

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,

I must add that I am long time Oregonian and the programs and activities that ODFW supports and provides is one of the mainstays of life in Oregon. The work done by staff that supports both wild and hatchery fisheries and the programs that benefit wildlife and hunting are key to the state. Keep them whole and healthy in your actions.

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

Please do not cut ODFW's Fish Water Program or assistant district biologists.

As long as fish need water, Oregon will need these critical ODFW programs and staff. ODFW staff are involved in virtually every water allocation and reallocation decision in the state.

These are essential capacities that must be maintained regardless of the budget climate at ODFW and regardless of whether fee increases 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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