

As a stream ecologist I am very familiar with watersheds in both eastern and western Oregon, and appreciate the importance of obtaining groundwater data and developing a scientific basis for allocating water use. These decisions will become increasingly difficult during years of drought, that will likely be more common given trends of climate warming. Therefore, I oppose the reduction packages 090 and 092 that projects eliminating key personnel and gaging stations critical to maintaining these vital records. I ask you to support making more sustainable groundwater decisions, by funding POP 110 to continue the state's efforts to gather groundwater data that are presently inadequate.

Please keep in mind the many ways in which the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is integral in planning for basin-specific water resource strategies, particularly for understanding how managing dams will affect our threatened salmonid fishes. Please support efforts to update and simplify annual fees paid by hydroelectric projects in order to maintain current service levels at OWRD, ODFW and the Department of Environmental Quality,

As an example of important basin-specific work, threatened spring Chinook and winter steelhead in the Willamette Basin are monitored by the ODFW Corvallis Research Lab, but critical funds to monitor juvenile and adult salmon/steelhead populations throughout the mainstem and tributaries (e.g., PIT detection or other monitoring infrastructure) are investments that are threatened at the moment. Notably, monitoring in the McKenzie River Basin has ceased, even though Chinook numbers have not recovered and the McKenzie is the healthiest tributary in the basin. Please support agency work to protect fish and other natural resources in the state's hydroelectric work (Policy Option Package 105 and House Bill 2143).

The state of Oregon is lauded nationally for creating infrastructure that brings together policy makers with scientists and watershed councils, efforts supported by OWEB. Please continue investments in the Focused Investment Projects with OWEB (e.g., the Willamette FIP, the Deschutes FIP) and OWEB restoration grants that provide the essential resources for our watershed councils. To facilitate an integrated approach to regional planning, I urge you bring ODFW to the table in regional water discussions and support Policy Option Package 114.

At this pivotal moment, please consider carefully the ways in which we can build and fund an infrastructure to provide a sustainable water supply compatible with healthy river ecosystems as a legacy for future Oregonians.

Thank you,  
Dr. Judith Li  
Associate Professor, Retired