

## Jeffrey Norman

I am appalled that WSDOE would consider granting Cooke Aquaculture a permit to raise "Steelhead" in net pens. Steelhead are anadromous Rainbow Trout, *O. mykiss*. What distinguishes it from its fluvial and lake-bound brethren is the sea-going life-cycle, and the return from the salt to spawn in its natal waters. These captive trout cannot be called Steelhead. Labeling issues aside, you still have the same, terrible environmental consequences of net-pen-rearing of a non-native species, or at least a species raised in an unnatural manner. The same issues of pollution, disease, escape, and inter-mingling with wild stock exist, just as it has with Atlantic Salmon. Take a big hint from Alaska, Oregon and California: these nets do not belong in our waters. Shame on you for prioritizing revenue over the environment.