U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson’s “Columbia Basin Initiative” framework charts a path forward for the Northwest. The proposal is bold and comprehensive. We believe it ensures all communities a prosperous future by restoring abundant populations of salmon and steelhead in Idaho, and building affordable clean energy and thriving agricultural economies.

The proposal is bold

Rep. Simpson is a champion for Idaho’s wild salmon and steelhead. His proposal includes funding to breach four dams on the lower Snake River and complete the largest river restoration project in the world. The figure below shows how these dams harm Snake River fish and hinder their recovery, compared to other fish in the region. Breaching the dams is a critical part of needed efforts to return wild fish to Idaho’s rivers, benefitting river communities, Tribes, and Idahoans.

Wild Chinook Salmon Smolt-to-Adult Returns in the Columbia River Basin

What is a Smolt-to-Adult Return?

SAR is the percentage of ocean-bound juvenile salmon that return as adults to spawn in freshwater. SARs must be at least 2% for salmon persistence. 4% SAR is the goal for healthy & harvestable populations.

SAR data source:
Fish Passage Center
2020 Comparative Survival Study
The proposal is comprehensive

The proposal includes investments in clean and affordable energy, efficient transportation, water quality, technology development, agriculture, and local communities. More importantly than breaching the four lower Snake River dams, the proposal ensures that all affected communities and industries are made whole by investing billions into the transition.

The $33B proposal by sector

Energy Replacement $16B
Agriculture and Shippers $5B
Fish Recovery $3.3B
Lower Snake River Restoration $2.3B
Communities $2.3B
Water Quality $4.6B

Idaho highlights

$1.1B Mid-Snake water quality improvement
$200M+ New research funding for U Idaho, Idaho State, Lewis-Clark State College, and Boise State
$150M Lewiston waterfront revitalization
$1.25B The Snake River Center for Advanced Energy Storage, a new research group to be located in Lewiston-Clarkston
$875M Lewiston-Clarkston economic development and compensation funding
$125M Designating a Lower Snake River National Recreation Area

TEXT IDAHO FISH TO 52886 TO TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Find out more: www.idahoconservation.org/solutionstogether
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