

- Dear NWPCC members, my name is Zack Waterman and I'm the state Director of the Idaho Sierra Club.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony on behalf of more than 3,500 Sierra Club members in Idaho.
- As a region, we've already spent more than \$16 billion on fish recovery in the Columbia Basin
  - ....yet Idaho's salmon and steelhead are in crisis and scientists warn they could be extinct within a matter of decades.
- What we've done for the past 30 years is not working...and our ecosystems and river communities are suffering badly.
- From our perspective, this updated plan continues this failing approach and therefore won't meet the Council's objectives "protect, mitigate and enhance" the salmon and steelhead of the Columbia Basin.
- While there are laudable goals in the council's updated F&W plan, such as a 4% smolt to adult returns, there is no way to achieve it under the current proposals.
  - A 4% SAR goal is good...because it means the species recovering at a rate that could lead to delisting the run as endangered or threatened.
  - Less than 2% means the species is dying out; the fish aren't replacing themselves.
    - Since 1994, the SAR for spring-summer run chinook salmon averaged less than 1%
    - Steelhead did slightly better but still haven't reached even the 2% mark, averaging just over 1% since 1997.
    - And sockeye are functionally extinct today.
- We need a vision and action plan that will match the goals.
  - Removing the Lower Snake River dams, restoring salmon, and planning for clean energy replacement must be the focus of this critical plan.
  - Studies prove there are viable and cost-effective replacements for the modest amount of hydro power and grain transportation the dams support.
- In the Northwest, we do not have choose between salmon and prosperity, orcas and jobs.
- We recommend the Council withdraw this plan and work with the Governor's and congressional delegation of the Northwest to forge a plan that will work for salmon, steelhead, make investments to make sure no community gets left behind.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.
- This is an enormous economic opportunity for the state....

- Invest in our own energy sources
- Revitalize river communities

#### NWPCC Public Hearing Testimony

- Dear NWPCC members, my name is Zack Waterman and I'm the state Director of the Idaho Sierra Club.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony on behalf of more than 3,500 Sierra Club members in Idaho.
- Despite spending more than 16 billion on anadromous fish recovery in the Columbia/Snake River Basin, Idaho's salmon and steelhead are in crisis and scientists warn they could be extinct within a generation.
- What we've done for the past 30 years is not working...and our ecosystems and river communities are suffering badly.
- From Sierra Club's perspective, the current addendum to the 2014 Fish & Wildlife plan continues this failed pattern and therefore won't meet the objectives the NW Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to "protect, mitigate and enhance" the salmon and steelhead of the Columbia Basin.
- While there are good goals in the council's updated Fish and Wildlife Plan, such as a 4% smolt to adult returns, there is no way to achieve it under the current proposals.
  - A four percent SAR goal is good...because it means the species recovering at a rate that could lead to delisting the run as endangered or threatened.
  - Less than 2% means the species is dying out; the fish aren't replacing themselves.
    - From 1994 to 2017, the SAR for spring-summer run chinook salmon averaged less than 1%, according to the Fish Passage Center.
    - It has only exceeded 2% twice in the last quarter century. The SAR for the species has declined by three-quarters since the dams went in, according to the research center.
    - Steelhead did slightly better but still haven't reached even the 2% mark, averaging just over 1% since 1997.
  - Put another way for a different salmon run: Historically, an estimated 150,000 sockeye salmon returned to the Snake River every year. The recovery goal for the endangered run is now 2,500 adults getting over Lower Granite Dam. In the last 10 years, the average has been almost 1,100 — less than half of the goal.
- We need a vision and action plan that will match the goals.

- Removing the Lower Snake River dams, restoring salmon, and planning for clean energy replacement must be the focus of this critical plan. Studies prove there are viable and cost-effective replacements for the modest amount of hydro power and grain transportation the dams support.
- We recommend the Council withdraw this plan and work with the Governor's and congressional delegation of the Northwest to forge a plan that will work for salmon, steelhead, make investments to make sure no community gets left behind.
- Removing the four lower Snake River dams is an essential part of developing an effective and durable plan.