



Protecting Water Quality and Fish in the Rogue River Basin

May 12, 2015

Statement in support of SB 247

Joint Ways and Means Committee Members:

Rogue Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization that works to protect and restore water quality and fish populations in the Rogue River Basin of southwest Oregon.

Our organization urges you to support Senate Bill 247 and the small increase in permit fees contained in the bill. These fee increases are important to retain funding for ODFW assistant district biologists and the ODFW Fish Water Program.

These ODFW staff provide valuable input focused on protecting flow and habitat during the review process for water rights throughout our state. Assistant district biologists additionally play a valuable role in assisting local organizations in identifying and laying out important watershed restoration work.

Salmon and fishing are a crucial part of Oregon's cultural identity, as well as a major economic driver in many parts of the state. Water for these fish is a required element. Please retain these important ODFW staff and pass SB 247.

Sincerely,

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