

2021-2022 Sport Fishing Regulation Proposals

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13. Close Methow River to Steelhead fishing

Short Description

Add “Steelhead: Closed to fishing” to all sections of the Methow River.

Explanation

Both hatchery (conservation program) and wild steelhead in the Methow River are ESA listed, rule would explicitly remove ambiguity related to steelhead catch and released provision under the "all Gamefish" listing.

Comments in Support (4):

Would support if there were no hatchery steelhead released into the Methow.

Comments Opposed (10):

Not enough steelhead opportunity in the area. Are we saving fish by ending selective fishery? Increase hatchery output.



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- Hatchery Fish are part of the ESA listing
- Wild brood fish, marked due to USACE requirement.
- Closure brings us into compliance with take permit



Supplementary Information

- 15 proposals submitted by department
 - Intended to address conservation needs or clarify rule
 - Staff proposals; some generated from public input
- Written public comment timeframe 10/5 - 12/4/21
 - All comment received through December 4 are summarized here; in total 219 comments.
 - 27 additional comments do not provide any substantive changes.
- Any clarifications needed?





Questions?