



HEATHER BUCH

Lane County Commissioner
East Lane District
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February 14, 2020

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem OR 97031

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey and members of the subcommittee:

As the Lane County Commissioner who represents the residents of the McKenzie River portion of Lane County, I want you to know that I am fully supportive of a lottery bond request being put forward to provide funding for the McKenzie River Discovery Center. I ask that you include this project in your recommendation on HB 5202.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners will soon be discussing leasing this 46 acre Lane County-owned site of the historic Old Leaburg fish hatchery to the McKenzie River Discovery Center. You may recall my efforts from the 2019 Legislative session to seek the transfer of the “other” Leaburg Fish Hatchery from federal ownership to state ownership. We continue to advocate for that action to occur within the United States Congress, as well as seeking new federal funding opportunities for that hatchery site.

These projects will go hand in hand for those visiting this unique river corridor. I continue to work hard on ensuring that region can maximize both tourism and natural resource revenues, and locating an educational center on the site of the historic Leaburg Hatchery would be a terrific use of the site.

I appreciate your consideration of the McKenzie River Discovery Center’s request.

Sincerely,

Heather Buch
Lane County Commissioner