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Comments: Steelhead and Salmon are crucial to Idaho, as well as to other states. They are important because of sportsman generated revenue, cultural values, species diversity and the next generation of Idahoans. A future without these immensely important species will be noticed by the majority of residents of the Pacific Northwest. Collaboration between local interest groups, elected officials as well as State Representatives is necessary to recover Steelhead and Salmon populations in the Columbia River Basin.

Healthy ecosystems require the presence of multiple species to operate at the highest level of productivity. Although Idaho waters are by no means unproductive, the possibilities are endless with the presence of these species. In both fresh and saltwater systems, indigenous fish play an important role in the food web. By boosting Steelhead and Salmon populations we can ensure that there will be healthier ecosystems in the state of Idaho and the other Pacific Northwest states. Without recovery efforts, extirpation and extinction of these species can be expected with catastrophic effects on local and global ecosystems.

As a state and region, we cannot afford to lose these fish in our waterways. Our children and grandchildren rely on our choices today to provide recreational and cultural opportunities by creating sustainable healthier ecosystems. Logistical and efficient recovery and monitoring will be required by parties on all levels. Through compromise and collaboration, we can hope to create healthy and productive fisheries for generations of Idahoans to come.