



March 12, 2019

Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon, Co-Chairs  
 Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
 900 Court Street NE  
 Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Support of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife POP 123** (\$714,600 GF, \$65,400 OF)  
 Water Quality/Water Quantity Program, 2019-2021 Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon, and members of the Committee:

The undersigned groups, who represent tens of thousands of Oregonians from all parts of the state, respectfully request that the Legislature fund ODFW’s POP 123 (ARB \$714,600 GF, \$65,400 OF). In terms of securing a sustainable water future for Oregon, recovering imperiled salmon and ensuring the health of Oregon’s rivers, there simply is no more important element in this budget. It is not possible to overstate the importance of this relatively small investment for Oregon. POP 123 is the vehicle to ensuring that there is capacity for Oregon to meet many of the instream elements of the State’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Strategy), a consensus blueprint for the future of Oregon’s economically important waters, rivers and fisheries.

ODFW’s Water Program plays a vital role in protecting water in our state’s iconic rivers. Whether it’s securing new instream water rights to legally protect streamflows, prioritizing streamflow restoration efforts statewide, working in basin collaborative groups, or helping set water policy, ODFW’s Water Program works to protect water in our streams – and provides an invaluable service to all Oregonians.

Funding POP 123 will allow ODFW to conduct instream demand forecasts needed to plan for climate change resiliency, implement the many instream action items identified in the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (including Place Based Planning) and work with landowners on instream flow restoration and mitigation projects. Funding of POP 123 is essential for the effective stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats.

In closing, we respectfully ask for funding of POP 123 as requested in the Agency Recommended Budget (ARB \$714,600 GF, \$65,400 OF). While we understand Oregon's current budget challenges, funding of POP 123 is critical to Oregon's water future and the future health and sustainability of Oregon's rivers, fisheries and economy.

Sincerely,

Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

Paige Spence, OR Conservation Network Director  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Paul Dewey, Executive Director  
Central Oregon LandWatch

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Coordinator  
Oregon Wild

Gail Snyder, Executive Director  
Coalition for the Deschutes

Greg Haller, Executive Director  
Pacific Rivers

Jonah Sandford, Executive Director  
Deschutes River Alliance

David Moskowitz, Executive Director  
The Conservation Angler

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator  
League of Women Voters Oregon

Esther Liv, Executive Director  
The Wetlands Conservancy

Mark Sherwood, Executive Director  
Native Fish Society

Chandra Ferrari, Senior Policy Advisor  
Trout Unlimited

Nina Bell, Executive Director  
Northwest Environmental Advocates

Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst  
WaterWatch of Oregon

Rhett Lawrence, Conservation Director  
Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club

Travis Williams, Executive Director  
Willamette Riverkeeper

Cameron La Follette, Executive Director  
Oregon Coast Alliance

Bob Van Dyk, Policy Director for OR and CA  
Wild Salmon Center

Karen Lewotsky, Rural Partnerships Director  
Oregon Environmental Council