

Exhibit B

**Public Correspondence Received as of
June 10, 2026**

From: Brian Oliver <civicinput@newmode.io>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:49 AM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

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Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please do not rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery. Spend the money on habitat protection and enhancement along with making wild fish the top priority rather than relying on hatcheries to try to fix what we have undone. Hatcheries don't work. Wild is the future!

Sincerely,

Brian Oliver

From: Anne Fairbrother <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:49 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The Rock Creek Hatchery that was destroyed by the 2020 Archie Creek Fire should NOT be rebuilt.

The statewide resiliency assessment ranked this hatchery deadlast among all the state-owned hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost.

It simply is not good governance to use tax-payer dollars on a project that was deemed unlikely to produce a positive return-on-investment (ROI).

Furthermore, the Commission should complete the Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — before making such multi-million dollar decisions. Better "bang-for-the-buck" in restoring salmonid populations may well be found elsewhere.

The North Umpqua has prime habitat potential that could be restored to benefit wild salmon following the same methods used so successfully on the coastal rivers. Please consider this alternative before deciding to spend millions on hatchery-raised fish that have lower genetic resilience and frequently exhibit failure to thrive.

Thank you for listening and thinking, and waiting to decide until you have all the needed information.

Sincerely,

Anne Fairbrother, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Philomath

▪

From: Jon Harrang <civicinput@newmode.io>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:49 AM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I do not support the Rock Creek Hatchery rebuild.

Even before the terrible fires occurred throughout the North Umpqua drainage, this hatchery had problems with excessively warm water which led to significant loss of young salmon and steelhead.

With drought and extensive damage to the Rock Creek watershed, the underlying problems with water quantity/quality/temperature at this hatchery are not reasonably likely to improve.

In addition, extensive damage to the hatchery itself is going to be costly to repair/replace/rebuild.

Objectively looking at the facts, it is clear that trying to get the Rock Creek Hatchery going again just doesn't make sense. I would respectfully submit that limited funds would be better spent elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Jon Harrang

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From: Daniel DJ Heffernan <civinput@newmode.io>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:49 AM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to ask that you not fund reconstruction of the Rock Creek hatchery and instead invest more resources in habitat restoration, fish passage, and stronger forest management practices to improve water quality in natal spawning riparian zones. We once had abundant wild fish. We can have that again if we make that the goal.

Hatcheries have done nothing but degrade our fishery resources. We've been lying to ourselves and the public that hatcheries work. They do not work to protect or enhance fish stocks. If they did our rivers would be choked with fish. Let's move away from a "put and take" management approach to a sustainable wild abundance approach where take limits are based on the health of the natural resource, not the size of the hatchery release. Rock Creek is a great place to start.

Sincerely,

Daniel "DJ" Heffernan

▪

From: Clifford Oakley <civicinput@newmode.io>

Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:49 AM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please reject the Rock Creek hatchery project. Years of science show that hatcheries hinder the recovery of wild fish. Additionally the Rock Creek Hatchery has been a low performing hatchery. The public money that would be spent on this facility could be used to improve habitat on the Umpqua River providing decades of increased wild fish production with out an annual budget. Please help our wild fish and reject this project.

Sincerely,

Clifford Oakley

▪

7 June 2026

RE: Rock Creek Hatchery POP 2027-29 ODFW Request Budget

FROM: Peter Tronquet

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I am opposed to the Rock Creek Hatchery rebuild as presented in the 2027-29 request budget. As a former business owner, I am accustomed to taking risks. But this plan (really your plan) is reckless and premature. It is a perfect example of the old aphorism – “shoot, ready, aim.”

Here are the economic questions I would ask my team:

What will it cost, rebuild and annual operating costs?

How does the rebuild compare to the costs of the no-build option (current operation of the Rock Creek CHS acclimation ponds plus the Cole Rivers CHS hatchery costs)?

How will we pay for it? Confidence in funding sources?

Is the perceived ROI purely social (keep the community happy) or will there be an actual improvement in the number of adult fish returning to the NUR (note: this hatchery ranked as the highest cost and the least resilient of the fifteen current state hatcheries)?

How do we factor in the cost associated with the risk of another wildfire?

When you can't fill potholes in the state roads, and the citizens vote down the proposed gas tax, why would you expect voters (or legislators) to spend their tax dollars on an ODFW business plan without a full explanation of benefits and costs?

To pose an existential question, might all those folks out there gathering referendum signatures to eliminate state fishing and hunting be happy to call out any and all additional infrastructure spending in the current ODFW budget?

Please do not make any decision on RCH until recommendations from the CMP review are complete and the business questions I posed have been answered.

Peter J. Tronquet
2958 Greenbrae Ct
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

541-261-504

From: Y Lind <yancy.lind@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 5, 2026 12:31 PM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Rock Creek Hatchery

You don't often get email from yancy.lind@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

I closely followed ODFW's hatchery resilience analysis, watched many of the presentations, read the reports, made comments, etc.. I understand how controversial this process was and how political it remains. What was clear, however, is that the Rock Creek Hatchery had one of the lowest scores in the multifactor analysis for a number of reasons. In light of this, it makes no sense to spend an enormous sum of money to rebuild this facility, especially when so many other hatcheries desperately need additional funding.

To be clear, I am not an anti-hatchery zealot. Hatcheries certainly have their place. I am an avid steelhead angler, however, and the Umpqua River is one of my favorite places to pursue these amazing fish. Umpqua steelhead certainly need help, but there are better ways to spend scarce funds to improve the abundance of these fish. Everyone wants steelhead abundance, let's work towards that in a way that is most likely to provide it. Rebuilding Rock Creek Hatchery is not the answer.

Best regards,

Yancy Lind

PO Box 633

Bend, OR 97709

From: Rudy Kellner <rudy@pfriembeer.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 9:17 PM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Comment regarding the 1% for Wildlife TLT

Hello,

I have been a big supporter of the 1.25% for Wildlife Transient Lodging Tax and pFriem Family Brewers have supported this measure, and have advocated for its passage in our community. We believe that the State should be doing everything it can to help support imperiled fish, wildlife and habitat recovery efforts.

I am concerned to see some of your plans when it comes to implementing this bill through the Agency Request Budget. In particular I believe ODFW's plans to use some of this TLT funding on hatchery-based Chinook production for Orcas (\$500k of it) is misguided and should be significantly reevaluated, for the following reasons:

1. Setting a precedent to use TLT to fund hatchery staff and infrastructure goes against the idea that the 1% for Wildlife funding would be used for habitat recovery and modern and sustainable practices. Hatchery facilities really are about supporting fishery augmentation (and the fact that these fish are ad clipped means they will be contributing to the harvest fishery). It sends a very dangerous signal for future years that TLT can be utilized as another source of significant funding for hatchery budget needs, which already cannibalize the agency's budget (nearly \$100 million plus additional bond for hatchery infrastructure upgrades this current biennium) The department has received significant bond revenues for hatchery upgrades in the last several legislative sessions, and will be seeking another, even more substantial request this coming session. Allocating TLT funds to hatchery budget needs right out of the gate like this will send a signal to legislators and stakeholders that this is a legitimate source of funding for hatchery staff and infrastructure.
2. Allocating \$500k to Orca production likely won't substantively help Orcas in the first place. The documented survival rate of juvenile Chinook is .5-2% at the Trast and .1-1% t Cedar Creek. On the high end, 170k juveniles would yield less than 4,000 adults. If every fish goes to an Orca (highly unlikely), it would feed the pod for about 2 days. Is this the best way for the state to help these animals in the long run?
3. Oregon is in a different position than Puget Sound (where 20-30 million juvenile hatchery CHS are being produced for prey supplementation) when it comes to available strategies for supporting the conservation and recovery of SRKWs. Puget Sound has much less opportunity for habitat restoration for spring Chinook than Oregon.
4. Instead of further funding hatcheries, we should be focused on supporting sustainable, wild chinook production by bolstering our wild populations via habitat restoration and production, reducing hatchery impacts on springer populations, improving habitat access, and reducing/managing ocean harvest of Chinook.
5. The TLT money could be utilized instead to develop a CHS strategic action plan on the Oregon Coast in the same vein as was done for coho. If the department wants to get money on the ground this biennium in support of Spring Chinook, then look at the projects that have already been ID'd in the Coho SAPs that can also concurrently support Spring Chinook populations.

I truly hope that you can take my comments to heart and have an honest conversation about the best use of the 1% for Wildlife fundings. Citizens and the businesses that rely on our vibrant fisheries, and wildlife-based tourism are all excited about the long-term sustainable impacts that this funding can have on the future of Oregon wildlife, but a lot depends on ODFW's specific and deliberate decisions to deploy these funds against the right programs.

Thanks,

RUDY KELLNER | CO - FOUNDER & CEO

pFriem Family Brewers

e. rudy@pfriembeer.com

p. 503-332-1055

w. www.pfriembeer.com

4/5/26

Name Jim Greer

Email coyotegreer@aol.com

Comments

ODFW now has less than a year before funds arrive from HB 4134 to implement its State Wildlife Action Plan. Besides the usual hunting, angling, and conservation organization stakeholder's spokes persons, an incredible outpouring of support for the bill came from the general public. These are folks who are not aware of how to connect with ODFW and are not regularly targeted by ODFW as a customer. How will communications, programs, education, and outreach focus on this huge "potential" constituency through the budgeting process to build on the support they have given ODFW?

4/7/26

Name MonicaT Tomosy

Email mtomosy@gmail.com

Affiliation retired federal wildlife bio

Comments

Congratulations on winning the fight for long overdue funds necessary to prevent massive losses of Oregon's biodiversity: HB 4134. It is a significant pot of money that we can expect sticky or greedy fingers and hands to try to get ahold of over time, whether gradually or dramatically, for application to things that would deviate from the intended purpose of the Oregon Conservation Strategy. To prevent this from happening we will need widespread and deep support for what this funding is primarily for: saving imperiled species. In order to get that support, we need a much more robust public awareness of the problem, the strategy, and how these funds are and will get results. So, in your budget, will you devote a fraction of the funds to invest in public education and outreach for the general public across Oregon (meaning: rural, suburban, urban; every County; every economic tier; every race, gender, age; every tourist, part-time resident, and full-time resident, no matter their current relationship to wildlife)? If yes, how will you determine what is enough, and what is not too much, to spend on education and outreach regarding the necessity and value of the funds from HB 4134? If yes, will you develop a plan that includes effectiveness evaluation and adaptive modifications?

4/13/26

Name Zach Spector

Email zspector@westernrivers.org

Affiliation Western Rivers Conservancy

Comments

1.25% for wildlife is a major win for OR and ODFW. One of the largest threats to OR wildlife is habitat loss and destruction. Much of this funding naturally goes into restoration (which is great, but expensive), so we recommend also investing heavily in conserving critical habitat via fee simple and conservation easement acquisitions. There are numerous federal funding programs that exist that could be bolstered by this (for example, Forest Legacy requires a 25% non federal match, and many others like Section 6, NRCS, etc. require 50% non federal match). This lack of state-side funding limits Oregon's NGO partners from utilizing as much federal funding as is available to continue working collaborative with our state and federal partners to conserve the lands and waters our state's at risk species demand.

5/7/26

Name James Fraser

Email james.fraser@tu.org

Affiliation Trout Unlimited

Comments Does ODFW have a tentative list of projects, initiatives, and staff positions that would be funded by the first round of TLT revenue? If yes, can you please share that during the May 12th meeting? Thanks!

Name Jeffrey Dose

Email jfdose@msn.com

Affiliation self

Comments

As a retired Fisheries Biologist with over 30 years experience in the Umpqua Basin, I oppose any substantial upgrade/rebuild of Rock Creek hatchery. Environmental impediments to watershed function and water quality due to extensive clearcut harvest and associated road construction in addition to the major impacts from the 2020 Archie Fire and associated salvage operations will likely result in greatly increased frequency and magnitude of landslides and debris flows. This "time bomb" situation will preclude smooth, efficient operation of the facility on an unpredictable, but frequent basis. This situation will require very high construction and operational expenses, with only minor benefits. An alternative that would maintain current production of spring Chinook at Cole Rivers Hatchery, with brood collection and acclimation at Rock Creek, would provide similar benefits at far less cost. I do not oppose construction of a new hatchery facility in the South Umpqua sub-basin for coho mitigation and winter steelhead aumentation if an appropriate site can be located. Thank you!

Name Kimberley Priestley

Email kjp@waterwatch.org

Affiliation WaterWatch of Oregon

Comments

WaterWatch would urge that the POPs be expanded to include some investment in ODFW's Water Program. After participating in the Budget Meeting today, I was struck by the focus on the SWAP as the "roadmap". Yet, when you look at the SWAP, water is central to the success of that Plan, yet there was no specific POP related to the water program. For example, every one of the SWAP's "key conservation issues" touches water. Similiarly, most of the SWAP's 12 identified key habitats have a water nexus. And a broad swath of the SWAP's "species of greatest economic need--whether amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile, fish, invertebrate or plants/algae---are reliant on water. At the same time, the pressures on our state's rivers, lakes, wetlands and GDE's are growing both from human development but also climate change. Given that, we would strongly urge you to include in your POPs additional funding for the Water Program.

Name Karsyn Kendrick

Email karsyn@oregonlandtrusts.org

Affiliation Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some thoughts as ODFW contemplates investments in SWAP implementation. I represent 30+ member land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and statewide conservation organizations working to protect, restore and steward Oregon's lands and waters. Collectively, our members have protected over 780,000 acres of lands in the state.

On behalf of our members, I wanted to share a few staffing needs/suggestions for ODFW to consider:

1. Grande Ronde Watershed District (Wallowa, Union and Baker County): Support staff capacity in the fish division. There was an assistant fish biologist position eliminated in La Grande in 2013 and it has been very challenging since then for the remaining staff in the watershed to cover their core responsibilities, let alone project-specific work. They also do not have technicians to assist with fieldwork. Appropriate staffing would make a huge difference with the current workload and upcoming SWAP species projects like sockeye reintroduction to Wallowa Lake and salmon and steelhead work related to Hells Canyon Dam relicensing. Additional staffing could help them expand to other SWAP species like lamprey, freshwater mussels, and aquatic snails.

2. Continue to support NW pond turtle conservation efforts and provide technical assistance for that species. Extend support and technical assistance for other species in need. For example, the OR vesper sparrow is underfunded for on the ground work and basic monitoring.

Thank you for the time to comment!

Best,
Karsyn Kendrick

Name	Michael Neal
Email	mikeneal0000@gmail.com
Affiliation	STEP
Comments	Please budget the 17 million paid out in the Rock Creek fire to the work if repairing and operating the Hatchery. Thanks

Name	Tadd Moore
Email	tkmoore1970@gmail.com
Comments	Rock creek fish hatchery needs your attention now there's money available and we need this hatchery rebuilt and running as soon as possible to limit the lag in new fish being introduced into the system. please don't delay we the sportsmen need this. Thank you

Name	Chris Baumgartner
Email	fishbum@douglasfast.net
Affiliation	Concerned fisherman and citizen

Comments

To whom it may concern,
We have been waiting for answers and action to be taken to begin the process of rebuilding Rock Creek hatchery for the past few years since the devastating fire. How can there be millions of dollars of insurance money available and no action taken to help restore a historical fishery that once helped maintain a fishery for so many Oregonians for over 100 years? As a teen I use to fish the Rock Creek area with my father in the months of June and July for summer steelhead. Today my 12 and 14 year old do not even know what a summer steelhead is because we have no program to raise them. I'm an active member of the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby and have been for several years. My focus with this non profit organization is to bring in local and outside community businesses to help

support our kids day event which is held every year at Cooper Creek reservoir. As a father of 4 children who all have participated in our Oregon hunting and fisheries it is really sad to see the decline in opportunities for kids fishing as well as for us adults who have spent thousands of dollars on boats, gear, transportation, etc that help boost our economies in Oregon. I work for an automotive dealership and we service and sell to a lot of outdoor enthusiasts and because people like to fish they also need trucks and suvs to tow their boats.

Being born and raised in southern Oregon I had great child hood experiences fishing and catching fish, trout, steelhead, salmon and warm water fish. Today it is a challenge to find these fish in the numbers so my children can enjoy the same I did in my child hood.

The Umpqua estuary use to be flourishing with fall Salmon today it's closed. The past 10-12 years I have had go to other fisheries (Coos,Astoria,Columbia) where they have hatcheries and people managing their fisheries to produce fish for recreational fisherman.

I really do not understand why the people in charge of our Umpqua River fisheries have not pushed for saving our fishery and spent the money to help enhance our program. Why are we raising grant money thru the UFED if the state is not going to rebuild Rock Creek Hatchery and try to produce fish for our current and future kids? Why am I volunteering?

I really hope our ODFW folks and Oregon representatives can put together some funds to bring back our outdoor fisheries. If other fisheries in Oregon can produce why can't we continue on? Most of our state hatcheries from what I hear could use some extra funds to upgrade equipment and facilities to manage our fisheries properly so they can succeed for generations to come.

Thank you for listening from a concerned Oregonian, father and Grandpa who loves to watch and take kids fishing!

Hoping for change soon in my lifetime!

Name Rob Carlson

Email rmcarlson14@gmail.com

Affiliation 55 year Oregon outdoorsman

Comments

To whom it may concern:

Please continue to fund the Rock Creek hatchery on the North Umpqua. I'm hearing from a reputable source that there are zero dollars currently in the proposed '27-'29 budget. Let's make sure the money from the insurance payout for the Archie Creek fire is invested in our spring Chinook and summer Steelhead hatchery at Rock Creek. This is important to all of Douglas County (tourism dollars) and anglers from all over the state.

Rob Carlson
Medford, Or

Name	Dusty Harrold
Email	dusty.harrold@gmail.com
Affiliation	Rick creek hatchery
Comments	<p>Please find the funding to support the rock creek hatchery!</p> <p>I have been fishing the umpqua system all my life and I would love for my kids and my grandkids to have the same opportunities growing up that I did. The umpqua system is struggling enough, there is no reason to not support it with hatchery fish!</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Name	Geoffrey Laird
Email	geoffreylaird@hotmail.com
Affiliation	OR Registered Charter Captain / Fishing Guide
Comments	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I strongly encourage the inclusion of funds dedicated to the repair and operation of the Rock Creek Hatchery located on the South Umpqua River. I believe there are significant funds available for the rebuild through the insurance settlement that would greatly reduce the total project cost.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued public service and considering my comments.</p> <p>- Geoff</p>

Name	Dan Holborow
Email	Dholborow@terrafirmafs.com
Affiliation	Umpqua valley resident/fisherman
Comments	<p>Commissioners,</p> <p>I urge you to include funding for Rock Creek Hatchery operational costs in the 2027 bienneum budget. The insurance money from the Archie Creek fires should go towards building a new hatchery to serve this fishery. There is plenty of community support (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby, Umpqua Fisherman's Association, etc.) to help fund projects that will make the facility more efficient and keep it maintained.</p>

Name	Caroline Bleckmann
Email	carolinemailinglists@proton.me
Affiliation	Oregon resident
Comments	<p>Please move forward with the Nearshore Ecosystem investments, including dedicated staff time and research related to sea otter reintroduction !</p>

Name Katie Grew

Email katielgrew@gmail.com

Comments

Please move forward with the Nearshore Ecosystem investments to build long-term resilience of kelp/rocky ecosystems, including dedicated staff time and research related to sea otter reintroduction. This investment is critical to restoring ocean health, including carbon sequestration, coastal resilience, and fisheries.

Nearshore Ecoregion: Targeted investments in to build long term Coast wide monitoring of kelp/rocky habitat (3 FTE \$670k)

Marine Resource Coordinator for efforts on sea otter restoration and Southern Resident Orca recovery actions (1 FTE; \$300k)

Social science research to support Sea Otter reintroduction (\$100k)

Outreach and research on Sunflower Sea Star culture (\$200k)

Name Neal Hadley

Email nhadley892@gmail.com

Affiliation Siuslaw Watershed Council, Elakha Alliance

Comments

Furthering our knowledge of the near-shore ecology and changing dynamics will pay us big dividends for the future of our fisheries, recreation, and the world-class draw for tourists to our incredible Oregon coast. Sunflower sea stars, sea otters, and orca are all keystone as well as indicator species for ecosystem health. Let's get a handle on preserving and improving our coastal health and resources. All our natural resources are being pressured by environmental changes. Invest in expanding our knowledge and taking actions that improve the resilience of our coastal habitats that support our coastal communities.

Name	Craig Wilson
Email	crwilson1225@icloud.com
Comments	Please continue to develop plans for the restoration of sea otters to the Oregon Coast.

Name	Jennifer Valentine
Email	jenvbend@aol.com
Affiliation	citizen resident of Oregon

Comments

Please be sure to keep the kelp ecosystem investment "policy option package" in your Budget! I urge the Commission to move forward with the Nearshore Ecosystem investments, including dedicated staff time and research related to sea otter reintroduction. These are important things for Oregon even though we face challenges in state budgets. These investments are really important for the future of Oregon and work to restore balance and ecological systems. I recommend you include all the items: Nearshore Ecoregion: Targeted investments in to build long term resilience of kelp/rocky ecosystems:

Coast wide monitoring of kelp/rocky habitat (3 FTE \$670k)

Marine Resource Coordinator for efforts on sea otter restoration and Southern Resident Orca recovery actions (1 FTE; \$300k)

Social science research to support Sea Otter reintroduction (\$100k)

Outreach and research on Sunflower Sea Star culture (\$200k)

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Oregonians, Jennifer Valentine, 5581 Hawk Hill St, Salem, OR 97306

Name Kyung Park

Email kyung.park@oregonmetro.gov

Affiliation Metro

Comments

Dear Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners and ODFW leadership,

On behalf of the Oregon Zoo and Metro Parks and Nature, I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2027–29 Agency Request Budget, and the historic opportunity it represents for wildlife and wild places in Oregon.

The transformational investment made possible through HB 4134 opens an unprecedented chapter for Oregon conservation. By advancing the State Wildlife Action Plan through collaborative, on-the-ground action, this budget can accelerate recovery for some of our state's most vulnerable species while strengthening the partnerships and agency capacity needed to sustain that work for generations. We are deeply grateful for ODFW's thoughtful, strategic approach to this moment.

With three decades of hands-on work restoring imperiled Pacific Northwest wildlife, and the reach of 1.5 million annual zoo guests and 6.5 million social media followers, the Oregon Zoo is uniquely positioned to advance shared SWAP priorities while connecting Oregonians to the conservation stories unfolding in their own backyards. Metro Parks and Nature brings that same commitment through its habitat-scale stewardship across the Portland region.

We are especially grateful to support the proposed budget investments benefiting northwestern pond turtles, Pacific lamprey, Mazama newts, Klamath suckers, American pika, sea otters and sunflower sea stars. Several of these species are at the heart of our active partnerships in Oregon; for all of them, we recognize the urgent need for conservation action.

The Oregon Zoo is leading a conservation breeding program for the critically imperiled Mazama newt in partnership with Crater Lake National Park. We are working with Metro Parks and Nature and local landowners to restore habitat for northwestern pond turtles and connect with private landowners, and collaborating with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission on Pacific lamprey recovery — work that honors the ecological and cultural significance of this remarkable species while bringing its story to new audiences. We also strongly support the proposed investments in coastwide kelp and rocky habitat monitoring, sea otter restoration coordination, and the research and outreach efforts advancing sunflower sea star recovery.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the potential to deepen our partnership with ODFW across additional SWAP-aligned priorities — from Cascade Pika Watch, which generates critical data to

inform talus habitat management, to our Lead-Free Hunting Education Program, which equips hunters and communities with tools to protect condors, eagles, and other scavenging wildlife from lead poisoning. We also hope to work closely with ODFW to weave meaningful conservation education into our campus plan, creating new pathways for Oregonians to engage with and champion native wildlife.

Finally, we are encouraged to see the proposed increase to the OCRF program, a vital source of support that enables communities and partners across Oregon to address some of the state's most pressing conservation challenges.

Taken together, these efforts reflect what this funding can make possible at its best: partnerships that restore species and habitats while rooting communities in the conservation work happening around them. Oregon has a rare opportunity to act boldly on behalf of its wildlife heritage, and we are honored to be part of that effort.

Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to Oregon's wild future. We look forward to continued collaboration with ODFW, Tribal partners, conservation organizations, landowners, and communities across the state as we work together toward a more resilient Oregon.

Name Jane Bacchieri

Email jane@elakhaalliance.org

Affiliation Elakha Alliance

Comments

Dear Director Colbert and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Elakha Alliance, I am writing in strong support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed investments in nearshore marine conservation and resilience included within the agency's 2027–2029 Request Budget.

In particular, the proposed Marine Resources Coordinator position represents a critical and timely investment in Oregon's marine ecosystems and in the long-term recovery of species and habitats that are foundational to the ecological and economic health of the Oregon coast. We are especially encouraged that this position would serve as the agency's designated expert and primary point of contact for sea otter restoration efforts in Oregon.

Sea otters are a keystone species that play a vital role in maintaining healthy nearshore ecosystems, including kelp forests and rocky reef habitats that support biodiversity, fisheries productivity, climate

resilience, and coastal economies. As ODFW recognizes in its proposal, successful sea otter reintroduction and recovery requires sustained coordination among state and federal agencies, Tribal governments, researchers, coastal communities, fishing interests, conservation organizations, and other partners. Establishing a dedicated staff position to coordinate with partners on this work is essential to ensuring Oregon has the institutional capacity necessary to thoughtfully evaluate and advance sea otter recovery efforts.

We also strongly support the broader nearshore investments proposed within the package, including enhanced coastwide monitoring of rocky habitats and kelp forests, and related research. These investments reflect the integrated, collaborative approach necessary for durable and successful marine conservation outcomes.

Importantly, the proposal appropriately emphasizes partnership-driven implementation and coordination. The collaborative framework described in the proposal aligns closely with the Elakha Alliance's own approach to community engagement, Tribal partnership, public education, and science-based planning around sea otter restoration.

The proposed Marine Resources Coordinator position would provide critical continuity, expertise, and leadership capacity within ODFW at a time when interest and momentum around nearshore resilience and marine species recovery continue to grow. We believe this investment will strengthen Oregon's ability to leverage existing partnerships, secure future funding opportunities, and advance strategic conservation priorities identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan and the Governor's resilience initiatives.

We respectfully urge ODFW and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to retain and advance this position and the associated nearshore investments as part of the agency's final 2027–2029 budget request.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to Oregon's fish, wildlife, and coastal ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Jane Bacchieri
Executive Director
Elakha Alliance
