

April 9, 2013

Dear: House Ways and Mean Committee

For the past few decades members of our group have volunteered in the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). In that time we have been extremely impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication that ODFW's staff has demonstrated. Our healthy local fisheries are a testimonial to the relentless effort and leadership of the local biologists. They inspire us daily to be a part of making sustainable fisheries and to help not only our local economy, but Oregon's as well. We have overcome what once seemed to be insurmountable obstacles in achieving strong runs of salmon and steelhead with the guidance of ODFW's staff. We are excited about the next chapter of our local restoration efforts and seeing how much more our fisheries will be improved and our economy bolstered.

On behalf of the South Coast Anglers STEP Association and our community I would like to go on the record in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is an invaluable contributor to our community. Coos County is one of the most economically depressed counties in the state. We must have the supervision of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain our economic rebound. Fish and wildlife resources are invaluable to each and everyone in our community. We emphatically encourage you to support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Your investment into the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is an investment in all of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bertrand
President, South Coast Anglers STEP Association