

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Conservation Chair for Central Oregon Flyfishers, an angling club in Bend. Please see the letter below we sent then-Director Elicker last July when the ODFW budget was first being publicly discussed.

Speaking for myself, I am an angler and a volunteer. I work closely with the local ODFW office on a variety of projects, know how hard they work, and how demoralized they are. These men and women need to be given the resources to not only do their jobs, but to feel that they are appreciated. I know that everyone has their hand out, but the proposed fee increase is small compared to the pain cuts will cause to any Oregonian who loves the outdoors.

Yancy Lind

To: Roy Elicker, Director, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Cc: Central Oregon Flyfishers Board of Directors

Director Elicker,

Central Oregon Flyfishers is an angling club located in Bend with approximately 291 member families residing throughout Central Oregon and the rest of the state. We are an active club with year-round meetings, outings, education programs, and conservation activities where we work closely with our local ODFW field biologists. We also partner with the local office on STEP programs like Kokanee Karnival, an award-winning year-long fisheries and angling education program for 4th and 5th graders in the Bend-La Pine School District.

I have been authorized by the COF Board of Directors to write to you regarding your proposed 2015-2017 budget. We appreciate the difficulty the projected \$32M budget shortfall presents. We understand that all cuts will be painful and you have a tough problem. We would like to make a few comments:

- 1) We believe that it is imperative that you make no further cuts to field biologist staffing. We know firsthand how important these individuals are to monitoring, maintaining, and improving the health of the fisheries we anglers cherish. We also believe that your efforts to create "efficiencies" in the field should not limit the ability of the field biologists to effectively do their jobs.
- 2) We support your proposal to increase angler license fees as well as adding a fee to the Pioneer License. In fact, we believe that you are being too modest in your proposed rate increases. While no one likes to pay more for anything, if an Oregonian can afford to go fishing they can afford to pay more for a license. When compared to the cost of gear, travel, food, lodging, etc., a license is a minor expense. An annual license is less than the cost of a single tank of gas. We believe that license fees, including those for the Pioneer License, should be raised enough to at least cover the expense of keeping your field biologists.
- 3) We do not support lowering the age at which a youth license is required. Nor do we support increasing youth license fees. As you have pointed out, the number of licensed anglers in Oregon has declined over the years. We believe that providing an easy path to introducing new, young anglers to

our sport should be provided. Lowering the age or increasing the fees for a youth license would not be consistent with that.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate the work you and everyone at ODFW does.

Best wishes,

Yancy Lind
Conservation Chair, Central Oregon Flyfishers

Yancy Lind, CRPC®
Lind | White Group
Senior Financial Advisor | Vice President
Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management
541-312-6821 | 888-312-6821 (toll free)
yancy_lind@ml.com | www.fa.ml.com/lind_white | NMLS # 590176
"The interest of our customers must come first." - Charles E. Merrill