

*350 Seattle ♦ American Rivers ♦ American Whitewater
Association of Northwest Steelheaders ♦ Backbone Campaign ♦ Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Law & Policy ♦ Columbia Riverkeeper ♦ Earthjustice
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light ♦ Endangered Species Coalition
Fly Fishers International ♦ Friends of Grays Harbor ♦ Friends of San Juans
Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration ♦ Fuse Washington ♦ Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Idaho Conservation League ♦ Idaho Rivers United ♦ Idaho Wildlife Federation ♦ Lands Council
National Parks Conservation Association ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council
National Wildlife Federation ♦ Native Fish Society ♦ Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
North Cascades Conservation Council ♦ Northwest Guides and Anglers Association
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association ♦ Northwest Watershed Institute
Olympic Forest Coalition ♦ Olympic Park Advocates ♦ Orca Network ♦ Pacific Rivers
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance ♦ Rainier Audubon Society ♦ Save Our wild Salmon Coalition
Seattle Aquarium ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Snake River Savers ♦ Snake River Waterkeeper
Snohomish County Indivisible ♦ Spokane Riverkeeper ♦ Solutionary Rail ♦ Sound Action
The Natural History Museum ♦ The Salish Sea School ♦ Vancouver Audubon Society
Washington Conservation Voters ♦ Washington Environmental Council
Washington Kayak Club ♦ Washington State Council of Trout Unlimited ♦ Washington Wild
Washington Wildlife Federation ♦ Wenatchee Outdoors ♦ Whale Scout
Whidbey Environmental Action Network ♦ WildEarth Guardians ♦ Wild Orca
Wild Steelhead Coalition*

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20015

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Murray and Governor Inslee:

We write to thank you for your leadership to protect and recover endangered Columbia/Snake salmon and steelhead populations, and salmon-dependent Southern Resident orcas. The work you have undertaken recently has already had a galvanizing effect on this critically important Northwest issue that has been gridlocked for far too long.

We see steadily gathering momentum for real and lasting solutions to protect and restore these iconic creatures, for all who depend upon, or simply cherish them – progress that would not have been possible without your committed leadership. There is also a growing recognition that justice for Northwest Tribes and honoring treaties that have been too long neglected must be addressed.

The draft “Lower Snake River Dams Benefit Replacement Report” has provided the region with an honest and valuable synthesis and analysis that illuminates key issues, challenges and

opportunities. Importantly, it confirms that we can replace the dams' services with alternatives that are both feasible and affordable. We look forward with anticipation to the final version of the report.

The recent NOAA-Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service draft report "Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead," likewise clarifies the science of salmon and orca recovery, with its clear finding that: "For Snake River stocks, it is essential that the lower Snake River be restored through dam breaching." The report confirms and aligns with the findings of the vast majority of independent scientists, and Tribal and state fish and wildlife agencies.

The recent agreement to extend a pause in the litigation around the inadequate and illegal 2020 federal salmon plan for the Columbia/Snake River Basin includes an affirmation that:

"The Biden Administration is committed to supporting development of a durable long-term strategy to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels, honoring Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, delivering affordable and reliable clean power, and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region."

It is clear that you have a partner in the Biden Administration, which is also committed to social justice and honoring our nation's Tribal treaties.

We understand that the final version of the benefits replacement study will be accompanied, or soon followed, by a set of recommendations from you on a comprehensive plan to meet the goals you and the Administration share. There has never been a better opportunity to correct mistakes of the past and create a future that includes abundant salmon, healthy orca populations, and a better and stronger Northwest moving forward. We urge you to recognize in your action plan that restoring a resilient, free flowing lower Snake River through dam removal is an essential part of creating a comprehensive regional solution and approach.

We applaud your vision and leadership and commit to working with you and others to support in every way we can the kind of bold and comprehensive solutions that it will make these goals a reality.

Respectfully,

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Alyssa Macy, CEO
Washington Environmental Council / Washington Conservation Voters

Todd True, Senior Attorney
Earthjustice

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Bill Arthur, Chair: Snake/Columbia River Salmon Campaign
Sierra Club

Giulia Good Stefani, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Deborah A. Giles, PhD, Science & Research Director
Wild Orca

Julian Matthews, Co-Founder and Treasurer
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition

Nora Nickum, Senior Ocean Policy Manager
Seattle Aquarium

Lauren Goldberg, Executive Director
Columbia Riverkeeper

Kyle Smith, Snake River Director
American Rivers

Thomas O'Keefe, Ph.D, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Rob Smith, Northwest Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Rev. AC Churchill, Executive Director
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light

Leda Huta, Executive Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Rich Simms, Co-founder and President
Wild Steelhead Coalition

Grace Hope, Leadership Development Director
350 Seattle

Jason Wedemeyer, Executive Director
Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Amy Morrison, Deputy Director
Backbone Campaign

Sophia Ressler, Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Trish Rolfe, Executive Director
Center for Environmental Law & Policy

Richard Williams, Ph.D, Board Member
Fly Fishers International

Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum, President
Friends of Grays Harbor

R. Brent Lyles, Executive Director
Friends of San Juans

Marianne Edain, Co-owner
Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration

Aaron Ostrom, Executive Director
Fuse Washington

Genia Moncada and Polly Dyer, Leadership Team
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Seattle Chapter

Mary Taylor Goforth, Leadership Team
Great Old Broads for Wilderness South, Sound Broadband

Brad Smith, North Idaho Director
Idaho Conservation League

Nic Nelson, Executive Director
Idaho Rivers United

Brian Brooks, Executive Director
Idaho Wildlife Federation

Amanda Parrish, Executive Director
Lands Council

J. Michelle Swope, Washington Coordinator
Native Fish Society

Philip Fenner, President
North Cascades Conservation Council

Bob Rees, Executive Director
Northwest Guides and Anglers Association

Peter Bahls, Executive Director
Northwest Watershed Institute

Connie Gallant, President
Olympic Forest Coalition

John Bridge, President
Olympic Park Advocates

Howard Garrett, President
Orca Network

Michael Morrison, Board Chair
Pacific Rivers

Anne McLaughlin, Leader
Palouse Great Old Broads

Blair Englebrecht, Policy and Boating Programs Manager
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

Dan Streiffert, Conservation Chair
Rainier Audubon Society

Sandy Spears, Steering Committee Member
Snake River Savers

Buck Ryan, Executive Director
Snake River Waterkeeper

Donald J. Miller, Environment/Climate Liaison
Snohomish County Indivisible

Jerry White, Executive Director
Spokane Riverkeeper

Bill Moyer, Executive Director
Solutionary Rail

Amy Carey, Executive Director
Sound Action

Beka Economopoulos, Director
The Natural History Museum

Amy Eberling, Executive Director
The Salish Sea School

Susan Saul, Conservation Chair
Vancouver Audubon Society

Renée C Paradis, Board Member
Washington Kayak Club

Pat Hesselgesser, Chair
Washington State Council of Trout Unlimited

Tom Uniak, Executive Director
Washington Wild

John McGlenn, President
Washington Wildlife Federation

Sarah Shaffer, Executive Director
Wenatchee Outdoors

Whitney Neugebauer, Director
Whale Scout

Gary Piazzon, President
Whidbey Environmental Action Network

Andrew Rothman, Wild Places Program Director
WildEarth Guardians