

From: Glen and Sharon Mendel [mailto:gs_mendel@q.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 30, 2014 2:48 PM
To: Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW); Whalen, John T (DFW)
Cc: Trump, Jeremy C (DFW); Bumgarner, Joseph D (DFW)
Subject: inconsistencies in proposed trout regulations

Please see my attached comments. They exceeded the 1000 character limit so I could not submit these on line.

Thank you.

Please reduce the inconsistencies for proposed trout regulations for the lower Grande Ronde, the Snake, and the lower Palouse rivers.

The lower 2.5 miles of the Grande Ronde is open year round and wild juvenile steelhead from WA and Oregon migrate out to the ocean from fall through spring. Unmarked steelhead smolts should be protected from harvest (until at least summer or preferably by using a 10 inch minimum size year round). The upper zone of this river within WA protects them because is only open to trout harvest from first Sat. in June through Oct 31, while the lower zone is open year round like the Snake River.

The lower Palouse River (below falls) has had similar trout regulations to the Snake River because trout and steelhead smolts move in and out of the lower Palouse River. It is now proposed regulations for an 8 inch minimum size, and no minimum size for trout missing an adipose fin; plus it now includes a proposal for allowing the 2 pole endorsement. Please reconsider the proposed regulations in this lower zone so the 8 in minimum size and the 2 pole endorsement, and the allowance for no minimum size for trout with a missing adipose fin, would not be implemented here so this area would have consistent regulations with the adjacent Snake River. The Snake has a 10 in min. size and a daily limit of 6, without allowing the use of 2 poles or the allowed harvest of trout without a daily limit if they are missing an adipose fin. The existing Snake River regulations are in place to protect wild and hatchery smolts as they migrate out to the ocean, through mid June.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Glen Mendel, retired WDFW Fish Mgmt. Biologist for SE WA