

Please vote yes on SB 247.

This is the absolute worst time to be cutting fish, wildlife and water experts in Oregon. With formal drought declarations in multiple counties, and a request for a drought declaration on Three Sisters Irrigation District/Whychus Creek, we need these experts to help make decisions that may determine if salmon and steelhead recovery continues or withers.

I live on Whychus Creek. My kids have grown up studying the recovery of its ecosystem and releasing native fish fry. Already, the creek is showing signs of the drought.

There is going to be extreme, increasing pressure on Whychus and other water systems in the state, as users request water transfers out-of-stream to other uses. For these decisions to be based on the best science, consider monetary/tourism value of fisheries and wildlife, and comply with state law, we need the experts at ODFW to weigh in. Now is the last time to cut their funding.

Please pass SB 247.

Thank you for considering my views.

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