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Nearly half of the wild spring chinook populations in the Snake River Basin have crossed a critical threshold, signaling they are nearing extinction and without intervention may not persist, according to analysis by the Nez Perce Tribe.

Modeling conducted by fisheries scientists at the tribe and shared with other state, federal and tribal fisheries managers in the Columbia Basin indicates if current trends continue, 77 percent of Snake River spring chinook populations and 44 percent of steelhead

populations will be in a similar position within four years.

Tribal fisheries officials say a wide array of shortand long-term actions, such as new conservation hatcheries, predator control, increased spill at Snake and Columbia river dams, and adoption of Rep. Mike Simpson's plan to breach the four lower Snake River dams, are urgently needed.

Fisheries officials in Oregon and Washington agree dam removal should be considered and other actions above and beyond current

salmon and steelhead recovery efforts should be pursued.

The tribe found 42 percent of Snake River spring chinook and 19 percent of steelhead have reached the quasi-extinction threshold—an analytical tool used by the federal government to assess the risk of extinction or measure the viability of fish populations.

The threshold is tripped when a natural origin population of fish has 50 or fewer spawners return to natal streams for four consecutive years.

Veto sought for wolf-killing bill

Nearly 30 retired tribal, state and federal wildlife managers sent a letter last week to Idaho Republican Gov. Brad Little asking him to veto a bill backed by agricultural interests that could cut the state's wolf population by 90 percent.

The former workers at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, University of Idaho and U.S. Forest Service say the methods for killing wolves allowed in the measure violate long-standing wildlife management practices and sportsmen ethics.



OTE MAY 18TH

Mail your ballot to return it until Thursday May 13th . After That you should place it in an official ballot drop box.

- In Warm Springs that's across the street from the post office.
 In Simpasho in the parking lot of Three Warriors Market
- In Simnasho in the parking lot of Three Warriors Market.
 In Madras at the County Clerk's office on D Street.
- Place your ballot in any Oregon drop box and it will be counted as long as it's turned in by 8pm on Election Day May 18th.



