

Salmon Letters to Senator Reid-Suggested Talking Points

Thank you for caring enough to take the time to write a letter to Senator Reid on this important issue. As you may know Pacific salmon are in serious decline. These fish are too important to our natural ecosystems and our economy to let them slip into oblivion. Senator Reid has indicated an interest in this issue but he needs to hear from you, his constituent, here in Nevada. Your letter to Senator Reid will help him understand that there is public support in Nevada for his leadership in the Senate to resolve the Northwest salmon crisis and to bring salmon and steelhead home to Nevada.

When you write Senator Reid, please consider these points:

- Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead are in serious decline. Current efforts to protect them have failed. The federal government continues to waste **billions of dollars** on failed, ineffective programs, while populations continue to decline.
- We need Senator Reid's leadership in Congress to ensure that recovery efforts are based on the best scientific and economic information.
- Pacific salmon are national treasure, a vitally important food, the source of tens of thousands of jobs, and are an important indicator of a healthy ecosystem.
- Bringing salmon home to Nevada by restoring them to our northern rivers is important to you. Remind Sen. Reid that Nevada was once home to robust runs of salmon and steelhead.

Thank Sen. Reid for his leadership:

- For his recent letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking for fish passage through the three dams in Hells Canyon on the Snake River in Idaho.
- For his recent work to add Nevada as one of the six western "salmon states" eligible for funds from the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund.
- For his recent work on energy policy and on developing alternative energy like wind and solar power. These energy sources will easily replace hydropower currently being generated by the four lower Snake River dams.

Ask Sen. Reid to lead in the Senate: (this is a very important part of your letter)

- Ask Sen. Reid to support legislation in Congress that will protect and restore salmon and steelhead to the Columbia and Snake Rivers, including the removal of the four lower Snake River dams – a key obstacle to saving Snake River salmon and to bringing them home to Nevada's rivers.

These are the important points to make in your letter. Also, if you have a personal relationship with the senator, and you feel that it is appropriate, please consider making a phone call to him as well. Again, your willingness to take a few minutes to write a letter is important. You are making a large contribution to future generations who will enjoy the bounty of our wild salmon and steelhead. Please send me a copy of your letter so that we have it in our records. You can email me the electronic version in an attachment or you can mail a hard copy via snail mail. Also, please let me know if you make a phone call to the Senator. If you have questions or need further clarification on some of these issues, please feel free to call me.

Thank you very much.

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