



431 Idaho Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PO Box 936, Sandpoint, ID 83864 • www.panhandletu.org

April 25, 2023

Chad Landrum
North Idaho Sportfishing Association
1004 Gooby Rd.
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Chad,

Please accept this letter of support from Idaho Panhandle Chapter – Trout Unlimited for your application to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation to increase the incentives for anglers to harvest lake trout in Lake Pend Oreille.

For over 60 years the mission of Trout Unlimited has been to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries and their habitats. As a signatory party to the Avista Corporation's Clark Fork Settlement Agreement to relicense the Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids Dams, we focus much of our conservation efforts on Lake Pend Oreille and its tributaries.

In doing so, we support the Idaho Department of Fish and Game predator suppression programs on Lake Pend Oreille. It's our understanding that North Idaho Sportfishing Association seeks grant funding to augment the current financial incentive for the harvest of lake trout. This non-native species consumes large quantities of kokanee which are an important food source for bull trout. Lake trout suppression and other management efforts have contributed significantly to protecting and enhancing bull trout in Lake Pend Oreille and its tributaries. The Angler Incentives Program is an important management effort that enlists the assistance of anglers in the protection of bull trout, resulting in the harvest of up to 3,000 or more lake trout annually in recent years.

By supporting efforts to encourage and enlist the participation of more anglers in the harvest of lake trout in Lake Pend Oreille, we eagerly look forward to the eventual delisting of bull trout as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

William Love

William Love, President
Idaho Panhandle Chapter – Trout Unlimited