

**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

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments:

From: [Ken Kawamoto](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Salmon and Steelhead Runs
Date: Friday, November 8, 2019 2:34:36 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I am a life member of Trout Unlimited and just read an article about the plight salmon and steelhead and the people who depend on them, in Idaho. The article provided your email.

As an outdoorsman, I have spent the better part of the past 60 years hunting, fishing, and spending time in the outdoors. It is sad that, when I was a young man my Dad said to me that I was born 40 years too late and that is the same message that I have repeated to my kids. Each successive generation only gets to hear stories of the bounty that once was. The gauntlet that we have created and expect wildlife to go through to survive is staggering. Enormous damage continues to be done to the environment that sustains both human populations and wildlife. As for anadromous fish, now that the oceans chemistry and temperature is changing they no longer have any section of their lifecycle that is hospitable to their survival. We cut them off from reaching their spawning grounds, with Dams that are challenging at best to get around, warm anoxic waters greet them when they do get around them, lost riparian habitat that once shaded the rivers and the dewatering of sections of rivers to feed man's thirst for more and more water to feed an ever growing human population. All the while we watch as fish populations collapse, we spend billions of dollars doing the same thing over and over again, truck-em around, shoot them up a tube, you name it and none of it works. All the while one of the primary culprits that we keep trying to work around are the Dams. What is the definition of insanity....doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result?

We do see success stories, though. The removal of the Dams on the Elwha, the removal of the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel river and smaller dam removal projects on the Rogue river, have all demonstrated levels of success. The key is to return as much of the natural flow as we can and give nature a chance. We won't have much control over what is going on in the oceans until we decide that we are truly serious about climate change, but we can give the natural flow of the rivers back to the fish and restore, at least one portion the fishes lifecycle to some level of normalcy. It is the only fighting chance they have.

At some point, we humans need to understand that we will need to sacrifice some things for the good of the future. It is past time for us to step-up and start doing the right thing and begin taking some responsibility for our actions, which is what has caused all of these problems in the first place.

As you can tell, I am in full support of Dam removal on the Snake River, the Columbia and frankly numerous other locations. There has to be a better way than the way we have been doing it.

Ken Kawamoto
San Jose, CA.

From: donkaster07@gmail.com
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: imperilled salmon and steelhead
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 4:05:13 PM

The salmon and steelhead runs of Idaho are in serious trouble. Efforts so far have not been successful to say the least.

It is time for Idaho politicians to stand up for the conservation of this valuable resource.

The Snake River dams are not compatible with the fish runs. The dams provide some power, but the power during the spring runoff is of low value. They are not used to store water and therefore are of little value for irrigation. Their true function is to enable barge traffic, but this transportation could also be provided by rail.

The monies spent on dam maintenance might be better spent on improving the rail line.

Thankyou for your time

Don

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [TORI DOELL](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Salmon Workgroup
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019 7:29:10 PM

Date: 11/09/2019
Name: Tori Doell
Phone: 208-861-2949
Email: tdoell@live.com

Gov. Little's Salmon workgroup

I have grown up in Boise, Idaho. My dad was a wildlife biologist for Fish and Game and US forest service. I grew up fishing and enjoy our great outdoors. I have grown up understanding the balance of all species and the whole interconnectedness of our world. My dad taught me to value each species for its special part in the ecosystems. I have taught elementary school in the treasure valley for 30 years. I started off in college wanting to be a biologist but decide I can teach our child about our wonderful world and all the species that live in it. I have also worked for the Idaho dept of Fish and Game being facilitator for their education program, Project Wild for 23 years. This program is offered to teacher K-12 across the state. Being involved with this program has given me the opportunity to be involved with fish biologist and many other biologists in the department. I have been at the fish traps sorting wild and hatchery fish. The wild fish numbers are in desperate need of a bold solution to their survival. I have seen the declining numbers of fish over the decades. Our band aid fixes are not working! The numbers of our wild Salmon are drastically declining. The hatchery fish allow for sport fishing only! Hatchery fish are not helping the wild Salmon and Steelhead genic pool or maintain the Wild numbers of fish.

We need drastic solutions to bring back wild fish. We've tried the same things over decades there are just band aids for quick fixes. We need bold ideas to bring back our fish, including putting removal of the four Lower Snake River dams on the table.

Sincerely,
Tori Doell

From: [Brian Davern](#)
To: [Species Conservation](#)
Subject: Lower Snake River dams
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2019 10:30:24 AM

Removal of these four dams (or at least breaching them) would have immediate beneficial effects on four large, critical watersheds -- the Clearwater, the Grand Ronde, the Salmon and the Imnaha. For fish that must twice swim over 700 river miles, once as a juvenile and then again as an adult, removing half of the dams they encounter trying to do so... which is a grueling journey *without any dams*, is the simplest, most direct and instantaneous assistance these fish could receive. The reasonable balance between the needs for energy production/navigation/irrigation uses of Columbia River water and more healthy river access for salmon and steelhead is long overdue. Their dwindling numbers cry out for effective consideration before the last of important genetic ancestry is forever lost.

The damages they've suffered, some of it unintended or misunderstood, must be corrected while these actions are still capable of helping them restore their numbers. I urge you to at last, give these dams the attention that these struggling animals need to be relieved of. *They are doing all they can... we must also!*

Thank you.

Brian Davern
Kelso, WA