

Exhibit B

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence Received as of
June 18, 2026**

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Joel Sunderland <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:31 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

While hatcheries occasionally have an observable benefit of maintaining harvest opportunities for anglers, the science points to a future where wild fish are again given an opportunity to thrive. We are at a point where resilient native fish are our best bet against the steady march of climate change, and nature can be our guide if we let her.

Please consider a future where wild fish are given a chance and do not move forward with a rebuild of the Rock Creek hatchery.

Sincerely,

Joel

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Lukas Kopacki <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:31 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Hatcheries have shown that they are ineffective in guaranteeing stable and robust runs of salmon. The time is now to realize that the best and cheapest hatchery is a healthy river where wild fish can spawn, grow, and outmigrate.

Sincerely,

Lukas

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Stephen Kucas <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:31 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please reject any funding proposal to support the Rock Creek Hatchery rebuild on the North Umpqua River. That potential action is not supported by sound fisheries management.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kucas

Portland, OR

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Joseph Quinn <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:32 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Even before the wind-driven fire of 2020, the efficiency and efficacy of the Rock Creek Hatchery was questionable. The Rock Creek Watershed was a degraded catchment due to years of industrial logging. Summer flows were palpably reduced, requiring that water be pumped up to the hatchery from the N. Umpqua River. Yes, restoration by PURS and BLM, among others, is on-going, but should not be mistaken as a palliative for what the hatchery was, or rather wasn't, but must be seen as an investment in the restoration, on this tributary, as elsewhere, of abundant native, and wild, fish populations.

Sincerely,

Joseph Patrick Quinn, Camas Valley

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Peter Murray <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:31 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Thank you for letting me provide input to your decision making process.

I'm writing to express opposition to rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua River. I've been a resident of Oregon for 80 years, and I support wild fish, conservation and good habitat.

We don't need a steelhead hatchery on the North Umpqua costing tens and tens of millions of dollars. If ODFW has that kind of money to spend on steelhead they should spend it on habitat improvement that would benefit steelhead and other kinds of salmonoids and other native aquatic species.

Furthermore, I think this decision is premature. ODFW is asking the Commission to commit tens of millions of dollars before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — is complete.

Sincerely,

Peter Murray

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Karl Konecny <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 8:33 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I urge you to not rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery. I am an avid angler and live on the North Umpqua downstream from Rock Creek. I have watched those watersheds change in the past 20 years from fire and climate change. Rock Creek is not an appropriate place for a hatchery due to poor water quality and from harms a hatchery would do to already stressed wild fish. Supporting these wild fish is the best way to insure we have viable fish runs in the future.

Please don't waste the money rebuilding that hatchery.

Sincerely,

Karl Konecny

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Chris Daughters <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:28 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I ask that you reject the rebuild of the Rock Creek Hatchery. The Rock Creek Hatchery is too expensive, and unnecessary. The North Umpqua can support a fishery if its wild fish are given more habitat and less hatchery inputs. It already has the largest run of wild winter steelhead on the west coast. We need to augment habitat and give the fish a chance before we revert to old habits of hatchery fish. The state of Oregon has been producing hatchery fish for more than 60 years and our fisheries are not better for it. The return on investment when it comes to hatcheries is not worth it.

Sincerely,

Chris Daughters

To: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

June 15, 2026

From: Jeffrey Dose, Concerned Fisheries Scientist

Re: Testimony in Opposition: Exhibit B; 2027-2029 ARB. Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Hatfield-Hyde, Commissioners, and Director Colbert:

Introduction

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some professionally based thoughts on your Agency Requested Budget (ARB), specifically on the Rock Creek Hatchery (RCH) rebuild project in the Proposed Option Package (POP) you will address at your June Commission meeting. I am strongly opposed to any significant rebuilding for reasons discussed below. I also want to thank you for your continued dedication to the responsible management of Oregon's valuable natural resources. Your commitment is greatly appreciated.

Executive Summary

This document presents concerns and recommendations against rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery as proposed in the POP. A recent hatchery assessment found this hatchery to be among the least resilient, highest at risk from climate change, lowest economic benefit, and highest cost when compared to other facilities (ODFW, 2025). Drawing on extensive professional experience, I argue that the high costs, degraded watershed conditions, and reduced need for hatchery programs make the site unsuitable for significant investment. The Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) places an emphasis on the importance of preserving the North Umpqua River's wild salmon and steelhead populations, while highlighting the environmental and biological risks posed by hatchery operations. My recommendation is to prioritize watershed conservation and restoration efforts, particularly cold-water refugia, in the North Umpqua Basin over rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery. Hatchery production could continue at current levels at new or existing facilities.

Importance of North Umpqua River Fisheries

This document outlines concerns and recommendations regarding the proposed rebuild of the Rock Creek Hatchery. Drawing on decades of professional experience, I highlight fiscal, environmental, and biological risks associated with the project, including high costs, degraded watershed conditions, and potential harm to wild fish populations. My recommendation is to **not** proceed with the rebuild, as the current site is unsuitable and the facility is no longer necessary for all existing authorized hatchery programs. Preserving the North Umpqua River's wild salmon and steelhead should be emphasized as the highest priority.

The North Umpqua River supports a diverse array of fish populations, which in turn sustain a variety of recreational and commercial activities. Despite this, there are concerns regarding severely diminished wild populations such as coho salmon, searun cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Notably, the North Umpqua River is recognized for having one of the most diverse

populations of wild salmon and searun trout in coastal Oregon. There are six distinct races encompassing four species, including an entirely wild winter steelhead run, which is the strongest in Oregon and potentially the entire Pacific Northwest. The all-wild summer steelhead run, although reduced, remains one of only three in all of coastal Oregon and attracts anglers from around the world. Wild and hatchery fall and spring-run Chinook provide substantial sport fisheries, and the high-quality habitat in the North Umpqua plays a crucial role in ongoing recovery efforts for Threatened wild Oregon Coast coho salmon.

Fiscal Concerns Regarding the Rebuild

The Commission previously faced a budget request in the 2025-2027 ARB related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of our North Umpqua fisheries, ultimately opting not to fund the rebuilding of the Rock Creek Hatchery, which was destroyed in the 2020 Archie Fire. I strongly supported your decision to remove this item from that biennium budget request, as there were several compelling reasons for doing so. Those reasons remain.

Now, the Commission must once again consider whether this project should proceed in the 2027-2029 budget cycle. One major concern is the extremely high cost associated with rebuilding, which offers minimal benefits. The estimated cost to rebuild is as high as \$60 million, excluding annual operating expenses, which I expect to rise significantly due to current and worsening watershed conditions. Previously, two of the major hatchery programs the facility was used for—winter and summer steelhead—were eliminated, in part due to the negative impacts of hatchery production. The hatchery program for Threatened coho was also discontinued as it was a threat to species recovery. As a result, the only remaining large-scale hatchery program in the North Umpqua River is for spring Chinook, which has continued at an alternative location, Cole Rivers Hatchery. Prior to the fire, the cost/hatchery fish harvested was \$440, the worst performing hatchery program in the system. Post-fire, the costs will increase dramatically if the hatchery is rebuilt. Since the fire, Rock Creek Hatchery has been used solely for brood collection and acclimation. Given this, allocating such a substantial amount of public funds for a single hatchery program, which can be fulfilled elsewhere, would not be fiscally responsible. These funds would yield far greater public benefit if invested in propagation at more suitable location(s), conservation, habitat restoration, inventory and monitoring, or research.

Environmental Concerns with the Rock Creek Site

Another significant concern is the greatly altered environmental conditions within the Rock Creek watershed. When the hatchery was initially constructed, Rock Creek was an intact watershed with abundant high-quality water - this is no longer the case. Even prior to the 2020 Archie Fire, decades of extensive clear-cut logging and road construction had substantially degraded Rock Creek. Today, summer stream flows are reduced, and water temperatures have increased to the point that water from Rock Creek cannot be used at the hatchery for several months each year, necessitating pumping from the North Umpqua River – which is also seeing

increased water temperatures. Additionally, the replanting of salvaged areas in high-density, single-age tree plantations will further reduce summer stream flows due to increased evapotranspiration, an effect expected to persist for at least fifty years (Perry and Jones, 2017). This will compound projected water flow decreases and temperature increases from climate change (ODFW, 2025). Additionally, the greenhouse gas emissions from required power generation for operation is by far the highest of all the state hatcheries, (ODFW, 2025). This will increase dramatically because of increased electrical demand from the (new) needed pumping, recirculation, and chiller equipment. This situation appears to be in direct conflict with the goals for resilient watersheds in response to climate change from the Governor, which directly identified OWEB and ODFW to implement actions to improve resilience to climate change and water temperatures (EO 25-26) – this proposal will do just the opposite.

Peak winter flows have become unnaturally high, leading to increased erosion, turbidity, and debris torrents. The aftermath of the Archie Fire has only worsened watershed conditions. Almost the entire watershed was burned, much of it at high intensity. In response, salvage logging and road construction increased dramatically. Approximately three to ten years after the fire, the root strength of both standing-dead and harvested trees will further diminish, creating a high risk for catastrophic watershed impacts (O’Loughlin, C. (2011) during future major flood events (e.g., 30+ year return interval). This will lead to increased landslides, earthflows, and debris torrents, which in the Western Cascades can mobilize large volumes of material, including whole trees and boulders (Wall, S. A., et al, 2020), and possibly result in destructive dam-break floods (Cao, et al, 2013). In a report from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI, 2025), the risk of debris torrents from the Archie Fire has led to a **7-fold increase** in debris-flow hazards over the pre-existing (already high) hazard due to the inherent geology of the Rock Creek watershed. The last major flood event in the Umpqua Basin occurred in November 1996, some 30 years ago, when severe flood-induced debris flows resulted in extensive damage and four fatalities.

Similar “time bombs” exist in this watershed, including near the hatchery location. A report from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined “**...that there was a very high risk to property at Rock Creek Hatchery from debris flows and landslides, as well as logs, debris, and sediment flow into the hatchery. Steep slopes directly adjacent to the hatchery and outdoor education center property are located on the toe of an active landslide and within a deposition zone of debris flows**” (DHS/FEMA, 2020). While the timing of these events is uncertain, they will happen. This will pose a serious risk for future hatchery managers, potentially rendering the facility unusable or requiring substantial additional funding if restoration were to be contemplated. Given these conditions, rebuilding at this site would necessitate complex and costly equipment, which may not even ensure long-term viability. Simply put, it is not a suitable location for major public investment.

Biological Concerns and Effects of Hatcheries

A third concern is the presence of a hatchery on one of Oregon's more intact river systems. It is well established that hatchery programs can adversely affect wild, native salmon populations (McMillan, et al) from; disease transmission, reduced water quality, competition, direct predation, altered predator survival and behavior, altered migratory behavior and genetic impacts. In the North Umpqua, this has been clearly demonstrated by the significant recovery of the wild winter steelhead population following the elimination of the hatchery program. The Commission's recent decision to terminate the summer steelhead hatchery program was a wise one and should help further increase and stabilize the world-famous wild summer steelhead population in the years ahead.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In summary, there are several compelling reasons to reaffirm your previous recommendation against rebuilding Rock Creek Hatchery. First, such action would require significant expenditures for construction and operation with minimal public benefit, especially as three of the four long-term hatchery programs have been eliminated for sound scientific reasons. The facility is simply not needed. Second, the site presents serious environmental challenges that would make reliable, efficient operations extremely difficult, if not impossible. These factors are highly likely to worsen. Additionally, the North Umpqua River remains one of the few locations where wild salmon and steelhead populations can flourish independently and would be at risk from renewed hatchery activity. Finally, I am very concerned that the POP did not include evaluation of any "non-build" alternatives, despite the findings from the Assessment of State Hatchery Alternatives (ODFW, 2025) and direction from EO 25-26 that this facility is clearly a fiscal and environmental loser. This is particularly concerning given that there are existing options identified in the Assessment (alts. 2a, b, and c) with no loss of current hatchery spring Chinook production. These would be at a far lower cost - despite your previous decision to close this worse performing facility in the State hatchery program.

I specifically recommend that you direct the Department to submit an alternative option – based on Assessment Alternative 2 (ODFW, 2025) - or, alternatively, decline to forward the entire POP to the Governor. This would not preclude continuing current production of spring Chinook at Cole Rivers Hatchery. While I do have serious concerns with the current program regarding the abundance of hatchery spring Chinook relative to wild fish and the resultant very high percentage of hatchery fish in the spawning population (pHOS), but that is a different issue. I do not oppose any of the other actions in the Umpqua hatchery portion of the POP. Please remember, the impacts and management direction of Umpqua spring Chinook will be a

major topic in the upcoming Coastal Management Plan update which will provide an updated assessment of the entire program and provide you with a more comprehensive assessment enabling better informed decision-making.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you would like more information, I welcome any questions and further conversation as you consider the best path forward.

Best regards,

/s/Jeffrey J. Dose

1306 Fisher Road

Roseburg, OR 97471

jfdose@msn.com Phone (541) 673-2665

Professional Background

I am a retired Fisheries Biologist with over 30 years of experience in the Umpqua River Basin. My career included positions with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest, where I focused extensively on land and watershed management as they pertain to aquatic resources. I have dedicated significant attention to understanding how both natural and human-caused disturbances affect fish populations and habitat, particularly for salmon and steelhead. As a member of numerous Interdisciplinary Teams, my observations and findings have been documented in numerous Resource Plans, Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, inventory and monitoring reports, ESA Biological Assessments, and peer-reviewed research articles. I also authored a chapter in the American Fisheries Society (AFS) book entitled *Salmon 2100: The Future of Wild Pacific Salmon* and was a member of the team that developed the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the Northwest Forest Plan.

cc: Shaun Clements

Tom Stahl

Literature Cited:

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DOGAMI (2025). Debris flow hazard, risk, and risk reduction in the Eagle Creek, Beechie Creek-Lionsgate, Holiday Farm, and Archie Creek fire areas. Open-file Report 0-25-09.

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McMillan, J.R., Morrison, B., Chambers, N., Ruggerone, G., Bernatchez, L., Stanford, J., et al. (2023) A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 00, 1-18

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Z. Cao, Huang W., Pender G., Liu, X., (2013). Even more destructive: Cascade dambreak floods. *Journal of Flood Risk Management*. V. 7, Issue 4. Pp. 357-373



Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed and beyond, through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship.

TO: Chair Wahl and Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
cc: Tom Stahl, Shaun Clements

FROM: Ken Carloni, Vice President/Restoration Chair, Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

DATE: June 16, 2026

RE: Rock Creek Hatchery Policy Option Package (Exhibit B: 2027-29 ARB)

Dear Char Wahl and Commission Members:

Umpqua Watersheds has had a strong interest in restoring forests and fisheries on the North Umpqua River since our founding in 1994. Therefore, we urge the Commission to abandon efforts to rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery.

UW is also a partner in the North Umpqua Coalition of conservation organizations. My colleagues from that coalition who are eminent aquatic and fisheries experts are also submitting testimony, so as a forest ecologist, I will be discussing upland issues that may be less obvious to the Commission.

Although rebuilding the RCH may feel like a way to recover dwindling fish runs, this will have the opposite effect. Over 50 years of peer-reviewed research has overwhelmingly demonstrated that large-scale hatchery interventions fail to sustainably rebuild wild anadromous salmonid runs.¹ The number of spawning salmonids returning to their natal streams on the N. Umpqua is limited by the carrying capacity of the river, ocean and estuary habitats through which they must migrate, not by the number of epigenetically altered smolts released from hatcheries.

The RCH is a particular poor candidate for diverting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars away from far more pressing problems our state is facing. Even before it burned in the 2020 Archie Creek Fire, the RCH faced numerous technical problems. And since the fire, conditions in the Rock Creek watershed have continued to deteriorate. Because the watershed was already heavily logged and replanted to highly flammable plantations, the Archie Creek fire was particularly severe. As a result, the massive stand replacing fires have resulting in thousands of young, even-aged plantations on private lands, and extensive expanses of complex early seral habitat on public lands. A 2017 study comparing summer low flows from streams draining

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plantations to those emanating from mature forests found that “Average daily streamflow in summer (July through September) in basins with 34- to 43-year-old plantations of Douglas-fir was 50% lower than streamflow from reference basins with 150- to 500-year-old forests dominated by Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and other conifers.”² This massive conversion to young plantation stands will increase the necessity, and therefore the cost, of pumping North Umpqua water up Rock Creek to maintain hatchery water quality.

Large landslides also become more likely as roots from now-dead trees begin to decompose. Studies have shown³ that “Root biomass also decreases rapidly after clearfelling. The reduction in C after forest removal is a prime cause of landsliding on many steep slopes.” Debris torrents from mass wasting of upland Rock Creek watershed slopes will increase sediment loads and will pose a physical danger to hatchery infrastructure.

Rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery would be an exercise of throwing good money after bad, and will NOT improve fish runs on the North Umpqua. A far greater improvement to fish stocks in the basin at a far lower cost would result from removing the Winchester Dam, which creates a significant year-round barrier to fish passage.

To conclude, we appreciate the difficult decisions that the Commission must make, and we thank you for your continued support of the important economic, cultural, and environmental benefits of a healthy, wild North Umpqua River.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Carloni". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Ken Carloni, Ph.D.
Vice President, Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

1. McMillan, J.R., Morrison, B., Chambers, N., Ruggerone, G., Bernatchez, L., Stanford, J. et al. (2023) A global synthesis of peer-reviewed research on the effects of hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 30, 446–463. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/fme.12643>
2. Perry TD, Jones JA. Summer streamflow deficits from regenerating Douglas-fir forest in the Pacific Northwest, USA. *Ecohydrol.*2017;10:e1790. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.1790>
3. O'Loughlin, C.. (2011). A Study of Tree Root Strength Deterioration Following Clearfelling. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. 4. 107-113. 10.1139/x74-016.

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To: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
From: Pacific Rivers

Via email: ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov
CC: Tom.Stahl@odfw.oregon.gov, shaun.clements@odfw.oregon.gov

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Funding to Rebuild Rock Creek Fish Hatchery
(Exhibit B: 2027-29 ARB)

June 16, 2026

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-chair Hatfield-Hyde, Director Colbert, Members of the Commission,
and Director Colbert,

Pacific Rivers (PR) is a Portland based environmental organization which was formed in 1987 in response to serious degradation of Oregon's rivers observed by its founders, Bob Doppelt and Rick George. The organization's first order of business was to play a key role in the passage of Oregon's Wild and Scenic Rivers bill, which protected more miles of river and stream in Oregon than those of any of the lower 48 United States. PR was early to realize such factors to watershed degradation as road construction, and to appreciate the economic benefit of healthy watersheds. PR had a key role in the development of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan, for example. We have long been working for a healthy North Umpqua River (NU) system, including long-term monitoring of juvenile salmonids in key tributaries Steamboat and Canton Creeks. We were instrumental in the passage of the legislation that created the Frank and Jeanne Moore Special Management Unit, a Congressionally-designated cold-water refuge for native steelhead on Steamboat Creek.

Allow us to begin by thanking both the Commission and Agency for dedicated public service on behalf of the people of Oregon. We appreciate your commitment.

The following is in reference to your Agency Requested Budget, in particular the Rock Creek Hatchery (RCH) rebuild project in the Proposed Option Package (POP) at your June Commission meeting. We request that this document be considered testimony on the issue and be included in the record of the meeting.



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We believe and submit that to rebuild RCH (1) would run counter to, or at least not meet the goals of Gov. Kotek's Executive Order No. 25-2026 (EO25-26), (2) is unnecessary for achieving ODFW's hatchery fish production program, (3) would be a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars. Related is how such money could be spent far more effectively to achieve the goals of EO 25-26.

1. EO 25-26, as all of you are aware, first acknowledges that Oregon is at an inflection point with climate change, recognizes the need for actions that will "meaningfully mitigate and adapt the State's lands and waters to the increasing pace and scale of impacts from the changing climate...". Among the agencies tasked with meeting the goals of EO 25-26 are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and, specifically to "lead by example", the State Fish Hatcheries. Agencies are "directed to protect, conserve, connect or restore ten percent of lands and waters in Oregon within ten years" as compared to the 2025 baseline.

In addition, EO25-26 states agencies "must deliver transparent, accurate reporting on public programs, maintain accountability to citizens and stakeholders, and establish clear feedback loops that enable public input and demonstrate responsive government action..."

The current conditions at RCH – destroyed by the Archie Creek fire (which also devastated the Rock Creek watershed) – are a far cry from the intact watershed with abundant high-quality water that existed when RCH was built. Years of upstream clear-cut logging and road construction took a toll. Summer stream flows are lower than in the past, and the water temperature is higher. In fact, the operation of RCH is a significant contributor of warmed water to the NU, which itself is experiencing higher temperatures. (As Rock Creek water is too warm for hatchery use, NU water would be pumped in, returning water to the NU that is warmer than when it left.) The Umpqua River and several of its tributaries already exceed Oregon's temperature water quality standard for protection of fish and wildlife. Consequently, as required by state and federal law, ODEQ has recently updated its "Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load" regulatory document for the basin. The Rock Creek Hatchery was identified as a significant contributor to the thermal load of the North Umpqua River; in fact, it was identified as having a "maximum temperature increase at the point of discharge" of 4.82 C (8.68 F). (See page 71 of the "Umpqua River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load" document dated July 27, 2025).



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On the basis of water quality and temperature impacts alone, rebuilding RCH would run counter to EO 25–26’s climate resilience and mitigation directives. Surely, on this basis alone ODFW/Oregon State Hatcheries would not be “leading the way.”

Our understanding is that preliminary engineering for the proposed rebuild will include extensive filtration for water quality (especially the erosion-riddled Rock Creek water) and cooling of water too warm for fish. We do not know the cost of the additional use of electricity that will be required, but it will be substantial – and both filtration and cooling of water will add heat to the atmosphere. The Lynker report (Figure 7.2) in the Assessment (ODFW, 2025) identified RCH as having by far the highest greenhouse gas emissions produced from the generation of the electricity needed to operate. Artificial cooling (and filtration) systems create long-term dependence on energy, infrastructure, maintenance and operating cost while doing nothing to address the causes of warming temperatures. Doesn’t EO 25–26 direct ODFW and Hatcheries to reduce the temperature of Rock Creek by rehabilitation, rather than add to the State’s energy burden?

2. There is no demonstrated need for rebuilding RCH in order to meet ODFW’s hatchery production goals, and a hatchery on the NU would put unnecessary pressures on the existing wild fish populations.

Of the various fish species in the NU, hatchery programs for summer steelhead, winter steelhead, and coho have been discontinued. Winter steelhead populations increased when the run was managed for wild fish, and it is expected that the same will be true for summer steelhead. Coho are increasing (though more progress is needed). The only large-scale hatchery program on the NU is spring Chinook, and that program only collects brood and acclimates at RCH, while the rest of the rearing is done at Cole Rivers Hatchery. In other words, the production of hatchery spring Chinook is fully operational without making any further capital investment at RCH.

It is worth noting that the discontinued hatchery programs – winter and summer steelhead and coho – were terminated to adhere to state policy to save those wild runs; a major factor stressing those populations of wild fish was the presence of hatchery fish. To be clear, PR is not opposed to hatcheries as a matter of principle; rather, we believe they must be considered strategically based on many factors – and we see RCH as a risk.



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3. The funds necessary to rebuild RCH – and critically, operate it in the future – would be, at best, an irresponsible use of taxpayer funds. That would be true if the State was flush with money, and glaring when considered in light of the stresses on Oregon’s budget.

Pre-fire, RCH was already identified in the recent Hatchery Resiliency Study (see *Climate Vulnerability Assessment of Oregon Hatchery Programs*, prepared for ODFW by OSU and USGS in December 2024) as one of the state’s least resilient, and most vulnerable to climate change – and among the most expensive to rebuild. Furthermore, the cost of producing a single harvested spring Chinook was \$440, making it one of the most expensive programs in the entire system. (By contrast, the cost of rearing a trout per harvested fish was \$6.21.)

The rebuild proposal, as we understand it, assumes an injection of FEMA funds, with a state (or otherwise) match of \$5–6 million. There is no FEMA money to then operate the facility, which would be a major expense, likely in millions of dollars per year. Ongoing. With no suggestion of the source of those funds. All of this at a time when ODFW’s budget required the closure of another hatchery and cannot address a significant deferred maintenance burden.

The proposal for the rebuild, as we understand it, would be to make a “portable” campus, one that can be moved if necessary. While we are unaware of an operating budget going forward, several questions come to mind. For example, what lack of confidence in the site is displayed by designing it for relocation? What are the chances that upstream Rock Creek will devolve with erosion to the point where the filters cannot clear the water and the amount of debris is so great that operations must cease? How much would it cost to “move” the facility? Where will Oregon find that money?

All of these questions are against the backdrop of the FEMA determination that there was a “very high risk to property and Rock Creek Hatchery from debris flows and landslides, as well as logs, debris, and sediment flow into the hatchery. Steep slopes directly adjacent to the hatchery and outdoor education center property are located on the toe of an active landslide and within a deposition zone of debris flows.” (DHS/FEMA 2020)



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Portland, OR 97214

pacificrivers.org

Summary and Conclusion:

To propose rebuilding Rock Creek Hatchery is, at best, a solution in search of a problem – it is not needed to meet its agencies' hatchery production goals. Moreover, hatchery fish in the NU runs counter to state policy to protect our wild fish resources.

Oregon cannot afford the cost of rebuilding this hatchery, and in all likelihood will not be able to afford the cost of its operation. We simply have no idea what ordinary operations will cost, and we surely don't have any handle on what major repairs will be caused by landslide, debris fall, etc. from the degraded drainage above RCH. Simply put, the proposed rebuild asks the Commission to buy a "pig in a poke."

Finally, and overriding, this proposal runs counter to EO 25-26. This is not a project that will improve resiliency, quite the contrary. ODFW will have a budget, and if it is truly acting in the spirit of "leading the way", its budget will focus on combating climate change by a large array of available options to "prioritize implementation of programs, policies and projects seeking to advance protection, conservation, restoration, or connection of lands and waters in support of the goal of ten percent in ten years." (*EO 25-26, Page 4, Section 3.b.*)

We request that the Commission direct the Department to submit an alternative option in the POP that would not rebuild RCH or, alternatively, decline to advance the POP to the Governor but continue the spring Chinook hatchery program at Cole Rivers.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael Morrison
Board Chair, for Pacific Rivers



TO: Chair Mary Wahl and Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Jennifer Fairbrother, Legislative & Policy Director, Native Fish Society
DATE: June 16, 2026
RE: 2027–29 Agency Request Budget: Rock Creek Hatchery Policy Option Package (POP)

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Native Fish Society¹ respectfully requests that the Commission remove the Rock Creek Hatchery Policy Option Package (POP 117, ‘Investing in Sustainable Hatchery Capacity for the Umpqua Basin’) from the proposed 2027–29 Agency Request Budget and defer decisions on new hatchery infrastructure and operations until the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review is complete.

Our concerns, developed in greater detail below, are straightforward:

1. By ODFW’s own assessment, Rock Creek Hatchery is the least resilient facility in the system and among the most costly, making it a poor candidate to rebuild.
2. The decision is premature. It commits major funding and resources ahead of the review and revision of the CMP – the plan meant to guide agency decision-making.
3. The funding is uncertain, and the long-term operating costs could likely fall to the state.
4. The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in the wild fish recovery that produces lasting returns.
5. This is a test of good governance. Forwarding a contingent, unfunded request asks the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to treat hope as a plan.

We do not make this request to diminish the Umpqua’s fisheries or the people who care about them. We make it because Oregon already has a proven recipe for abundant salmon and steelhead, and the North Umpqua is one of the best places in the state to put that recipe to work.

Oregon already has a recipe for abundant fish.

The Oregon Coast coho story shows what is possible. After a near-total collapse in the late 1990s, coastal coho have returned in numbers not seen in decades, with an estimated 161,000 wild coho returning to Oregon rivers in 2024. NOAA Fisheries found that roughly 99 percent of

¹Native Fish Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to restore abundant wild fish, free-flowing rivers, and thriving local communities across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.



those are self-sustaining, wild fish.² And those fish are doing more than rebuilding wild populations. They are supporting harvest fisheries that had been closed or restricted for years. Anglers, guides, dory fleets, and the coastal businesses that depend on healthy runs are benefiting from returns they had not seen in a generation.

That recovery did not come from new concrete, piping, and tanks. It came from three ingredients: 1) investing in comprehensive habitat protection and restoration, 2) managing the vast majority of Oregon's Coastal rivers exclusively for wild coho salmon without any hatchery releases, and 3) robust monitoring to guide sustainable fisheries. We call this the Recipe for Abundance, and we ask the Commission to use it as the lens for any major investment in the Umpqua.

The decision is premature. Don't put the cart before the horse.

ODFW is in the middle of reviewing and updating the CMP, which guides hatchery programs and wild fish management in the Umpqua basin. Approving major infrastructure now would foreclose options and lock in commitments before that plan update is finished. We should not be building, and then planning.

There is no emergency that requires this sequence. The hatchery programs associated with Rock Creek are already operating without the facility, with production maintained elsewhere.³ The agency has not yet submitted its FEMA application, and a FEMA decision is at least twelve to eighteen months out from submission. There is time to do this in the right order: complete the CMP review to identify the state's goals and needs for both wild fish and hatchery programs, secure the funding needed to achieve those goals, and then make infrastructure decisions grounded in that knowledge.

The funding is yet to be secured, and ODFW cannot afford the system it already has.

This proposal comes at a moment when ODFW is emerging from a budget shortfall that reduced critical monitoring programs and required significant fee increases for hunters and anglers. It also necessitated reductions in hatchery spending through the closure of the Salmon River Hatchery and elimination of Rock Creek Hatchery operations from the agency and governor's 2025-2027 request budgets. This illustrates that the department does not have the

²NOAA Fisheries, "Wild Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Sustain Popular Sportfishing Seasons," December 2024. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/wild-oregon-coast-coho-salmon-sustain-popular-sportfishing-seasons>

³ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Umpqua Hatchery Infrastructure Proposal," n.d. <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/hatchery/docs/Umpqua%20Hatchery%20Infrastructure%20Proposal.pdf>



financial means to continue operating the existing system, much less add to it. The agency's Chief Operating Officer has publicly cited approximately \$160 million in deferred maintenance across the broader state hatchery system.⁴

Costs for Umpqua Basin hatchery infrastructure have already escalated dramatically. The Lynker assessment of state hatchery infrastructure, completed less than two years ago, estimated approximately \$251 million in total infrastructure investment needed across all 17 hatcheries, of which \$45 million was projected to rebuild Rock Creek to pre-fire function.⁵ The current cost now proposed is \$76 million in construction funding for the Umpqua Basin.⁶ This one request represents roughly 30 percent of the estimated total infrastructure investment needed to maintain the state hatchery system status quo.

Even if construction costs are eventually sourced, the operating obligation does not end there. Long-term operations are estimated at roughly \$1.9 million per biennium for the Rock Creek facility and \$0.9 million per biennium for the South Umpqua facility, and hatchery operating costs only grow over time.⁷ Sooner or later, those costs will likely draw on the agency and the state. Committing to a new, indefinite operating obligation in this environment, with no long-term operational funding source named, is the kind of decision that should give the Commission pause.

This decision is a matter of the Commission's stewardship and oversight.

⁴ Jeremy C. Ruark, "Proposed ODFW budget closes hatcheries. increases fishing, hunting fees," *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, June 10, 2025 (updated June 18, 2025).
https://www.cgsentinel.com/news/proposed-odfw-budget-closes-hatcheries-increases-fishing-hunting-fees/article_54935900-bae1-4841-aeb4-d6b3ba698606.html

⁵ Lynker Corporation, *Assessment of ODFW State Hatchery Infrastructure Alternatives*, March 5, 2025, Section 4.3 and Appendix Table 7-26 (estimating \$251 million in total infrastructure investment under Alternative 1, status quo with Rock Creek rebuild, across 17 hatcheries; approximately \$45 million of that total in projected modifications for Rock Creek specifically).
https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/hatchery/docs/resilience/Lynker_Hatchery_Infrastructure_Assessment.pdf

⁶ POP 117 construction cost is \$70,090,000 (\$16.9 million insurance settlement plus \$53.19 million Federal Funds-FEMA); the figure excludes \$1.1 million in ongoing operations and maintenance also requested in this POP. The full POP 117 expenditure limitation totals \$71.19 million. NOTE: An addition 10% cost share (\$5.91 million) required by FEMA will still need to be sourced. Exhibit B, Attachment 3 indicates these funds may be contingent on the hatchery resiliency bond POP 111.
https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-06/Exhibit%20B%20Attachment%203%20-%202027-29%20Policy%20Option%20Packages_1.pdf

⁷ Long-term operations estimates per ODFW May 12, 2026 Budget Open House materials (2026 dollars).



When a proposal does not align with the science, with the agency's own analysis, with the budget reality, and with the planning process already underway, that misalignment is the signal to stop and reconsider, even in the face of immediate pressure.

Oregon law charges this Commission with a clear responsibility. It directs the Commission to represent the public interest of the State of Oregon and to manage the state's fish and wildlife for the benefit of present and future generations.⁸ That charge is not only biological. It makes the Commission the steward of the public's resources and of the public's trust in how this agency sets its course. The Commission's part in the budget process is the exercise of that stewardship: to weigh what the Department proposes and decide what merits the Commission's endorsement before it advances to the Governor and the Legislature.

A vote to advance POP 117 is therefore a vote to lend the Commission's endorsement to a major, multi-decade commitment whose means of delivery do not yet exist. If the external funding never materializes, the Commission will have spent its attention and credibility advancing a project that could not proceed. If it does materialize, the Commission will have committed to rebuilding the least resilient facility in the state before the planning process meant to guide that very choice was finished. Neither outcome reflects the careful management the public is owed.

By the agency's own assessment, Rock Creek is the wrong facility to rebuild.

ODFW's hatchery resiliency analysis rated Rock Creek Hatchery last among all state-owned facilities based on pre-fire performance.

⁸ ORS 496.012 (Wildlife Policy) (directing that the State Fish and Wildlife Commission "shall represent the public interest of the State of Oregon" and that wildlife be managed for the "benefit... of present and future generations of the citizens of this state"); "wildlife" includes fish, ORS 496.004(19).



Combined assessment

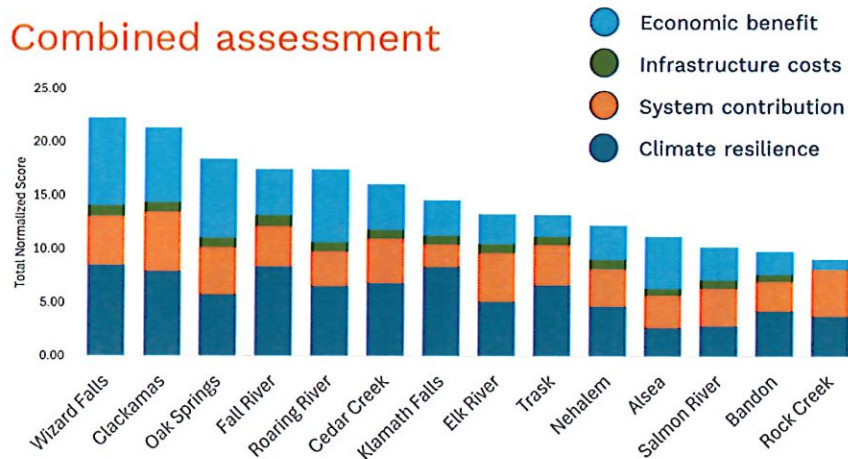


Figure 1: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, Director's Report, "Hatchery Resiliency Project Update," February 14, 2025, Slide 33 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/02_Feb/Director%20Report_Hatchery%20Resiliency%20Project%20Update.pdf

The post-fire analysis of options concluded that a full rebuild would be "cost prohibitive," less likely to meet temperature requirements, overly reliant on complex mechanical systems, and more vulnerable to future natural disasters.⁹ These are not our characterizations. They are the department's.

The economics tell the same story. Before the fire, Rock Creek Hatchery produced harvested adult spring Chinook at a cost of roughly \$440 per fish – among the most expensive programs in the entire state system. For comparison, the state rears trout at an average of about \$6.21 per harvested fish.¹⁰ On top of that, the site's persistent water temperature and water quality challenges, its location in a heavily burned watershed where sedimentation is expected to increase as fire-killed trees degrade, and its exposure in a warming river corridor all make it a poor candidate for a multi-decade reinvestment.

⁹Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "HB 5006 Budget Note Report: Umpqua Hatcheries Analysis" (January 21, 2026). Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, 2026 Regular Session. OLIS Committee Meeting Document 312511. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2026R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/312511>

¹⁰The Research Group, LLC, "State Owned Hatchery Economic Analysis Technical Report," for the Looking Ahead: Charting a Sustainable Future for Oregon's Hatchery System project, prepared for ODFW, November 2024, p. III-4. https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/hatchery/docs/resilience/The_Research_Group_Hatchery_Economic_Analysis.pdf

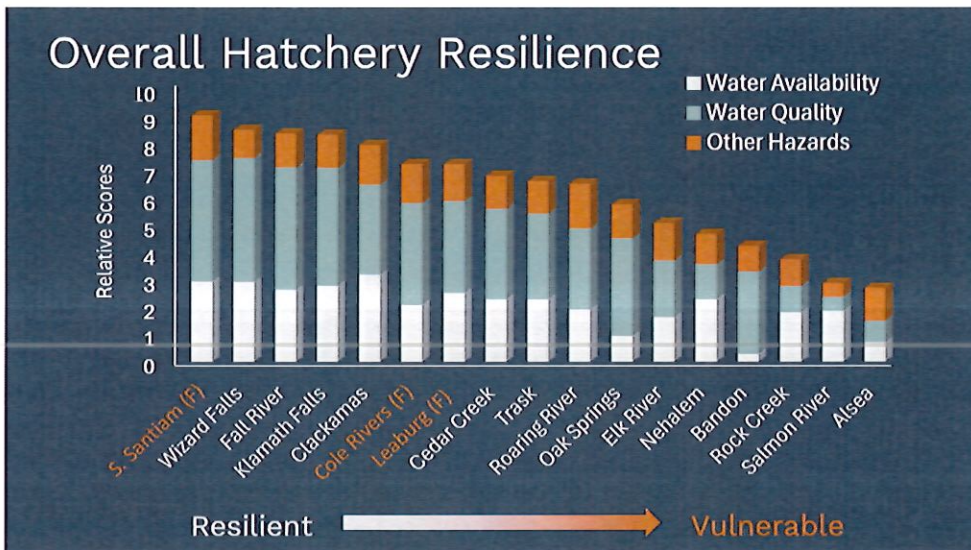


Figure 2: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, Director's Report, "Hatchery Resiliency Project Update," February 14, 2025, Slide 27. https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/02_Feb/Directors%20Report_Hatchery%20Resiliency%20Project%20Update.pdf

The wild fish record reinforces the concern. The Commission ended the summer steelhead program at this facility over the harm hatchery fish were causing to wild populations. Wild spring Chinook in the North Umpqua have been in decline, with high straying of hatchery fish among the factors undermining the wild population, putting the future of one of Oregon's last wild spring Chinook fisheries in jeopardy.¹¹ And unlike other coastal watersheds that are recovering, Umpqua coho are still not rebounding, a drag on the broader Oregon Coast coho population's path to delisting. These are exactly the focal issues the CMP review should resolve before the state pours new concrete.

There is good news in the wild fish record, too. In 1993, ODFW ended hatchery supplementation of North Umpqua winter steelhead. In the decades since, the wild population has not collapsed; it has rebuilt. Winchester Dam counts show that wild winter steelhead returns have grown markedly with the 2011-2020 average the highest of any decade in the eighty-year record. These are the largest wild winter steelhead returns documented to the North Umpqua since counting began, and they were achieved without a hatchery program. This is the Recipe for Abundance at work in the very basin now under your consideration.

¹¹Hatchery spring Chinook straying and interbreeding rates: ODFW, Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries 2014 to 2024/25, p. 53. https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/crp/docs/coastal_multispecies/2014-2024_23_CMP_WFMS.pdf

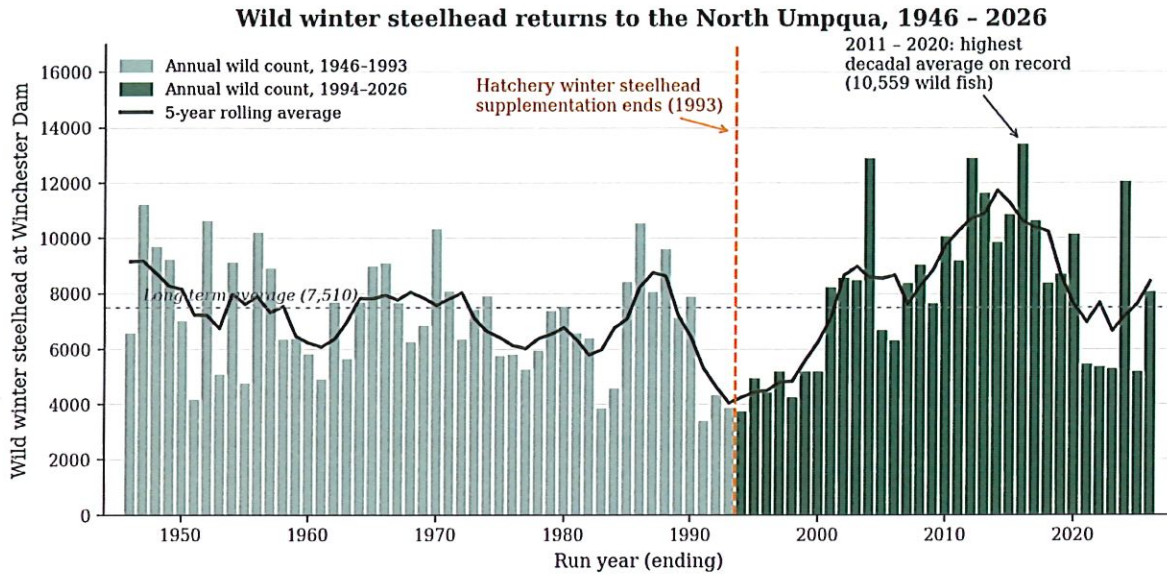


Figure 3. Wild winter steelhead returns to the North Umpqua at Winchester Dam, 1946–2026. Hatchery supplementation ended in 1993. Source: ODFW. <https://myodfw.com/sites/default/files/2026-06/Winter%20Steelhead%201946-2026.pdf>

The North Umpqua is where the Recipe for Abundance belongs.

The energy and dollars contemplated for this rebuild could instead advance what wild fish in this basin actually need: habitat restoration, aquatic organism passage and culvert upgrades, large wood placement, streamflow protection, and the monitoring and research that makes sound wild fish management and harvest possible.

The North Umpqua’s cold water and largely intact character make it one of the strongest candidates in Oregon for the kind of wild fish recovery that delivered the coastal coho comeback.

We recognize and respect the interests of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and of the many anglers who value access to and harvest of these fish. We share their ultimate goal: abundant wild fish in the Umpqua, capable of supporting the tribal, cultural, and recreational values that matter to so many Oregonians. Our request for a deliberate, well-sequenced process is not opposition to that goal. It is how we believe the state is most likely to achieve it durably.

Across Oregon, native salmon and steelhead populations remain listed, depleted, or in decline, and the window in which they can still be recovered is narrowing. Every public dollar the state invests must do as much as it can for wild fish, because we will not get a second chance with



many of these populations. We have the recipe. We know what works. The question is whether the state will direct its resources accordingly while there is still time.

What we ask of the Commission.

We ask the Commission to remove POP 117 in the 2027–29 Agency Request Budget and defer any infrastructure and operations commitment until the CMP review is complete and a dedicated, multi-biennium funding source is identified. This will provide ODFW, this Commission, and state lawmakers with a foundation for sound decision-making that reflects the needs of both wild fish and hatchery programs for the decades ahead.

We are not asking the Commission to write off the Umpqua or its hatchery legacy in a single vote. We are asking for the right order of operations so that we ensure the long-term future of the Umpqua's storied fish populations.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairbrother
Legislative & Policy Director
Native Fish Society

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tom Derry <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please do not waste anymore money on Rock Creek hatchery. ODFW has better things to spend their limited funding on.

Sincerely,

Tom Derry

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Elden Rosenthal <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

If the purpose of hatcheries is to preserve fisheries, we have already learned that in fact the opposite is true. Please do not spend money needed for habitat restoration by rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery. Allow nature to nurture the fishery.

Sincerely,

Elden Rosenthal

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Stanley Petrowski <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The adverse impact of Oregon's hatchery program on our native fish populations is well documented. With the continual decline of our salmon and trout runs every effort should be made to eliminate death by a thousand cuts. The expense of the program does not justify its continuation either.

The functionality of the Rock Creek hatchery was and is not sustainable. The investment in time and money to pump water from the North Umpqua is ridiculous. Let's put our efforts into habitat restoration and trust in nature to do what it does best.

Sincerely,

Stanley Petrowski
President
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
A Community Based 501(C)3 SURCP.ORG
34620 Tiller Trail Hwy
Tiller, Oregon
FEIN # 33-1131242

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Matt Neznanski <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I'm writing to urge you to reject the Rock Creek Hatchery policy option package proposed by ODFW.

ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.

Oregon already knows how to bring salmon back. After a near-total collapse in the late 1990s, wild coho have returned in abundance to coastal rivers. Now, 99% of coast coho runs are self-sustaining and provide benefits to anglers, communities, and ecosystems. That recovery happened because we invested in the Recipe for Abundance: habitat restoration, reduced reliance on hatcheries, and building sustainable fisheries.

Be a good steward of taxpayer funds and of our natural resources. Reject the Rock Creek proposal.

Sincerely,

Matt Neznanski, Salem, OR

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Vance Jennings <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Simply put, science does not support hatcheries as a means of fish stock recovery. Rather than rebuilding the Rock Creek hatchery, please invest the proposed dollars in habitat restoration which is clearly supported by science.

Sincerely,

Vance Jennings

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Lindsey Kuipers <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in what actually works to restore abundant fish and sustain fisheries. The coastal Coho comeback proved that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management produce lasting returns. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment, not a rebuild of the lowest-performing hatchery in Oregon's system.

Please do not continue to waste our money on hatchery systems that have been scientifically proven to not work in restoring wild fish.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Kuipers

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Craig Lacy <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Instead of spending millions on rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery, I would like to see ODFW concentrate on rebuilding the wild stocks of fish and monitoring their condition. A healthy stream with wild fish has multiple benefits to the area and the future.

Sincerely,

Craig Lacy

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Paul Ruprecht <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please reject the Rock Creek POP in favor of strategies to rebuild a wild fishery. No hatchery. Thank you very much for your work.

Sincerely,

Paul Ruprecht

Lebanon, OR

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Diana Pace <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the commission

No costly problematic Rock Creek hatchery

Sincerely, Diana Pace

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Paula Stenberg <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

*Please do not vote to rebuild Rock Creek Hatchery! It has not proven to be effective. In the short term, a few jobs might be added, but given just a few years without the hatchery, wild steelhead will return in greater numbers and with them, the anglers who fish for them. **That** is a win for the community's economy. Please follow the data in making this significant decision that will impact native fish and the local community for the long term if the right decision is made.*

Sincerely,

Paula E. Stenberg

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Robert Beckius <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Here are five reasons NOT to rebuild The Rock Creek Fish Hatchery:

- 1. Rock Creek is the least resilient and most costly facility in the system.** ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.
- 2. This decision is premature.** ODFW is asking the Commission to commit tens of millions of dollars before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — is complete. Don't put the cart before the horse.
- 3. The funding isn't there, and the long-term costs will likely fall on the state.** ODFW has not provided a total cost estimate, has not identified a funding source, has not evaluated a no-build alternative, and has not secured a dedicated source of funding for the long-term operating and maintenance costs.
- 4. This is a test of good governance.** Responsible leadership means making sure the facts are clear before moving forward. Advancing a contingent, unfunded request asks the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to treat a hope as a plan. The Commission should demand a complete picture before approving this proposal.
- 5. The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in what actually works to restore abundant fish and sustain fisheries.** The coastal Coho comeback proved that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management produce lasting returns. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment, not a rebuild of the lowest-performing hatchery in Oregon's system.

Sincerely,

Robert Beckius

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Peter Brewer <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The Rock Creek Fish Hatchery is gone and does not need to exist again in the future. The money should be spent on restoring or improving fish habitat instead. Save the money and help the native fishery get stronger through other habitat restoration and / or improvement!

Sincerely,

Peter Brewer

Oregon

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Diane Bilderback <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

We strongly encourage you to drop the Policy Option Package (POP) to rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery as you do not have a complete cost estimate, no alternatives were evaluated, and no plan for long-term funding in place. Instead we strongly support investment in monitoring programs and habitat restoration that make strong fisheries management possible. Please follow the coastal Coho plan that includes investing in monitoring and habitat restoration that has been shown to improve fisheries. Please follow the science as that has given you proof that these are the things that are needed to improve fisheries management. This is the better cost-effective way to improve our fisheries.

Sincerely,

David and Diane Bilderback

Erase this and add your name here

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jason Balderston <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]Please make the responsible decision here. We already know what works to bring back salmon runs and it doesn't involve spending tens of millions of dollars to rebuild a facility that is already known to be of no benefit to people, fish and the environment.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]Jason Balderston

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jim Pruett <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Just a short note to let you know I do not support the rebuilding of the Rock Creek Hatchery - we need fewer hatcheries and more WILD fish

Sincerely,

Jim Pruett

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dan Gracia <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to ask you not to rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife rated it dead last among all state-owned hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost.

The North Umpqua River does not need this hatchery and the extra pressure it will put on the wild salmon and steelhead in the river. Wild fish, both steelhead and salmon will basically take care of themselves if their habitat is guarded and preserved at a comparably miniscule cost compared to rebuilding and running an anadromous fish hatchery.

From 1987 through 1997 I taught the Orvis West Coast Fly-fishing Schools and that included a 4-day School in Fort Klamath. The North Umpqua River was only a 1½-hour drive from that school to the Steamboat Inn. The school was over at noon on the last day and everyone cleared out by 2:30 at the latest. Then my co-instructor, Dean, and I could and would be on the water at the Sweetheart hole, Mott Bridge, Upper Mott, Lower Mott, the Kitchen, or Maple Grove by no later than 4 or 4:30PM and we'd fish until dark.

We'd fish the North Umpqua from Sunday late afternoon until Wednesday early afternoon, arriving back at Fort Klamath by 3PM, in plenty of time to welcome incoming students at 5 PM that day. In any given month starting in June, when the steelhead run started coming over the Winchester Dam, until September when we held the last school in the area, I would often spend 9-days per month fishing the Fly-Fishing section of the North Umpqua River for summer-run Steelhead.

The steelhead in the North Umpqua are a special native breed that has been in that river since the last ice age - many thousands of years. So the North Umpqua and its Steelhead, as well as Chinook Salmon, holds a special place in my heart. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world and has an amazing summer run, unlike the vast majority of rivers that only have winter run fish now. It is also the slipperiest wading I have ever experienced. A tight wader belt, studs on your boots, and a wading staff are standard gear in the Fly-Fishing section. But the fish, are spectacular!

The vast majority of summer-run steelhead in the North Umpqua are what we call "2-salt fish". They spend one year in the River before they smolt and run to sea. Then they spend 2-years at sea before returning to spawn That's basically a 3-year life cycle although steelhead, unlike salmon, may survive their first spawn run back out to the ocean, and make another spawning run a year or two later.

When 2-salt steelhead come back on their spawning run, they are typically running 9 to 11-pounds with some heavier than that. 3-salt fish will typically go 12 to 18-pounds and 4-salt fish 16 to in excess of 20-lbs. The 2-salt fish are the most explosive fighting steelhead of the bunch and that's the native strain in the North Umpqua River.

The Steelhead returns for the 2025-2026 Winter Run numbered over 8,000 fish on March 10, 2026 and expected the numbers to hit 10,000 or more by the end of April. The summer run over the Winchester Dam numbered 9,443 for 2025. These numbers are the highest in recent years and that's without the hatchery. The hatchery was destroyed in the 2020 Archie Creek fire. Since the North Umpqua fish are a 2-salt fish with a 3-year life cycle, there were virtually no hatchery fish returning from 2024 on.

In summation, The North Umpqua River doesn't need a hatchery, let alone a rebuilt version of the worst hatchery in the Oregon system. It will be far better to put a fraction of the tens of millions of dollars the hatchery rebuild would cost, into habitat restoration, and effective monitoring of returns to manage the fishing seasons effectively. For the good of the North Umpqua River and its fish, please reject the Rock Creek Hatchery POP.

Sincerely,
Dan Gracia

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Elisabeth Gross <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I fish on the North Umpqua every year and cherish the experience. Please reject the rebuild of Rock Creek hatchery. It was the worst performing hatchery in the state of Oregon.

Instead please use funds to invest in habitat restoration and monitoring. Investing in wild fish has proven return.

At minimum, please wait until the CMP review is complete so data and science can guide investment decisions. What's the rush?

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Gross

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jerald Vegwert <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission:

Please vote down the proposed Rock Creek Hatchery POP. The North Umpqua will support, and should be used as a wild fish sanctuary. Hatchery fish have no place in our waters unless the river or lake will not support a wild fishery.

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

Jerald Mark Vegwert

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jay Beckstead <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]Don't rebuild the Rock Creek hatchery! Get Winchester Dam out.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]Jay Beckstead

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: William Bedell <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]The Rock Creek hatchery is documented as a facility that does not produce more than it takes. The North Umpqua, due to its unique natural and land ownership qualities makes it among the few rivers positioned to be a rearing river for native fish. Please do not unwisely use public funds to reopen the hatchery.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]William Bedell

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Jensen <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]I first met the North Umpqua in November, 1966, when I was a guest at Frank and Jeanne Moore's Steamboat Inn for turkey leftovers. I was married there 35 years ago. I have fished the river countless times. Around 1980 I had an old Jeep Wagoneer that drove to the North Umpqua to fish. No matter how much money I poured into it, it needed more. Such is the Rock Creek Hatch; the damn thing won't run, and throwing more \$\$ would fix it.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]David Jensen, 47818 McKenzie Hwy., Vida OR 97488

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Alex Hardison <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I urge you to reject the Policy Option Package proposal to rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery in the Umpqua Basin.

Rock Creek was ranked last in resilience among Oregon hatcheries when economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure costs were considered together. Reinvesting in this facility ignores the findings of a taxpayer-funded analysis that identified Rock Creek as the least resilient and most costly facility in the system.

Additionally, it would also be premature to commit to this significant investment before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review is complete.

Furthermore, the finances of rebuilding remains unclear, as ODFW has not provided a total project cost, identified a secure funding source, evaluated a no-build alternative, or addressed long-term operating and maintenance costs. Approving an unfunded proposal before these questions are answered is not sound governance.

The North Umpqua offers an opportunity to invest in approaches that have already proven successful. Oregon's coastal coho recovery has already demonstrated that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management can rebuild and sustain healthy fisheries. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment—not a rebuild of Oregon's least resilient and most costly hatchery facility.

I respectfully ask the Commission to defer any decision on rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery until the CMP review is complete and a full analysis of costs, alternatives, and long-term obligations is available to the public.

Sincerely,

Alex Hardison

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Terre Rogers <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please reject the reconstruction of Rock Creek Dam. It does not support better habitat for and sustainable growth of anadromous fish species.

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]Terre Rogers

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Nick Parish <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
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 POP. This increasingly limited budget is better allocated elsewhere, to proven facilities and methods.

Sincerely,

Nick Parish

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Eli Turner <civiciinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Rock Creek is the least resilient and most costly facility in the system. ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.

This decision is premature. ODFW is asking the Commission to commit tens of millions of dollars before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — is complete. Don't put the cart before the horse.

The funding isn't there, and the long-term costs will likely fall on the state. ODFW has not provided a total cost estimate, has not identified a funding source, has not evaluated a no-build alternative, and has not secured a dedicated source of funding for the long-term operating and maintenance costs.

This is a test of good governance. Responsible leadership means making sure the facts are clear before moving forward. Advancing a contingent, unfunded request asks the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to treat a hope as a plan. The Commission should demand a complete picture before approving this proposal.

The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in what actually works to restore abundant fish and sustain fisheries. The coastal Coho comeback proved that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management produce lasting returns. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment, not a rebuild of the lowest-performing hatchery in Oregon's system.

Sincerely,

Eli Turner

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Rocco Jaconis <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the [The Rock Creek rebuild moves in the opposite direction, pouring tens of millions into new hatchery infrastructure at a site the agency itself found to be cost-prohibitive, less likely to meet temperature requirements, and more vulnerable to future Give wild fish a chance and save money.](#),

Rocco Jaconis DVM[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Terre Rogers <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]I erred by saying Dam when in fact the hatchery is the issue on this vote.

please accept this message to represent my support for rejection of this project.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]Terre Rogers

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Morton <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Rock Creek is the least resilient and most costly facility in the system. ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.

Sincerely,
Dave Morton

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Fischer <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to formally request that the Commission decline any further reinvestment or funding for the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery. Instead, I urge you to redirect these financial resources toward the permanent restoration and maintenance of a healthy, self-sustaining river ecosystem.

My opposition to funding this facility rests on two critical points:

- **Harm to Native Wild Salmonids:** Artificial hatchery programs pose a well-documented genetic and ecological threat to wild fish. Reinvesting in Rock Creek directly jeopardizes the unique, irreplaceable, and wonderful strain of summer steelhead native to the North Umpqua River through competition, disease transmission, and genetic degradation.
- **Inefficient Resource Allocation:** In an era of escalating climate challenges, spending limited public funds on aging, high-maintenance hatchery infrastructure is an inefficient use of scarce resources. Hatchery programs offer a low return on investment compared to the long-term, compounding benefits of natural habitat resilience.

The most fiscally responsible and ecologically sound decision is to let the river function naturally. I strongly urge the Commission to allocate all current and future funding intended for the Rock Creek Hatchery toward active habitat restoration, removing migratory barriers, and ensuring the North Umpqua remains a vibrant, wild-fish sanctuary.

Sincerely,

David Fischer

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Garrety Sullivan <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am submitting my voice urging you to reject reopening of a fish hatchery. Instead put those millions of dollars to good and proven use; habitat protection and restoration for wild fish. It is truly sustainable, as is the tourism dollars it brings in from myself and future generations to come, if there are still fish.

Sincerely,

Garrett Sullivan

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jim Coverdell <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Rock Creek is the least resilient and most costly facility in the system. ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.

This decision is premature. ODFW is asking the Commission to commit tens of millions of dollars before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — is complete. Don't put the cart before the horse.

The funding isn't there, and the long-term costs will likely fall on the state. ODFW has not provided a total cost estimate, has not identified a funding source, has not evaluated a no-build alternative, and has not secured a dedicated source of funding for the long-term operating and maintenance costs.

This is a test of good governance. Responsible leadership means making sure the facts are clear before moving forward. Advancing a contingent, unfunded request asks the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to treat a hope as a plan. The Commission should demand a complete picture before approving this proposal.

The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in what actually works to restore abundant fish and sustain fisheries. The coastal Coho comeback proved that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management produce lasting returns. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment, not a rebuild of the lowest-performing hatchery in Oregon's system.

Sincerely, Jim Coverdell

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: James Smith <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[I'm writing to voice my opinion to the Commission to reject the rebuild of the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua River.](#)

Sincerely

James W. Smith

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jen Matthews <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I would like to voice my concerns about continued funding of the Rock Creek Hatchery. The water in Rock Creek is not cold enough to support hatchery activities. It was too warm before the fire and it's going to be worse now. Take a drive up the Rock Creek drainage and you will see the complete devastation of all vegetation alongside the creek. There is no shade. Add to this our warming climate. ODFW should spend their money elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Jen Matthews, DVM, PhD

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Seth Parker <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

This is a bandaid solution to a deeper problem. The best hatchery is a healthy river.

Sincerely,

Seth Parker

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dan Gates <civiciput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please reject any consideration of rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery.

- 1. Rock Creek is the least resilient and most costly facility in the system.** ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked Rock Creek dead last among 14 state hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience, and infrastructure cost. Rebuilding it ignores the \$1 million analysis Oregonians already paid for.
- 2. This decision is premature.** ODFW is asking the Commission to commit tens of millions of dollars before the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) review — the process meant to guide wild fish management and hatchery investments in this basin — is complete. Don't put the cart before the horse.
- 3. The funding isn't there, and the long-term costs will likely fall on the state.** ODFW has not provided a total cost estimate, has not identified a funding source, has not evaluated a no-build alternative, and has not secured a dedicated source of funding for the long-term operating and maintenance costs.
- 4. This is a test of good governance.** Responsible leadership means making sure the facts are clear before moving forward. Advancing a contingent, unfunded request asks the Governor, the Legislature, and the public to treat a hope as a plan. The Commission should demand a complete picture before approving this proposal.
- 5. The North Umpqua is a prime opportunity to invest in what actually works to restore abundant fish and sustain fisheries.** The coastal Coho comeback proved that habitat restoration and wild fish-focused management produce lasting returns. The Umpqua Basin deserves that same investment, not a rebuild of the lowest-performing hatchery in Oregon's system.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Diana Pace <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Restore native fish. Don't spend unknown millions on Rock Creek hatchery. Rock Creek is decimated anyway. You know the facts and the science does not support the hatchery.

Sincerely,

Diana Pace

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: William Weare <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]Investing further in a failed hatchery at Rock Creek is not a responsible action. Investing in habitat improvement and monitoring what happens on the North Umpqua without a hatchery is. While there may be a place for hatchery fisheries near high population areas and reservoirs which get high usage, this is not the place to throw money.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]William W. Weare

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Karen Grandidier <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reject the rebuild of Rock Creek, an underperforming hatchery. Please do not waste millions of dollars, our dollars, on this project. Instead, please follow the science and invest in sound fisheries management which in turn help nature's native wildlife, fish and local communities and economies.

Sincerely,

Karen Grandidier

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Pete Frost <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please don't vote to fund rebuilding of the Rock Creek hatchery. I've spent time on the North Umpqua since the 1970s, including with those who catch and release wild fish, and one my boys is now a commercial guide on the river. It's an exceptional river in Oregon, and one we should work to protect and restore as a sanctuary for wild fish. Perhaps especially with the prospect of Winchester Dam being removed, which the State has supported.

Sincerely,

Pete Frost

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Steve Trask <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members,

Please take note that there is a large component of our scientific community working on the ground in Oregon waterways that not only gather data but that believe supporting that research and trend analysis is the only true pathway forward for management to restore habitat and recover depressed salmonid populations. Investing in the rebuilding of the hatchery program for the Rock Cr facility on the N. Umpqua falls into the category of ignoring the results of the scientific method and succumbing to pressure that clearly has no benefit to long term recovery.

Our company has had a front row seat to the stunning recovery of wild coho in the Alsea River basin after production releases from the Fall Cr hatchery were terminated in 1998 that led to an increase in wild escapement from approximately 200 wild coho to almost 30,000 in the first 10 years. We have annual wild fish harvests in basin now and are building resilience through strictly natural selection.

Sincerely,

Steve Trask

Senior Fish Biologist

Trask Consulting, Inc.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Lee Hughes <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please support wild native Steelhead by rejecting the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild.

Sincerely,

Lee Hughes

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: John Lohuis <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I urge the Commission to reject the Rock Creek Hatchery policy option package. The science is clear that this is not a hatchery to maintain.

Sincerely,

John Lohuis

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Richard Slusser <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I strongly oppose any plan to rebuild the failed Rock Creek fish hatchery. Anadromous fish need HABITAT, not another attempt at the failed hatchery solutions of the past. We need to invest our precious ODFW funds in long term habitat solutions that allow wild fish to thrive.

Sincerely,

Richard Slusser

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Michael Trotter <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Matthew Lund <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please do not rebuild the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua. It is severely expensive in a time when money should be spent on the north Umpqua wild fish. Put our money in the fish that make the river not what it is, those are wild north umpqua summer steelhead! The idea to rebuild this hatchery is a waste of tax payer money and is short sighted. Work on creating stronger runs of wild fish on the north umpqua instead. This project will quickly balloon into a monetary nightmare. Please Reject the North Umpqua Rock Creek Hatchery POP. [ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Robert Jones <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Diana Pace <civiciinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission

Reject the Rock Creek hatchery rebuild and committing tens of millions of dollars with no complete cost estimate, no alternatives and no plan for long term funding.

The North Umpqua is an important opportunity to invest in restoring abundant native fish and restore fisheries.

Sincerely,

Diana Pace

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Cliff Canepa <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Cliff Canepa <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

I have been a big supporter of the native fish society over the years, because science matters. I enjoy catching and eating hatchery fish, but hatchery production is a failing method to maintain our fisheries. Don't waste money rebuilding a hatchery on the Umpqua. It's a fairly intact watershed, and efforts to improve habitat and support wild fish will lead to long term abundance. It has worked for wild coho, and I have enjoyed catching and eating a few of those the last few Septembers! Wild fish reproduce for free by the way, if given the chance. Thanks for your consideration! Sincerely, Cliff Canepa

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Bob Burch <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Michael BLAKELY <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]"No way to run a railroad"

For many years i used to soend my vacation dollars to travel from my home on the east coast in pursuit of catching and releasing an OR wild steelhead . I quit a long time ago. Too many dams with too few wild fish, and now with wild genetics heavily diluted by your hatchery 'mitigated' fish.

Continuing the same charade on the Umpqua is "the definition of insanity: continuing the same action repeatedly ...expecting a different result"

Your responsibility in my view is to at least give these WILD fish a chance. A rebuilt Hatchery doesnt do that.

Sincerely,

Michael Blakely

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Bryon Salaz <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Rebuilding the hatchery in the Umpqua would be devastating to the wild fish in the system and a huge waste of our tax dollars. Please do not do it!

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

Bryon Salaz

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Mike Brinkley <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am very concerned about plans to rebuild Rock Creek hatchery. This would be a serious threat to wild fish in the North Umpqua. I ask you to abandon any plans to rebuild this hatchery.

Sincerely,

Mike Brinkley

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Charles Petit <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am a homeowner in glide and have vacationed there since the 70s. I urge you to reject funding rock creek hatchery.

Through the years the hatchery has underperformed and costs millions of dollars. Our hard earned tax dollars can be better spent elsewhere. There are spots in this state that hatcheries work. It doesn't appear the north umpqua is one of them.

Sincerely,

Charlie Petit

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Steve Morton <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

ODFW,

Please consider a new approach to our diminishing Wild Steelhead stocks. It is time for us to stop pretending that hatcheries are the solution. This has already been proven unequivocally short sighted. Our remaining strains of wild Steelhead are far too valuable to risk the continuing madness of hatchery replication while ignoring the imperialical evidence before us. Stewardship, Habitat restoration and protection, Sanctuary development and revised regulatory reevaluation are some of the tools we need investment in. I have been fly fishing Oregon coast streams for over 50 years and as a Pioneer license holder I can tell you first hand after all the hatcheries efforts and their attendant pork barrel politics this is NOT WORKING. Please stop the madness of redundancy and show the enviornmental leadership that Oregon is capable of. STOP HATCHERY MADNESS NOW!

Repspectfully, Steven B Morton

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Curtis White <civcinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I would rather catch wild fish than hatchery fish, even if it means catching fewer fish. If you take the money (millions of dollars) you would use to rebuild a hatchery that ODFW's own statewide resiliency assessment ranked dead last among all state-owned hatcheries for economic benefit, climate resilience and infrastructure cost, and instead put even half of it towards improving the habitat for wild fish, I bet you would get better, longer lasting results. If not you can always rebuild a hatchery.

You can't always save wild fish.

It might also make sense to wait till the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation Management Plan is complete before you start doing anything.

Sincerely,

Curtis White

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Johnston <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please DO NOT attempt to resurrect The Rock Creek Hatchery rebuild. This is not an effective use of taxpayer dollars, money should be spent on the North Umpqua River or even the rehabilitation of the Salmon river hatchery near Otis.

Sincerely,

David Johnston

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Douglas Rohn <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

Please follow the science and spend Oregonian's money wisely by rejecting the proposal to rebuild Rock Creek Hatchery. It didn't recover salmon and steelhead before, and it won't by rebuilding it.

Sincerely,

Doug Rohn

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jeff McEnroe <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Committee,

I've been a fish biologist in the Umpqua Basin for the last 20 years actively restoring habitat for our native salmonids. I've watched numerous failures at the Rock Creek hatchery over the years. It's location at the bottom of a watershed is fraught with constant issues of temperature and disease. It is NOT a good location for a hatchery. The Archie Creek fire in 2020 devastated 70% of the Rock Creek watershed, destroying 95% of the trees providing shade. Temperatures in Rock Creek have gone way up. We have actively restored the habitat in Rock Creek, but temperatures remain high. An intensive riparian planting effort is underway, but that will take potentially decades to show effects on stream temperatures.

I believe trying to rebuild the Rock Creek hatchery is a poor investment of our tax and fee dollars. Let's give wild fish a chance and heavily invest in watershed restoration efforts in the Umpqua basin, instead of squandering millions of dollars on what was historically one of the poorest performing hatcheries in the State.

Sincerely,

Jeff McEnroe

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tim Etlick <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

I am taking the time to write this because i genuinely care about a place as special.as the North Umpqua. I have been going there for over 20 years and have had some very special moments and memories on the river. I even proposed to my wife on the banks of the beautiful river. As a fisherman and conservationist I truly care about this place and the wild fish that inhabit its waters. I urge you to keep this wild population of fish wild. Please refrain from spending millions of dollars for a hatchery. I believe our money can be better spent by helping to improve the habit of our wild populations. We only have so many wild fish left and the thought of them competing with hatchery fish is just one more hurdle for them to overcome. Please say no to rebuilding Rock Creek hatchery.

Sincerely,

Tim Etlick

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Ryan Forbus <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The North Umpqua needs to stay a wild fish river. We do not need to introduce hatchery fish into that eco system. We need to give the wild fish that call those water home and migrate there a chance. Please allow them to do so.

Sincerely,

Ryan Forbus

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dan Donoghue <civinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission, I understand that the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua is may be rebuilt. I urge you all to take this opportunity to help return the river to a WILD status in the future, and reject the idea of rebuilding. Thank you.

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE] Dan Donoghue

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dan Robinhold <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

rebuilding the Rock Creek Hatchery will be expensive and possibly harmful to the native/wild fish population. I'd much prefer those funds go to any of the other activities ODFW perform.

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE]

Sincerely,

Dan Robinhold

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE]

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Craig Lacy <civicinput@newmode.io>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:26 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Tell the ODFW Commission: Reject the Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission,

[ADD YOUR MESSAGE HERE] I highly recommend you NOT repair the Rock Creek Hatchery. Money could be better spent on wild fish recovery (all around the state) but especially on the Umpqua. I suggest you read "Managed Extinction" by Jim Lichatowich.

Sincerely,

[ADD YOUR NAME HERE] Craig Lacy



TO: Chair Wahl and Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
cc: Tom Stahl, Shaun Clements

FROM: Becky McRae, President, The North Umpqua Foundation

DATE: June 17, 2026

RE: Exhibit B: 2027-29ARB: Rock Creek Hatchery Policy Option Package (POP)

Dear Char Wahl and Members of the Commission,

The North Umpqua Foundation (TNUF) requests the Commission decline advancing the Rock Creek Hatchery POP in the 2027-29 Agency Request Budget as we believe there are potential unknowns/concerns at this time.

- Since ODFW has stated plans to utilize a portion of the funds to repair and upgrade other state hatcheries, what is the amount set aside for Rock Creek?
- It is our understanding, if FEMA funds, it will cover only 90% of the reconstruction costs not covered by the initial insurance money; however, to access those funds ODFW needs to decide how much of the \$17 million insurance to commit and where to commit it. What is the timeframe for that decision?
- Not knowing what the final design for structures at Rock Creek will be, how will the financial impact to operate the Rock Creek annually be determined?
- TNUF attended all of the Hatchery Resiliency Study presentations, for each of the state-owned hatcheries. Rock Creek was one of the hatcheries the consultants noted had water concerns among several other issues including the potential for a large landslide from an active slide above the hatchery area. I was disappointed to read in RCH POP 117, the Commission is considering using part of the \$30 million hatchery bond (POP 111) for the 10% share cost. Why take funds from the entire hatchery system for one of the two hatcheries scoring the lowest resiliency in the study? After spending one million dollars on the study, why is it still a consideration?

- Several of TNUF's board members, including myself, live along the North Umpqua. Since the Archie Creek Fire, the run-off from the burned areas upriver during rain events, has caused a change in the frequency of changing water filters for those of us who have a water permit to draw from the river. How will those events impact the recirculation process being considered at Rock Creek?
- TNUF averages 250 total members, 100 of whom live in the Roseburg area and are opposed to funding any rebuild of the Rock Creek Hatchery.
- TNUF was given the opportunity to review other comments made in opposition of the proposed POP and agree with the points made.

The North Umpqua Foundation appreciates the hard decisions the Commission has made in the past knowing those decisions have not always been well received. Removing the Rock Creek Hatchery POP from the proposed 2027-29 budget will allow time for decisions to be made following the review of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan and the long-term budget impact if Rock Creek Hatchery was rebuilt in any form.

Sincerely,

Becky McRae
President, The North Umpqua Foundation