



**Northwest Sportfishing  
Industry Association**  
PO Box 4, Oregon City, OR 97045

**PRESIDENT**

**Dan Parnel**  
*Leisure Sales*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Gabe Miller**  
*Farwest Sports*

**TREASURER/SECRETARY**

**B.G. Eilertson**  
*Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tony Amato**  
*Frank Amato Publications*

**Bob Buchanan**  
*BeauMac/SMI*

**Dick Figgins**  
*Dick Nile Spoons*

**Steve Grutbo**  
*Smokehouse Products*

**Ron Hiller**  
*Tom Posey Company*

**Fabian Lomas**  
*Holthe Ward Lomas*

**Bill Monroe, Jr.**  
*Bill Monroe Outdoors*

**Jeff Morton**  
*Morton & Associates*

**Don New**  
*News Landing Design*

**Mike Olson**  
*Willie Boats*

**Mike Perusse**  
*Don Coffey Company*

**Buzz Ramsey**  
*Buzz Ramsey Promotions*

**Matt Schlecht**  
*Bob's Sporting Goods*

**Zach Schoonover**  
*Maxima, USA*

**Brad Schoenborn**  
*B.S. Fish Tales*

**Dave Strahan**  
*All Sports/Big Rock*

**Scott Weedman**  
*Three Rivers Marine & Tackle*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Liz Hamilton**

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Carl Burke-Washington**  
**George Okulitch-Oregon**

**SCIENCE & POLICY ADVISORS**

**Dr. Doug Dehart**

**Dan Diggs**

**Jim Martin**

**Rod Sando, Chair**

**Bill Shake**

**Don Swartz**

**Maddy Sheehan, Of Counsel**

July 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

c/o Monument Review, MS-1530

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240.

Honorable Secretary Zinke,

The Department of the Interior, as directed by an executive order signed by President Trump on April 27, 2017, is conducting a review of National Monuments proclaimed since January 1, 1996. One of the Monuments under review is the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River in Washington State. The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association firmly supports the continued preservation of the Hanford Reach National Monument as currently constituted as a cornerstone of the recreational salmon sportfishing economy in the Pacific Northwest.

**Public lands in public hands sustains jobs in the sport fishing industry, as well as hunting, hiking, camping, rafting and other sectors of the Outdoor Recreation industry in America. Access to public lands is vital to the health of the 887 Billion Outdoor Rec industry, supporting 7.6 million jobs.**

NSIA is a trade organization, consisting of over 300 businesses in the northwest and beyond dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them. In the Northwest, sportfishing means business. According to the last U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey (USFWS), sportfishing in Idaho, Oregon and Washington generates nearly \$4 billion annually in economic benefits, in service of over 2 million customers who spend 2.6 million days fishing throughout the year. According to USFWS 34,500 jobs are sustained by the activity. As the largest producer of salmon, steelhead and sturgeon populations in the world, the Columbia Basin fisheries are vital to the success of our industry.

Northwest sportfishing for salmon and steelhead is more than an economic engine and a cultural birthright, it is a funding source for conservation. License fees, collected primarily through NSIA retailers, fund much of the conservation mission at the fish and wild life agencies. In addition, our industry pays a federal excise tax on manufactured goods that is returned to the states through the Sport Fish Restoration fund.

Even for those who do not fish, salmon are an ever-present icon seen on our license plates, on buildings and artwork everywhere. For the Native American Tribes in the northwest, salmon continue to be a sacred part of their culture.

The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and is the only remaining portion of the Columbia where Chinook Salmon

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them. Call toll free: 1-866-315-NSIA

still spawn naturally. In 2015 scientists estimated that 200,000 chinook spawned in Hanford Reach, the most since dams were constructed in the 1930s. These 200,000 chinook that returned to Hanford Reach in 2015, known as Upriver Brights, were in addition to hundreds of thousands of that were harvested in sport, commercial and tribal ocean fisheries from Alaska to Canada, off the Washington and Oregon coastlines, followed by sport, commercial and tribal harvest in-river.

The Hanford Reach is home to the most abundant fall chinook population in the lower 48 and generates enormous economic benefits to nations, tribes and sport/commercial fishing industries.

The fish that return here are often some of the largest and most sought after by anglers in the region, reaching over 50 pounds. The health of these Chinook salmon help anchor the overall salmon runs in the Columbia and the secure the success of sportfishing seasons annually. Given the importance of the Hanford Reach to salmon, the preservation of the National Monument as currently constituted is needed to keep our industry thriving.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Hamilton". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
PO Box 4,  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
nsializ@aol.com  
www.nsiafishing.org  
503.631.8859

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. Representative