



Testimony of Alan Moore of Trout Unlimited

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We've dedicated over 30 years and well over 3 billion dollars in so-called "technofixes" trying to correct the mistakes that we built into the four Lower Snake River dams. Those efforts quite simply **have not worked**. This is evidenced by entire populations of Snake River salmon and steelhead on the brink of extinction or already there, and further evidenced by disappearing tribal, commercial and sport fisheries from Astoria to Alaska and inland to Idaho as well.

What does this tell you? It tells me that our grandiose and expensive efforts to fix these dams have failed not because we need to spend more money, take more time, or study the issue further. It tells me that it was the dams themselves that were the mistake, a mistake that can only be corrected by removing them. We urge you to recognize that fact, do the right thing for the region, its salmon and its people and make the tough choices necessary to restore our region's wild salmon heritage. What is at issue here economically is not whose jobs are more or less expendable, because that's a distinction none of us can make. Jobs were affected when we built these dams, and jobs will continue to be affected no matter which course we take from here, even if we do nothing. This is now about making the choices we must make to bring the salmon back, and about concentrating our investments where the human impacts are greatest.

Economies evolve, but extinction does not, and therefore the choice is clear: We urge the federal government to remove the four Lower Snake dams while the salmon still have a chance.