

Peggy Willis

I support Ecology taking a regulatory role and working with dam operators to make progress on water temperatures at federal dams.

The temperature standard has been violated for some time and heat is killing our Columbia and Snake salmon runs.

The damaging effects of climate change and water temperature on salmon migration and spawning in the Columbia and Snake are well-known. Sockeye were slaughtered in the Columbia in 2015, a year of record heat and low flows, with thousands of fish dying before they could even make it back to their home tributaries to spawn. Steelhead suffered in 2017.

Scientists predict salmon are in for worse conditions as the climate warms, particularly species at the southern edge of their range and traveling long distances to inland spawning grounds.

It is urgent we address the impacts of water temperatures and pollutants at dams and I fully support Ecology's regulatory role.