**Idaho -- Abstract of the 2018 stock status talk for Steelhead Managers Workshop, Walla Walla, Washington, March 20 – 22, 2018**

Alan Byrne, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The decline of the abundance of Snake River steelhead led to their listing as threatened in October 1997, pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. Development of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), particularly the four dams and reservoirs on the Lower Snake River, is considered to be the primary factor in the decline of Snake River steelhead. About 60% of the historical steelhead habitat in Idaho is still available, primarily in the Salmon and Clearwater river drainages. About 30% of Idaho's existing steelhead habitat is included within designated wilderness or wild and scenic river corridors. There is a mix of natural and hatchery steelhead production strategies in Idaho, ranging from wild refugia to large-scale hatchery programs to provide harvest opportunities. Areas managed for wild steelhead include the Lochsa and the Selway river drainages of the Clearwater River, the Middle Fork and South Fork drainages of the Salmon River, Rapid River, tributaries of the Salmon River downstream of the MF Salmon River, and tributaries of the Clearwater River downstream of the SF Clearwater.

IDFG has genotypes all hatchery broodstock Parental Based Tagging (PBT) techniques allowing the progeny to be identified. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) techniques can classify wild steelhead into genetic reporting groups. Using PBT and GSI the contribution of Idaho stocks can be estimated in fisheries and at Lower Granite Dam. Steelhead harvest and the contribution from Idaho has declined in the past three years in the Lower Columbia summer sport (average June 16 to October 31 was 9,400 of which 30% was from Idaho hatcheries), tribal Zone 6 (average August 1 to November 1 harvest was 11,500 AD-clipped and 7,100 AD-intact of which 66% and 36% were from Idaho, respectively), and the lower Snake River downstream of the Idaho/Washington (average September 1 to March 31 harvest was 8,300 of which 65% was from Idaho hatcheries). Harvest of steelhead within Idaho has also declined in the past three years from about 40,000 to less than 19,000.

Abundance of wild and hatchery origin steelhead passing Lower Granite Dam has been in decline since spawn year (SY) 2015. The hatchery return has declined from about 120,000 fish in SY15 to about 60,000 in SY18. The hatchery return for SY18 failed to meet the migration goal of 80,000 fish. The wild return has declined from about 45,000 fish in SY15 to about 10,000 in SY18.