

July 9, 2007

Ren Lohofener
Regional Director, Pacific Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Petition to List Lake Sammamish Kokanee

Dear Director Lohofener:

Enclosed, please find a petition to protect Lake Sammamish (WA) kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Lake Sammamish kokanee are a significant ecological, cultural, historic and social asset in a highly urbanized watershed. We are increasingly concerned that the future of these fish is being jeopardized by the alarming decline in their abundance, productivity, diversity and distribution, significantly impairing their long term viability. The declines are a direct result of the loss of habitat quality and quantity, as well as insufficient regulatory mechanisms to protect the kokanee and their habitat. We fear that continued delays in protecting these fish will only accelerate their extinction vortex. A listing under the ESA is clearly warranted.

We are a diverse group of petitioners representing millions of residents in the Lake Sammamish basin and Puget Sound. We are individually and collectively engaged in projects to ensure the survival and recovery of Lake Sammamish kokanee and the ecosystem they depend on. We believe that an ESA listing will provide the structure, funding and urgency needed to recover these little red fish. Not only will the listing help us to prioritize critical actions, but it will also serve to bring all parties together to amplify and focus current and future recovery efforts. We are hopeful that a listing will bring together and bolster existing, but disparate and incomplete, efforts that can contribute to the long term viability of these fish and that the time Lake Sammamish kokanee spend as a listed species is productive and short.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has the resources and authority make important contributions to the conservation of Lake Sammamish kokanee. We urge the Fish and Wildlife Service, within the next 90 days, to appropriately find that the petition presents sufficient information to determine that the petitioned action is warranted.

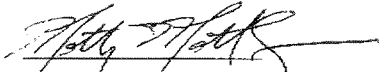
Respectfully submitted,

[see attached authorization]

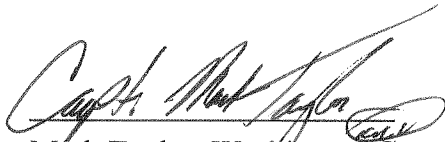
Ava Frisinger, Mayor
City of Issaquah



Kathy Fletcher, Executive Director
People for Puget Sound



Matt Mattson, Tribal Administrator
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe



Mark Taylor, Washington Council President
Trout Unlimited



Ron Sims, Executive
King County



Joanna Buehler, President
Save Lake Sammamish



Kurt Beardslee, Executive Director
Wild Fish Conservancy

cc: Kerry Ritland, Kirk Prindle



Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 2652 Issaquah, WA 98027



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City of Issaquah
Office of the Mayor

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Ava Frisinger
Mayor of the City of Issaquah
PO Box 1307
Issaquah, Wa 98027

Honorable Mayor Frisinger,

I am writing you on behalf of the Bellevue/Issaquah Chapter and the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and our parent organization, Trout Unlimited to ask for your formal support of our petition asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protection of the **Lake Sammamish Kokanee** under the Endangered Species Act. Your continued support of the kokanee with the various jurisdictions, agencies and NGO's in the Lake Sammamish Basin is well known. Your support of our petition will reaffirm your commitment to help our poor cousin of the Chinook and Steelhead. We ^{feel} that only the full support of all of the communities, agencies, and other stake holders will keep our unique fish from going the way of the early run in 2003. I have supplied copies of our final draft to Kerry Ritland and Kirk Prindle so that they may brief you on its merit. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our efforts.

Regards,

Captain Mark Taylor

President, Bellevue Issaquah Chapter of Trout Unlimited
President, Washington Council of Trout Unlimited

X
YES

NO

Ava Frisinger
signature