

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,

Please support SB 247 and the nominal fee increases it contains.

Please do not cut ODFW's Fish Water Program or assistant district biologists. With pending droughts and climate change, cutting these critical ODFW programs and staff is irresponsible and shortsighted. ODFW staff are involved in virtually every water allocation and reallocation decision in the state. The state simply cannot fulfill its responsibilities to its citizens to make wise resource management decisions without this program and staffing. These are essential capacities that must be maintained regardless of the budget climate at ODFW and regardless of whether fee increase or increased general fund appropriations occur.

This is simply 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.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunter  
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Eagle Point, OR 97524