

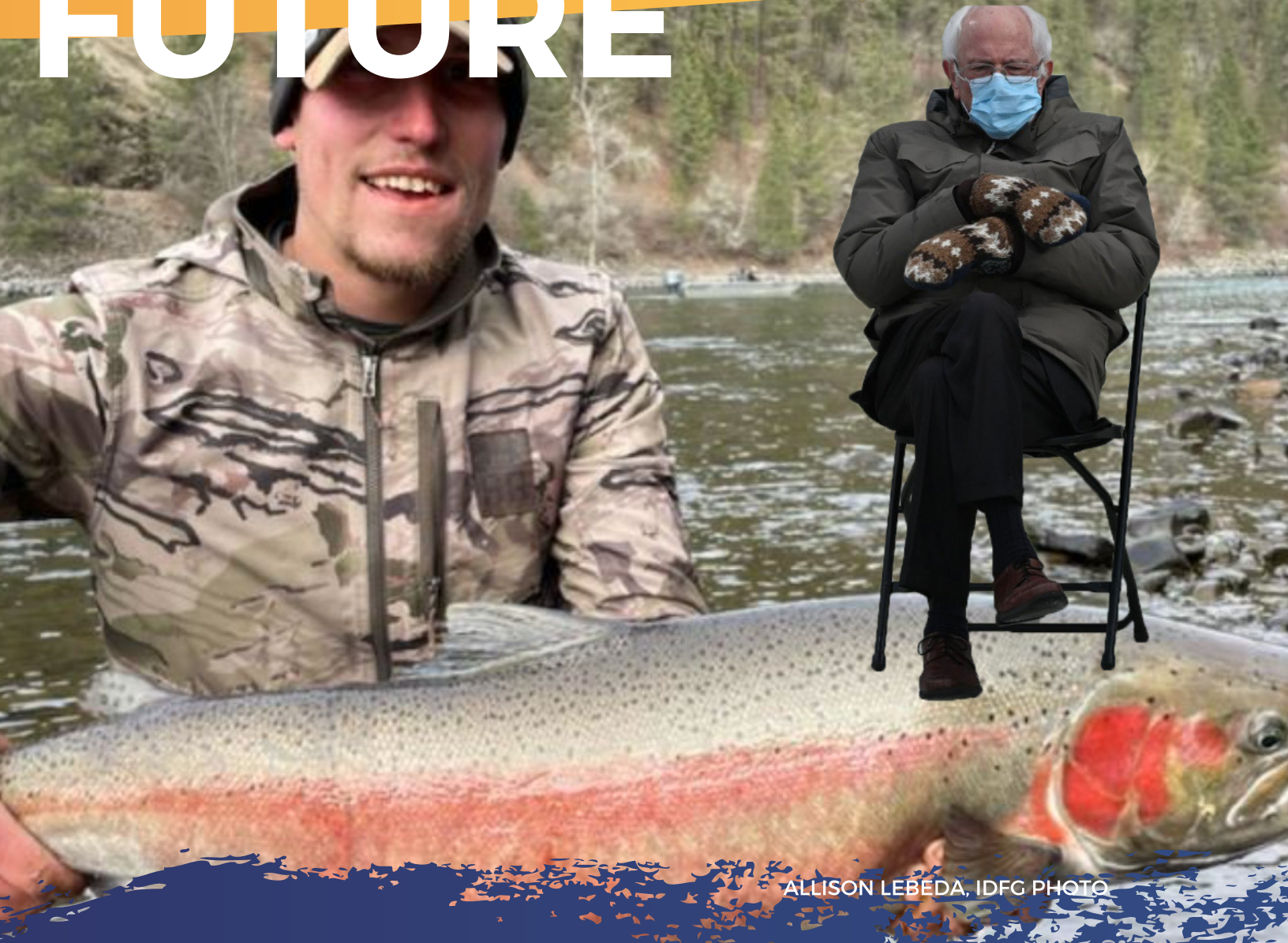


# LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN



# FISH FOR THE FUTURE

MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS



ALLISON LEBEDA, IDFG PHOTO



# Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Hope everyone had a good New Year. I'll have to admit, I was off playing for part of January chasing elk in the Colorado high country. Wasn't as much snow as expected on the gates of Rocky Mountain National Park at 9500 feet, but hey, the elk were there. As much as I enjoyed the hunt, I think I'm starting to enjoy processing meat with our family almost more.

I thoroughly enjoyed both seeing pictures of Clearwater B-run steelhead and of course the Bernie Sanders memes this month. Couldn't resist putting those together on the cover. It's nice to see some B-runs filling out the good Fall Chinook season. We need some good news to absorb the absolutely dismal Spring Chinook forecasts.

I was sad to hear the passing of Afton Oakerman after a long battle as the month turned. Certainly the LSRCP family has lost a great one there.

Start getting your ideas ready for the April LSRCP meeting. As far as I can tell, we've got plenty of room in the river for some more adult salmon. Let's find a way to fill that in April!

Stay safe and have fun out there!

Nate

Think positive. It may just happen.





# ASSET MANAGEMENT

HAGERMAN STATE FISH HATCHERY

If you haven't visited Hagerman State Fish Hatchery or Niagara Springs Fish Hatchery lately, you're in for a surprise. Hat's off to this bold project that has literally transformed the Idaho's largest fish Hatchery.

Coined a "super structure", by Hatchery Manager Chris Jeszke, and Regional Supervisor Gregg Anderson, the steel building spanning Hagerman State's raceways has a roof area over 3 acres. Cloth facemasks can barely contain their excitement over this project.

Besides the obvious benefits of predator exclusion and aquatic invasive species control, secondary benefits include less stress on the fish. Shading the raceways provides an environment that salmonids spend more time in - under cutbanks or logs, and out of the direct light. In addition shading eliminates vegetation growth. That in turn reduces brushing or chemical needs, further reducing the overhead stressors on the fish.

We have a couple facilities with raceway coverings across the LSRCP program seeing benefits as well. Of course, these capital outlay projects are expensive so the program needs to weigh the cost/benefits. But, once installed, they should last decades and prolong the lifespan of raceways, feeders, and other infrastructure underneath. And don't forget the happy fish.....might be just what we need for more Fish for the Future!



Chris Jeszke, Hagerman State  
Fish Hatchery



HAPPY HAGERMAN FISH!





# IN MEMORIAL

## Afton Oakerman

To our friends that know Afton Oakerman, it is with a heavy heart I pass along sad news of her peaceful passing after battling a long-term illness. Afton began working with WDFW at the Snake River Lab in Dayton about 12 years ago as a Scientific Technician 3, working primarily with the Snake River fall Chinook Program, but always lending a cheerful and helping hand to spring Chinook and steelhead activities. She promoted into the lead Biologist for the fall Chinook program in 2018, and greatly enjoyed the challenges that program brought. Afton was always enjoyable to be around. She had a quirky sense of humor that was sometimes difficult to figure out, but one thing you could always read was if the Green Bay Packers won or lost. Afton is going to be greatly missed both in our department and within our community. During her time here she was a mentor to many and would patiently guide others through their careers, always offering words of positive encouragement. She truly saw the good in everyone and was a friend to all. You could always hear her laughing and cracking jokes when in the field or in the office. She had a passion for the fisheries world, Green Bay Packers, and her German Shepherds. The light she brought with her smile was always bright enough to light up the room. It is a sad time to lose such a kind soul, so young, in our fisheries community.

She is survived by her husband (Josh), her two German Shepherds (Rugen and Adelaide), and the Green Bay Packers Team.

Joe Bumgarner and Jenna Fortier

