



April 2, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
 Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Ways and Means
 Subcommittee on Natural Resources
 Oregon State Legislature

Support for the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program

Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield:

We are writing in support of the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program (WOSRP), which has been eliminated from the Governor's proposed agency budget for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). We recognize the difficult decisions that have been made to preserve core programs within ODFW's budget and urge your consideration of increased funding for the Agency to continue support of the WOSRP.

The WOSRP is an ODFW program that was started in the mid-1990's to address native fish habitat needs in Western Oregon. The program has focused on habitat restoration for native salmon and steelhead, and directly supports implementation of the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*, as well as many of ODFW's species conservation and recovery plans. WOSRP biologists provide technical assistance, consultation, management, or construction services to many key partners – including watershed councils – that conduct on-the-ground fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects.

Watershed councils are community-based organizations that work in concert with local partners to leverage resources from state, federal, and private sources to accomplish critical restoration statewide. The WOSRP has been a vital partner for many councils in Western Oregon, providing assistance with project development, planning, implementation, and monitoring. Loss of the WOSRP would significantly hamper councils' efforts to design and implement projects that address critically identified statewide conservation needs and provide local economic benefit. In addition to the ecological uplift, restoration projects support a restoration economy that is vital in many communities.

Based on reporting, ODFW projects WOSRP technical assistance will leverage over \$26M in the 13-15 biennium, including the development of over 600 restoration plans that impact over 8000



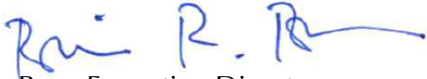

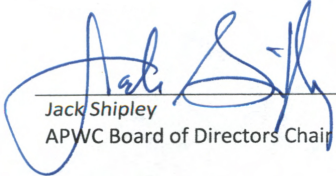

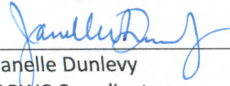


acres in Western Oregon. Loss of the program will leave a significant shortfall that councils and their partners will struggle to fill, which will impact the important progress that has been made to address critical habitat restoration needs. The WOSRP is an essential component of the portfolio councils use to attract sustained investment in regional restoration programs.

We urge your support of an agency budget that includes funding for the Western Oregon Stream Restoration program.

 Ryan Gordon, Executive Director Network of Oregon Watershed Councils	 Melyssa Graeper, Coordinator Necanicum Watershed Council
 Kelly Miles, Director Coquille Watershed Association	 Kelly Timchak, Coordinator Lower Rogue Watershed Council
 Steve Wise, Executive Director Sandy River Basin Watershed Council	 Maggie Peyton, Executive Director Upper Nehalem Watershed Council
 Cheryl McGinnis, Executive Director Clackamas River Basin Council	 April Olbrich Council Coordinator Tualatin River Watershed Council
 Alix Lee, Coordinator Lower Nehalem Watershed Council	 Rob Russell, Coordinator Tillamook Bay Watershed Council



 Alex Sifford, Coordinator Nestucca, Neskowin, & Sand Lakes WSC	 Luke Westphal, Coordinator Greater Yamhill Watershed Council
 Brian Barr, Executive Director Rogue River Watershed Council	Paul Ruscher, PhD Fellow, American Meteorological Society Coordinator, Watershed Science Technician Program, Lane Community College
Brooke Duling Brooke Duling, Coordinator North Coast Watershed Association	 Christine Smith, President Friends of Netarts Bay
Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div data-bbox="365 1178 698 1352">  Jack Shipley APWC Board of Directors Chair </div> <div data-bbox="922 1220 1268 1325">  Geoff Becker APWC Board of Directors Secretary </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">  Janelle Dunlevy APWC Coordinator </div>	