



# NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

*Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters*

March 18, 2015

## **STATEMENT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SB 202**

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.

In 1997, we were very supportive of provisions in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds that created the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) to provide outside scientific review of state natural resource agency policies and actions. That process has worked extremely well over the years and all past members of the IMST should be commended for their work on behalf of the citizens of Oregon and the natural resources held in our trust by the state.

The times and needs have changed and we are now looking for a new and improved process for providing independent science review to the state that builds on the foundation created by the IMST and takes us into an uncertain future.

The proposal that the governor's staff has been working on that would create a task force to work with the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to find the best solutions for our needs at this time seems to be a prudent approach. We are supportive of the dash-1 amendments to SB 202 and we understand there will be a few more changes as the bill continues to evolve.

The Native Fish Society supports the governor's efforts to create a broad-based task force that will make future recommendations to the legislature on this critically important subject. We are hopeful that the outcome will be a process that will continue to provide independent science review to state agencies to assist them with the critical decisions they must make.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 202.

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Founder—Science and Conservation Director

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