



IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Spirit of Idaho July 4, 2021

I'm entering my freshman year at North Junior High. My parents came to Boise in 2005, and since then we've maintained a very close relationship with our extended family in Shanghai, China. My grandpa has taught me about the importance of honor, whether it's being kind to strangers, or paying respects to higher spirits in new places.

I believe that the spirit of Idaho lies in its wildlife. The salmon and steelhead are crucial to preserve the spirit of the beautiful wildlife in Idaho. If we kill the fish, we kill the precious spirit of our beloved state. We will be dishonoring the generations of salmon that have survived here and the families that have built their bonds through fish-related activities. We will also be dishonoring the treaties that the government has made with Pacific Northwest indigenous communities.

I am asking Sen. Mike Crapo to support Congressman Mike Simpson's Columbia Basin Initiative. Let's breach the four Lower Snake River dams and restore the honor of our precious state and the spirit of Idaho. I encourage readers to call Crapo's office in favor of this proposal.

Yvonne Shen, Boise



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It's time to breach Snake dams Apr 10, 2019

Thanks, Idaho Conservation League, for putting on such an informative program on the extinction path of Idaho's salmon and steelhead and making a powerful fiscal argument to breach four lower Snake River dams.

As a longtime board member of Idaho Rivers United, I'm proud of all the leading-edge energy we have put into keeping this issue (and the fish) alive through court action, funded studies and public opinion for more than 20 years. All of us in the fight to recover wild salmon and steelhead in Idaho realize that the next few years are a critical decision-making time for politicians and federal agencies. We need everyone who cares about our salmon and steelhead to get involved.

Many regional and national conservation groups have done important fish habitat and education work in Idaho. Now it is time for them to step out and get comfortable with the word "breach"—even if the first step is, "We need to objectively study how best to do it." If you are a member or a donor of another Idaho conservation organization, urge them to take the next steps for salmon now. They all know what has to be done. Let these organizations know they have your support for strong action to restore the lower Snake migration corridor.

Our community is sprinkled with salmon warriors. Reach out if you are confused. Sort the science from the special interests and I think you'll find what IRU and its members have known for a long time—it is time to breach four fiscally unsound and ecologically disastrous dams on the lower Snake. The alternative is an extinction path for our salmon and steelhead.

Andy Munter, Idaho Rivers United board member, Ketchum



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Extinction is forever Nov 10, 2021

Idahoans stand at a hugely consequential moment for Idaho's salmon. What we choose now determines the fate of these magnificent fish, who swim 900 miles to the ocean, and 900 back uphill to their birthplace, to spawn and die. They feed many other animals on land and in the water; they nourish us, and support one of Idaho's biggest industries, tourism. But with salmon on the brink of extinction, all this—and more—could be lost.

The old path, the status quo, leaves the four Lower Snake River Dams intact. Years of scientific evidence show this will soon lead to extinction of remaining salmon species. Rep. Simpson is proposing a new path that breaches the four dams while also addressing the needs of stakeholders who currently depend on the dams.

The new path, set forth by Rep. Simpson, acknowledges the science that the four LSRDs must be removed, brings together affected groups toward solutions; offers a rebound for the salmon and species that depend upon them, and huge job growth opportunities in clean energy (including solar, wind, and battery storage), tourism, new, faster grain transport (trains) and more.

Thirty-five groups representing hundreds of thousands of hunters, anglers, and outdoor retailers across the country support the new path, as do Northwest Tribes, for whom salmon are sacred. The Nimiipuu in Lapwai have already installed over 500kW of solar plus battery backup.

Now is the time to choose, when funding decisions are being made, salmon hang by a thread, we have cheaper energy alternatives, and can modify our overpriced energy contracts with Canada and BPA. Will we keep flushing away money on overly expensive energy and methods that haven't saved salmon with what precious time is left?

Extinction is forever. It's now or never. - **Lisa Hecht**, Boise