

SB 5510



Established 1960

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

PO Box ~~22065~~ • 6641 SE Lake Road • Milwaukie OR 97269

503-653-4176 • fax 503-653-8769

www.nwsteelheaders.org

NO BROKEN PROMISES

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders supports full implementation of the original Columbia River Reform policy agreement.

We are extremely disappointed with recent actions taken by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, and some members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, that would backtrack on fundamental commitments embodied in the Reform agreement. We call on the full Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, as well as Oregon Governor Brown, to reject these broken promises.

As part of the original Reform package, recreational anglers in Oregon agreed to pay the Columbia River Endorsement Fee (\$9.75 per year) on top of their usual license fees, as the State of Oregon expressly represented that "[m]oney from the endorsement will help fund the transition to eliminate non-tribal commercial gill nets on the lower mainstem Columbia River and provide additional salmon and steelhead for sport fishing." ODFW Fishing

Regulation Pamphlet 2014 & 2015.

Pending legislation in Oregon (SB 42) would extend the Endorsement Fee for 2 years. Northwest Steelheaders cannot support this bill without assurance that current attempts to undermine the Reforms will be rejected.

In 2017, Governor Brown stepped in to direct the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to follow the policy of her administration to honor the commitments embodied in the Columbia River Reforms. In a February 14, 2019 letter to constituents, Governor Brown reaffirmed her support for this "hard-won compromise" agreement, emphasizing that there was no "specific adaptive management evaluation that require[d] revisiting" Oregon's reform policy position and that the current position should be "given more time to foster the balance all interests seek."

We again call on Governor Brown, and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, to honor the fundamental commitments embodied in the Columbia River Reforms.

Thanks
Tom VanderPlaat
Board President
Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Place to Fish and Fish to Catch

Mission: Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.