



Jonathan D. Ebel  
Staff Biologist, Bureau of Fisheries  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
600 S. Walnut St.  
Boise, ID 83707

RE: SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST: #2022-3 Bureau of Reclamation – Snake River Area Office

Jonathan,

The Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF) agrees with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) that allowing approximately 53.3 kaf of Palisades Powerhead to remain in the upper Snake Basin reservoir system benefits all fisheries in the upper Snake Basin. Specifically, in 2022, the benefit to the upper Snake Basin will outweigh the potential benefit to anadromous fishes below the Hells Canyon Complex. Our mission compels us to support the IDFG System Operational Request (SOR) based on the expected positive outcomes for wild trout across the upper Snake Basin through improved water quality and winter flows. These positive outcomes, provided by the 53.3 kaf remaining in upper Snake River reservoirs, are supported by published data spanning 37 years of fisheries research and 9 years of HFF water quality monitoring.

HFF enjoys support from nearly 2,500 members to conserve the world-renowned wild trout fisheries of the Henry's Fork and connected watersheds through science and collaboration. HFF has completed or funded over 100 research and monitoring projects and has conducted numerous on-the-ground restoration or access projects since 1984. However, with issues like drought, a changing climate bringing more variable weather, and less reliable water resources year after year, the challenges only increase. Accordingly, accomplishment of our mission will require new and innovative solutions to match the pace and scale of the challenges we face.

Thank you for crafting IDFG's SOR as another new and innovative solution to deal with the challenges wild trout currently face in the Henry's Fork and South Fork Snake River watersheds.

Signed this 12th day of May, 2022 by Brandon Hoffner, Executive Director - Henry's Fork Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Hoffner", is located below the text of the letter.