating new ones before taking such drastic measures as breaching our dams. I encourage you to look into collaboration and creativity before resorting to measures that would have such a devastating effect on our economy and the good people who live and work here.

Regards,  
Sidnee Hill  
19999 Shed Rd  
Carey, ID 83320

**From:** [Dwight Little](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:37:40 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. I write today expressing my desire for the group to work together to develop alternative solutions which will improve salmon returns without breaching crucial dams.

As a farmer and rancher in rural Idaho my family depends heavily on a reliable source of renewable hydroelectricity and the ability to ship our commodities out of state via the barging system on the Snake and Colombia rivers.

I am also an outdoor enthusiast. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and all other outdoor activities this great state provides. Salmon are important to me but I feel we spend too much time arguing over the pros and cons of breaching dams. Simply put, that is not the solution, and in many ways may actually compromise salmon recovery efforts. Our time, effort, and resources need to be put towards finding common sense solutions for Idaho that leaves dams and all their many benefits in place and still provides for healthy populations of fish. I fully believe this is possible.

Thank you for your consideration and all of your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Idaho.

Regards,  
Dwight Little  
2869 E. Highway 33  
Newdale, ID 83436

**From:** [Steve Alder](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:38:13 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Dear Director,

If breaching the dams is the solution, they why are damless rivers also producing record low fish returns?

The Federation and other enviro's didn't want the dams in the first place and have been battling to breach them ever since! Yet on rivers like the Fraser, Yakima and other rivers without dams, the fish are also declining at similar rates.

When the Columbia and it's tributaries had record Salmon runs in 2010, so did rivers with no dams. Is dam breaching the only solution?

To study the survival of salmon with and without dams:

<https://kintama.com/appl.../salmon-survival-withwithout-dams/...>

The Columbia hydrosystem dams clearly had large impacts on the mortality of migrating salmon smolts in the 1960s and 1970s. However, subsequent modifications to the dams have improved survival substantially. Our results suggest that survival through the hydropower system – at least for the size range of smolts Kintama tagged – has now increased to levels similar to those experienced in both the undammed lower Columbia River and in the Fraser River, an important finding that was not technically possible before the development of large scale application of acoustic telemetry. However, our data do not address whether the possible delayed effects of hydropower system passage affects mortality after the fish leave the river for the ocean, nor is it clear whether salmon survival in the Fraser River has substantially changed during the last 100 years, as prior baseline measurements of survival are absent.

Disastrous year for B.C. sockeye salmon returns predicted in Damless Fraser river in 2019 also:

<https://www.vancourier.com/.../disastrous-year-for-b-c-sockey...>

If we breach the 4 lower snake river dams will we see similar excuses for poor returns? All of these WA rivers are free-flowing except the sultan river which is a small river.

<http://nwsportsmanmag.com/steelhead-retention-closing-on-skykomish-snoqualmie-other-rivers/?fbclid=IwAR2qkn7Wsjxxwg6rURUdaxktjNlzpNNzIBL9BMpFbvCaheaCxilxhYSj4ic>

2010: record runs in Columbia river:

[https://www.oregonlive.com/.../sockeye\\_salmon\\_run\\_sets\\_record...](https://www.oregonlive.com/.../sockeye_salmon_run_sets_record...)

2010 Record runs in damless Fraser:

<https://nwtreatytribes.org/fraser-river-sockeye-salmon-ope.../>

Regards,

Steve Alder  
40032 Waha Glen Rd.  
Lewiston, ID 83501

**From:** [Brody Miller](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Don't breach dams  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2020 5:39:59 PM

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Dear Members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup:

Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Brody Miller from Middleton, Idaho. As a small business owner, I rely heavily on the forages grown in this great state. Many of my customers around the world find value in the quality of products we provide. This quality can be attributed to the ideal climate and our rich volcanic soils. This is what separates us from similar products produced in other regions. Water is the ingredient that makes it all work, if I don't have it, the benefits of the rich Idaho soils and ideal growing climates are lost. So now, I ask for this group to please work together on develop alternative solutions that will improve salmon returns without breaching crucial dams. I ask for you to sincerely consider this request. Thank you.

Regards,  
Brody Miller  
25648 Cemetery Rd  
Middleton, ID 83644

**From:** [Brent Mathieu](#)  
**To:** [Species Conservation](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Salmon recovery  
**Date:** Saturday, January 18, 2020 8:15:27 AM

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To the Idaho Governor's Salmon Workgroup Meeting

Jan 18, 2020

Dr Brent B Mathieu, Boise, Idaho

208-577-8022

[bmathieuboise@gmail.com](mailto:bmathieuboise@gmail.com)

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on salmon and steelhead recovery in Idaho.

I attended, and testified yesterday at the public hearing on Jan 17th.

I deeply honor each member of the Workgroup for stepping forth to listen, contemplate and work to lead Idaho, and the NW ecosystem on the issue of salmonid recovery.

I am a native of eastern Montana, and a resident of Ada County, and Boise, for 28 years.

I was raised in a culture that valued and practiced conservation and harvest of wildlife, especially native, wild fish. I grew up fishing, and eating walleye, trout and paddlefish in the Yellowstone river ecosystem, and Canada. These are migratory fish in that river system. No salmon swim the Yellowstone to my knowledge. My family in Montana and Idaho did enjoy some wild salmon from the Pacific. My father fished occasionally the Pacific for salmon and our family had relatives in Portland Oregon, and Alaska.

In 1978-1980, I attended post graduate college in Portland Oregon. I remember the last dam on the lower Snake river being built. I experienced the Mt Saint Helens eruption. I ate salmon from the Columbia river. Often this was purchased from indigenous tribal fisher people. Excellent fish. It fed me, and my family well.

One benefit from salmon runs are that spawning salmon always sacrifice them selves in the act of spawning. They die, so their spawn and species may live. In doing so, they bring nutrients back to the valleys and mountain streams of Idaho. Nutrients like nitrogen, iodine, potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphates which rain washes from the soil down to the sea. Without salmon, Idaho's soils become mineral depleted. Then Idaho's plants, wildlife and people are malnourished, and suffer poor health.

I have waded creeks and rivers in the Columbia Gorge, like Dog Creek, in

Washington State. I've seen, and felt salmon spawning in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. I've touched some with my hands, and often they have slapped and finned upon my legs. Kind of a bear, or bare skin experience.

In 1991, I moved to Boise from Montana.

I have been an active fisherman in Idaho. I've fished for steelhead several times. I've seen the sockeye enroute to spawning in Redfish creek, in the upper Salmon river. I have visited the Rapid River fish hatchery twice, and as a volunteer handled salmon there. I remember when Lonesome Larry returned to Redfish lake to spawn. Cecil Andrus may have been our governor then. I had a personal acquaintance with Andrus. I remember seeing Lonesome Larry mounted and preserved at the state Capital.

It's been decades since I have caught a salmon or steelhead in Idaho. I've eaten a few from Nez Perce tribe fisherman in Riggins.

The Nume Newe - the indigenous people of the upper Snake river basin called the 'Boise river' the 'Red river' because of the sockeye spawning here before the dams were built.

Salmon Falls river in the Hagerman valley of the Snake river was named because the indigenous people, and the settlers on the Oregon trail harvested wild salmon there. That ended when Swan Falls dam was built in early 1900s.

According to some in my family, I MAY be a seven generation descendant of Sacajawea. My paternal side great grandmother is believed by some to be a grand daughter of Lisette, Sacajawea and Charboneau's daughter, the younger sister of their first born son, who journeyed with Lewis and Clark.

The Paiute speak a language related to the Aztec/Ute, and derives from SW and Central American peoples, such as the Yuma, Zuni and the Hopi.

The chant I sang is a morning greeting song.

Wah Ta Ho, Ta Ho, greets the sun rise, and the sun rising sings back to us, the people of the earth.

'Awake, arise, life is calling you. Awake, arise, life is greeting you. Mother earth, she is calling you. Father Sky, he is greeting you.'

Please remember to put our people, and our planet as a priority before profit, pollution, and partisan politics.

Please remember to contemplate and consider actions for Seven Generations. Think of our grand children, and mine, and even their grand children.

Consider the words of the poet, Jalal ul din, Rumi, as paraphrased:

'Ya Wahhabo! O divine flow.

When will we cease to create clay containers,

And concrete dams, to hold back the water of life from flowing?

Every clay and cement creation built by humanity shall crack, in time.

The snow on the mountain knows

It must melt and join the torrent returning to the sea.

Remember,

The ocean refuses no river,

Especially, where salmon swim."

[www.voxhumri.com](http://www.voxhumri.com) (more poetry, prayers and prose)

Another prayer I offer you: It's a few verses of the Aramaic original version of the 'Lord's prayer'.

'Tetey malkuthakh, nehwey tezbwyanakh aykana d'bwashmay aph b'ar'ah'

In King James version, this translates as:

'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as it is in heaven, be upon our earth.'

Another translation, less feudalistic and patriarchal, might be:

Thy ruling power and beauty come, and arise in our human hearts to lead us, here and now. Thy joyful desire and will create as in divine sacred sound and light, of love, heaven upon our earth, within our hearts.

In conclusion, please consider the novel by the woman, Starhawk: 'The Fifth Sacred Thing'. In it, there is a fictional character who speaks for Salmon, in the human council.

As a Brent, I brand my self to be similar to an Ent. Ent's, in J R Tolkien's Middle Earth, are tree shepherds, who often dwell in wooded valleys or mountains. They can serve as Ent he O gens, from the Greek term, entheogen. Entheogens and entigens like antigens, are sacred plant spirit medicine beings that help shift and evolve human consciousness.

Such as in the garden, in the valley of the jolly Green Giant, and Sprout... Ho, ho, hu.

I give you the blessing of the Ents, of les bois, upon your efforts. May salmon some day again spawn in the Red rivers, lakes and creeks of the upper Snake river. I'd like my grand children's grand children, grand children to wade with salmon in Idaho some day.

Thank you again, and blessing upon your work, and service. We entrust this sacred endeavor to save the salmon in the Snake river ecosystem into your hearts, and minds.

My bio is online at: [www.greenmanhealth.com](http://www.greenmanhealth.com)

Be well, live well

Dr Brent B Mathieu

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Date: 1/17/2020

Name: Joseph Snapp

Phone: 208-540-1382

Email: josnapp@sbtribes.com

### Comments:

My name is Joseph Snapp and I am a Shoshone- Bannocks Tribal Member and a tribal fisherman. I have noticed a substantial decline of anadromous salmonids in Idaho rivers throughout my years as a fisherman. This is major blow to the state of Idaho as anadromous are major food source not only for tribal members, but state anglers as well. Its great to see that the public is increasing their involvement to see that the fish have a voice and are protected, so future generations can connect with them.

Salmon and steelhead fishing not only brings benefits to the Idaho economy, it brings families together and is an activity that embodies what it truly means to be an Idahoan. However, we as people native or not are not doing our part to see that salmon and steelhead are protected. We know that the four H's (Habitat, Hatcheries, Hydropower, and Harvest) are limiting the potential for salmon and steelhead to reach our recovery goals. However, we are missing the fact climate change is a part of the Habitat factor. I would like to see more solar pannel and wind energy projects implemented to reduce our carbon footprint. I would also like to see more enforcement on emissions of motor vehicles. There is no reason why anyone needs to stright pipe there vehicles, and i would like to see State and local law enforcement hold those people accountable for their impacts on the enviornment.

If the lower snake dams were removed that could be a tide turning victory for Idaho salmon and Steelhead. However, the processes of facilitating that change is costly and time consuming, so i feel we are not likely to see that in the near future. However, the Hells canyon dam complex is blocking historical fish passage should have been removed or provided passage for salmon a long time ago. Why do we not want salmon and steelhead to return to the Boise, Payette, and Owyhee Rivers. Overall, Idaho Power is not doing there part to mitigate the impact their dams have on Idaho's salmon and Idaho's people.

Furthermore, people are becoming frustrated with the expense of hatchery projects and are wondering what the fate of the projects are as ocean fish stocks utilized to create fish meal for hatchery programs continue to decline. Habitat improvement projects are a tool that hydropower companies use to point out there involment, but habitat improvement arn't effective when there isnt any fish to use it.

The time to act for saving Idaho salmon and steelhead is now. I feel we need to educate the public on the true underlying problem why salmon and steelhead are decling, impliment scetricter harvest guidlines on idaho salmon and steelhead, and take action against hydropower companies that are killing outmigrating juvenile salmon and blocking returns of adult of adult salmon. We need to fight for these fish because ultimately it means we are fighting for ourselves and a connection that makes Idaho the beautiful state that it is.