



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

President Dan Dauwalter, President-Elect Todd Pearsons, Vice-President Dan Brauch, Secretary-Treasurer Travis Rehm,
Past-President Jackie Watson, Student Representative Emily Chen

5 March 2020

The Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) represents scientists and natural resource managers from the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming; U.S. associated entities in the West Pacific Ocean; and the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory in Canada. Our mission is to advance sound science, promote professional development and disseminate science-based fisheries information for the global protection, conservation and sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems. Our members, some 3,000 strong, represent a tremendous array of fisheries experts involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession and employed in academia, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private consulting.

With respect to your recent comments on breaching the four Lower Snake River dams, the WDAFS agrees that if society-at-large wishes to restore wild Snake River salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and white sturgeon to sustainable and fishable levels, the best-available science suggests that a significant portion of the lower Snake River must be returned to a free-flowing condition by breaching of the four lower Snake River dams. We have long supported this stance as indicated in the resolution passed unanimously during our 2011 annual meeting (see: <https://wdafs.org/download/archive/resolutions/2011-Final-WDAFS-Snake-River-Resolution.pdf>).

The WDAFS stands ready to assist with this issue by providing the best-available science on sustainability and conservation of Snake River fishery resources as well as with public outreach.

Regards,

Daniel C. Dauwalter, Ph.D.
President, WDAFS; ddauwalter@tu.org