Dear Governors Brown and Inslee,

The undersigned organizations represent members of the Outdoor Recreation industry in Oregon and Washington. Collectively, we represent thousands of year round employees, seasonal guides, and citizens that are deeply invested in the recovery of Pacific salmon and healthy rivers for both salmon and humans to enjoy.

First of all, we are grateful for your quick action in responding to the COVID-19 health crisis and the accompanying economic crisis. This is a difficult time for all of us, as we do our part to prevent the spread of the disease, mitigate potential tragedies, and prepare for an uncertain future.

We would like to thank Governor Inslee for his commitment to Phase 1 of the Lower Snake River Dam Stakeholder Engagement Process, and Governor Brown for her February letter in support of a comprehensive forward-thinking solution, as well as the comments provided by both states on the recent federal CRSO DEIS. Washington and Oregon have both shown a commitment to developing solutions that work for all and a serious investment in restoring a keystone species. It is in the interest of all Northwesterners to continue these stakeholder engagement processes until a solution can be crafted that restores salmon and orca, maintains our clean reliable power system, and provides new opportunities for improved quality of life in rural communities throughout our region.

Our interest in salmon recovery and river restoration stems from our knowledge of the value of outdoor recreation in the Northwest. Recreation enhances lives and forms the economic and cultural foundation of many small towns in the Snake River Basin like Riggins (ID), Heller Bar (WA), and Enterprise (OR). We see a valuable opportunity to expand recreation and tourism in this region through rafting, fishing, bird watching, hunting, and wine tasting—while preserving the future of the recreation economy along the Clearwater, Grande
Ronde, and Salmon Rivers. Governor Inslee’s Stakeholder Process Report correctly notes that people are willing to travel long distances and wait years for permits to enjoy high quality wild rivers and scenic canyons. Outdoor recreation is one of the greatest means of transferring wealth from urban to rural communities with every trip imparting $119 per person per day on average. ¹ Outdoor recreation is an $11.5 billion industry in Washington state and a $6.5 billion industry in Oregon. The growing trend of fishing season closures in order to protect steadily declining salmon and steelhead populations threatens our industry and livelihoods. Restoring rivers and recovering native fish populations, in contrast, promises both new economic opportunities and improved quality of life.

We are grateful for your leadership. Those of us who attended the stakeholder meetings earlier this year witnessed agriculture industry officials and conservation scientists, commercial fishermen and hydropower marketers, engaged in civil discussions about what is and is not working for them on the lower Snake River. In the outdoor guiding business, we understand the challenges of forging harmony between people of diverse backgrounds. We want to see these conversations continue and support the development of a comprehensive solution that recovers salmon and moves everyone forward together.

River restoration is an opportunity for all parties to shape a future in which we can thrive, not a zero sum contest in which either energy or salmon--orca or wheat--must lose. We are grateful for your leadership and we would like to see each state maintain their commitment to this process through to the end. We ask that you continue to support dialogue among key stakeholders, identify ways that state government can help address problems and obstacles, and encourage the support and engagement of our congressional delegation. Please reach out if you have questions or there are ways that we can help.

In Gratitude,

Thomas O’Keefe, PhD  
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
Seattle, WA

Dean Pierce  
Owner Operator  
Dean’s Guide Service  
Fairview, OR

Kent Anderson,  
Owner Operator  
Anderson’s Outdoors  
Welches, OR

Gary Geis  
Owner Operator  
Double G Guide Service  
Battleground, WA

¹Rosenberg et al., Recreation Economic Values for Estimating Outdoor Recreation Economic Benefits From the National Forest System. USDA. 2017
² Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2017
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Keightley</td>
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<td>Astoriafishing.com</td>
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<td>Bill Monroe Jr.</td>
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<td>Bob Rees</td>
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<td>Shane Turnbull</td>
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<td>Chinook Expeditions, LLC.</td>
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<td>Chris Vertopoulos</td>
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<td>Cindy Pickthorn</td>
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<td>Dave McCoy</td>
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<td>Evan Lafky</td>
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<td>Nick Amato</td>
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<td>Jason Rice</td>
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<td>David Hazen</td>
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<td>Steve Kuhn</td>
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<td>Rob Bignall</td>
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<td>James Keeling</td>
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<td>Crescent City, CA</td>
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<td>John Elder</td>
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</table>
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Michael Aquilino  
President  
*Yakima River Runners*  
Yakima, WA

CC: 
The Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senate  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, United States Senate  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dr. Kim Shreir, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Denny Heck, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, United States Senate  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, United States Senate  
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kurt Schrader, House of Representatives