



## **HB 2377 – Rogue River Sediment Study**

**David Moskowitz, Executive Director  
April 1, 2019**

**Dear Honorable Chair Brad Witt and members of the Committee:**

**The Conservation Angler does not support HB 2377 which addresses the study of Rogue River sedimentation.**

The sediment study bill is an attempt to advance the baseless anti-dam removal conspiracy that claims the sediment from dam removals in the Upper Rogue River have filled up the lower Rogue River with gravel and that is preventing adult fish from entering and spawning. This flies in the face of all USGS and ODFW data as well as recent wild salmon returns to the Rogue.

The Rogue's fall Chinook salmon population has roughly doubled in each of the last three years, according to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), the interstate agency that sets salmon fishing quotas. It is even more remarkable considering the roller-coaster ride of environmental conditions, including one of the most severe droughts in history followed by one of the strongest El Niño weather patterns.

For 2019, the population of Rogue Fall Chinook in the ocean is estimated at 462,800 fish. That is only 20 percent less than the estimate for the Columbia River, a much larger and heavily dammed river. ODFW believes the recent returns, in the context of the poor environmental conditions, are signs that restoration is having an impact and is producing more fish on the Rogue. In fact, the Rogue River Fall Chinook have been larger than the Klamath and the Sacramento River runs for 3 years in a row.

The only salmon and steelhead in trouble on the Rogue are summer steelhead (who only need more water left in small streams, and spring chinook whose main habitat is blocked by Lost Creek Dam. The dam also prevents gravels from moving downstream and the temperature management regime passes very cold water to benefit Fall chinook but that may hurt spring chinook spawning and juvenile emergence.

Overall. Spring chinook have the life history that makes them least vulnerable to supposed sediment overload issues in the lower river because they migrate upstream during high flows.

Rogue River salmon, steelhead and trout just need access to their spawning areas, adequate cold-water flows, and fewer hatchery programs, not a sediment study

**Please do not pass HB 2377. It is unnecessary.**

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