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Governor's Salmon Work Group

In leading Idaho through the current corona virus, Governor Little has relied upon the scientific evidence to achieve the goal of keeping Idahoans healthy and minimizing deaths of our citizens.

In providing a plan to help the Governor achieve his goal of “*develop effective salmon and steelhead policy for Idaho to ensure that abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead exist for present and future generations to enjoy*” the Salmon Work Group must also follow the science.

In May ,1998 the Idaho Fish and Game Commission issued a policy statement, *Limiting Factors and Recovery Options for Anadromous Fish Stocks in Idaho*. This policy stated that the commission considered the “natural river option” to be the only option that could meet the Commission recovery standards of a normative river providing 2-6% smolt – to – adult survival ratios (SARs). This policy statement was reached after extensive study and research by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and publication of *Idaho's Anadromous Fish Stocks Their Status and Recovery Options* IDFG 98-13.

In the twenty two years since the Idaho Fish and Game Commission endorsed the scientific judgment of the Department of Fish and Game, hatcheries have been added and improved, harvest remains strictly regulated and many dollars and much hard work has been accomplished by the states and the tribes to improve habitat. The federal government has spent billions to improve passage conditions through the four Lower Snake River dams.

These efforts and dollars have failed to protect Idaho's salmon and steelhead.

The closure of the 2019 steelhead season and the closure of the current 2020 salmon season on the Clearwater River are the result of inadequate returns of our Idaho fish. Recent returns of Idaho Spring Chinook are failing to achieve levels that will prevent functional extinction.

The Salmon Work Group must follow the science and recommend to Governor Little that he join with the governors of Washington and Oregon and Representative Mike Simpson in leading the Northwest in a plan to breach the four Lower Snake River dams while providing for adequate power generation, transportation and the economy of the region.

Former Idaho Fish and Game Commissioners,

Keith Stonebraker
Clearwater Region 1976 -1987

Will Godfrey
Southwest Region 1975 -1979

Keith Carlson
Clearwater Region 1987 -1999

Gary Power
Salmon Region 2004 -2012

Fred Trevey
Clearwater Region 2007 - 2015