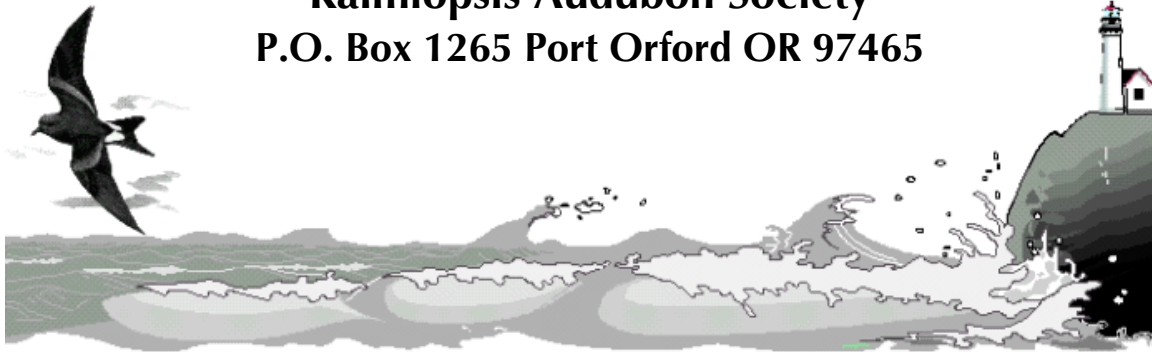


Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465



May 12, 2015

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has more than 200 members in Curry County who are concerned about birds, fish, and wildlife. We strongly urge you to support SB 247, which includes nominal fee increases to help support important parts of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget.

Oregon's birds, fish and wildlife –both in their capacity as game and as enjoyed by viewing –are key parts of our state's unique character and economy. Fishing in particular attracts people from all over the country –from states that don't have the kinds of fishery resources we have. ODFW's mission and task are critical for our state's future quality of life and continuing economy.

In particular, we urge to maintain ODFW's Fish Water Program and assistant district biologists. Oregon needs these ODFW programs and staff. They're involved in virtually every water allocation and reallocation decision in Oregon. These are essential capacities that must be maintained regardless of the budget at ODFW and regardless of whether fee increases or increased general fund appropriations occur.

Given prospects for drought, this is not the time to be divesting of expertise and capacity in water at any level of state government.

Thank you for considering our concerns, and please include these comments in the OLIS record.

Sincerely,

Isi Ann Vileisis

President