

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members:

The streams and rivers of our state and the wild salmon and steelhead populations they support are iconic Oregon Treasures.

Water and the health of our rivers will become increasingly critical as climate change advances.

Therefore, we're writing to urge you to support SB 247 and the nominal fee increases it contains.

Please do not cut the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Department's Fish Water Program or assistant district biologists.

Fish need water and Oregon needs these critical 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.

This is not the time to be divesting of expertise and capacity in water at any level of state government.

Please place my comments in the OLIS record.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Barbara

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