**Murray-Inslee Messaging**

**Lower Snake Dam Removal**

**Trout Unlimited**

**Key Messages**

* The Murray-Inslee report forges a path forward for sustainable energy, resilient communities, and restored populations of wild salmon and steelhead in the Northwest.
* Restoration is possible in the Snake Basin, but only if we act now. The Murray-Inslee report is a step towards a brighter future for wild salmon, steelhead, and our Pacific Northwest communities – now it’s time to urge Congress to make this a reality.
* The future is in our hands. The Murray-Inslee report shows that the benefits the dams provide can be replaced – but our wild salmon and steelhead cannot. Act now and urge Congress to restore the Snake.
* The Murray-Inslee draft report supports removal of the lower four Snake dams. Thank you, Senator Murray and Governor Inslee, for your commitment to a brighter, sustainable future for our communities, economy, and wild salmon and steelhead.
* While the report identifies sustainable and reasonable solutions for replacement of dam services, Congressional leadership and the Biden Administration must take urgent steps to restore a free-flowing Snake River, and in turn support our Pacific Northwest communities and honor tribal commitments.
* Through the report, Sen. Murray and Gov Inslee, following on the heels of Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson (R-ID), provide a vision of abundant fish returns, community resilience, and economic development in the Pacific Northwest. The analysis clearly identifies the steps required to replace the services of the lower four and move the region into a clean energy future that supports tribes, wildlife, and local economies.

**Report Details**

* Demonstrates that “with advance planning and investment, the services the LSRD provide could be fully or partially maintained for multiple industries and sectors, and negative impacts of dam breaching could be mitigated.”
* States that “change in the Lower Snake River and Columbia River System is inevitable,” and cites changes in cost, operation, environmental factors, and a rapidly changing hydropower system will cause the Basin to undergo vast transitions.
* Estimates that replacing the services provided by the dams could range in cost from $10.3 billion to $27.2 billion.
* Acknowledges Congressional authorization and action would be needed for the Army Corps to pursue breaching the dams.
* Notes the economic impact of wild salmon and steelhead: “Within the Columbia Basin, recreational fishing is a major economic driver of rural communities. It has been estimated that restored salmon fisheries in the Columbia Basin could generate up to $1 billion annually in additional regional personal income benefits and support up to 25,000 new family wage jobs.”

**Call to Action**

* Visit tu.org/lowersnake to learn more and take action now.
* Read the full report here: <https://www.lsrdoptions.org/>
* Action alert: <https://www.tu.org/conservation/action-center/?vvsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f95554%2fRespond>

**Approved Quotes**

From Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited President and CEO

Restoring a free-flowing Snake River will be the most significant salmon recovery action of our lifetimes. Thank you, Senator Murray, and Governor Inslee, for illuminating the path to a brighter future for people and salmon. The report confirms that the dams’ services can be provided in alternative ways. Now it is time to invest in those alternatives and restore a free-flowing lower Snake River before it is too late.

From Helen Neville, Chief Scientist for Trout Unlimited

We can rebuild abundant, fishable runs of salmon and steelhead in the Snake basin, but only if we restore a free-flowing river. Since completion of the four lower Snake River dams, Snake River populations have declined dramatically and the incredible fisheries that existed prior to their construction have all but vanished. The fact that wild salmon and steelhead on the Yakima and John Day rivers survive at much higher rates than Snake River fish after passing four and three dams, respectively, shows that Snake River fish can rebuild if we restore a free-flowing lower Snake River and unlock the largest wild salmon refuge in the lower 48.

**Suggested Email Copy**

Taking a bold step toward recovering the most important run of salmon and steelhead in the Lower 48, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Governor Jay Inslee (D-WA) released a draft report evaluating the replacement of services needed to remove the lower four Snake River dams.

Since the completion of the four lower Snake dams in 1975, the river’s salmon and steelhead populations have declined by more than 90 percent – impacting tribes, anglers, businesses, and communities across the region.

The report provides a vision of abundant fish returns, community resilience, and economic development in the Pacific Northwest. The analysis clearly identifies the steps required to replace the services of the lower four and move the region into a clean energy future that supports tribes, wildlife, and local economies.

But this vision isn’t a reality yet. We must act now to return robust populations of wild salmon and steelhead to the basin. Congress must take urgent steps to restore a free-flowing Snake River. Click here to urge the U.S. Senate to take down the lower four Snake River dams.

**Suggested Social Media Messaging**

The Murray-Inslee report confirms that change in the Basin is inevitable, and we must remove dams to restore robust runs of wild salmon and steelhead. Learn more and act now at tu.org/lowersnake. #StopSalmonExtinction @TroutUnlimited

Thank you, Senator Murray and Governor Inslee, for your commitment to Northwest communities, economy, and wild fish. Join @TroutUnlimited in urging Congress to make this vision a reality and removing the four lower Snake River dams. Visit tu.org/lowersnake. #StopSalmonExtinction

The future is in our hands. The Murray-Inslee draft report shows that the benefits the dams provide can be replaced – but our wild salmon and steelhead cannot. Act now and urge Congress to restore the Snake: tu.org/lowersnake #StopSalmonExtinction

The Murray-Inslee report is a step towards a brighter future for wild salmon, steelhead, and our Pacific Northwest communities – now it’s time to urge Congress to make this a reality. Visit tu.org/lowersnake to act now. @TroutUnlimited #StopSalmonExtinction

**Questions or concerns? Please contact:**

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