



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

March 10, 2015

STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES HB 2053

The Native Fish Society is a regional wild fish advocacy organization with over seven hundred members. Our mission is to protect and restore wild native fish and the habitats that sustain them.

We support the concept of HB 2053 to create a few trophy trout fisheries in some of Oregon's remarkable lakes to promote recreational angling. This idea is similar to the Quality Fishing Waters legislation we advocated for a few years ago. By confining these fisheries to certain lakes, the potential conflicts between stocked trout and wild native fish could be kept to a minimum.

However, we do have some concerns about the proposed funding mechanism for this new program. Adding yet another fee to all anglers statewide in addition to the fee increases already proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the fee associated with funding research at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center may be too much of a financial burden for the average angler, many of whom will not benefit from this program.

The Native Fish Society believes that this program should be funded either through an additional fee paid by those anglers who choose to fish in these trophy trout waters or by reallocating funds already budgeted to the hatchery trout program.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our views on HB 2053

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