

Statement of Terry Goudy-Rambler
Yakama Nation

Good afternoon, congressman dicks and distinguished guests. My name is Terry Goudy-Rambler, and I am honored to represent the Yakama Nation as a member of the Fish and Wildlife, Law and Order committee of the Yakama Tribal Council.

Like all native people, few things are more precious to the Yakama Nation than the natural resources that have sustained us for countless generations. Few of these resources are more precious than our salmon, which, in our belief, was the first to stand before the creator and offer itself as food for the Indian people. The salmon has sustained our culture, our bodies, and our livelihoods since the beginning of time.

We are a fishing tribe. So important is the salmon that our forefathers took special care to ensure that our right to fish was secured for all time in our treaty of 1855 with the United States of America. Like all of us in this room, we hope and pray for the day when this river once again runs thick with wild salmon. But that day is far off. Until it arrives, the hatcheries that were built to replace the losses of wild salmon will be a necessary and important component of our present-day salmon fisheries.

The Yakama Nation has a long and deep interest in the use of hatcheries to rebuild our salmon runs. Over 2 decades ago, the Yakama Nation and other tribes developed the concept of “gravel-to-gravel” management, which was our way of expressing the need to protect both the fish hatched in gravel and the habitats they need to survive. Recognizing that hatcheries would need to play a role in this form of management, we advocated for the idea of supplementation as a way to use hatcheries to preserve and enhance wild fish. So the tribes have been on the forefront of hatchery reform for more than 2 decades.

The Yakama Nation applauds the HSRG and its support team for its hard work and commitment to this task. We know it has meant many nights away from home, and many long days trying to understand complex and sometimes competing management goals. The HSRG was asked to deliver a very specific technical product, and it has done so by providing a set of recommendations for operating Columbia Basin hatcheries. Our first reading of the report indicates that many of the basic principles underlying the recommendations are similar to those we apply to our own hatchery programs. We are confident these principles can be incorporated into hatchery operations to move them in the right direction over time.

But perhaps the greatest immediate value of the HSRG report is to advise congress that we in the Columbia Basin have a coherent and defensible plan for the appropriate use of hatcheries. They need to hear this loudly and repeatedly, as our Chairman found on his trip to D.C. last week. But we in the region also must acknowledge that the recommendations as stated in this report would require substantial changes to some hatchery programs that the Columbia River tribes have fought hard to establish. The *U.S. v Oregon* fishery co-managers will need to work together to find a responsible balance

between the HSRG recommendations and the many other policy considerations that affect our management decisions.

Again, on behalf of the Yakama Nation, I congratulate the HSRG on the completion of its task and its contribution to recovering our precious salmon resource. Thank you.