



May 23, 2017

Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair Witt
 Joint Committee of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

RE: Support of ODFW POP 108 (ARB \$422,131): Implementing the Integrated Water Resources Strategy through Healthy Fisheries and Ecosystems

The undersigned groups, who represent tens of thousands of Oregonians from all parts of the state, respectfully request that the Legislature fund ODFW's POP 108 (ARB \$422,131). In terms of securing a sustainable water future for Oregon, recovering imperiled salmon and ensuring the health of Oregon's rivers, there simply is no more important element in this budget. It is not possible to overstate the importance of this relatively small investment for Oregon. POP 108 is the vehicle to ensuring that there is capacity for Oregon to meet the instream elements of the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Strategy), a consensus blueprint for the future of Oregon's economically important waters, rivers and fisheries.

The Strategy exists because stakeholders from across Oregon created a blueprint to meet Oregon's future water needs – both instream and out-of-stream. While Oregon has defined out of stream needs, the state has not yet defined the other half of the equation – the streamflow studies needed to understand instream demands. Without the small amount of funding sought to produce this this data, Oregon's water future is uncertain and unbalanced, and planning and projects cannot proceed in a sustainable fashion. Given the importance of water and watershed health to the state's economy, this puts substantial elements of the state's economy at risk.

In dollar terms, this is not a large ask but it is a critical one. As proposed in the Agency Recommended Budget (\$422,131), POP 108 would continue forward two existing limited duration EBAs and one limited NRS2 who are collecting data and producing the needed studies. The ARB would also add one limited duration NRS4 position to meet additional IWRS instream directives, such as engaging with communities and local landowners to collaboratively work towards meeting Oregon's water future. The GRB (\$211,000) would continue forward the three existing limited duration positions, but would not fund the additional capacity needed to meet additional instream directives. Without funding for POP 108—either the ARB or the GRB---ODFW's existing water program staff will be cut in half, and key Strategy directives to protect instream flows will go unmet.

In closing, we respectfully ask for funding of POP 108 as requested in the ARB (\$422,131). While we understand Oregon's current budget challenges, funding of POP 108 is critical to Oregon's water future and the future health and sustainability of Oregon's rivers, fisheries and economy.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Ross, President
Central Oregon Flyfishers

Paul Dewey, Executive Director
Central Oregon Landwatch

Gail Snyder, Executive Director
Coalition for the Deschutes

Jonah Sandford, Executive Director
Deschutes River Alliance

Ann Vileisis, President
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator
League of Women Voters of Oregon

Mark Sherwood, Executive Director
Native Fish Society

Nina Bell, Executive Director
Northwest Environmental Advocates

Mark Riskedahl, Executive Director
Northwest Environmental Defense Center

Cameron La Follette, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Alliance

Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Donne Lipscomb
Oregon Land and Water Alliance

Paige Spence, Oregon Conservation Network
Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Phillip Johnson, Executive Director
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director
Oregon Wild

Stacey Detwiler, Conservation Director
Rogue Riverkeeper

Rhett Lawrence, Conservation Director
Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club

David Moskowitz, Executive Director
The Conservation Angler

Chandra Ferrari, OR Water Policy Advisor
Trout Unlimited

Tom Wolf, Executive Director
Oregon Council, Trout Unlimited

John DeVoe, Executive Director
WaterWatch of Oregon

Travis Williams, Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper

