



Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 740
Gladstone, OR 97027

May 3, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Support of Budget Items: ODFW POP #109 and #119. DEQ POP #124. OWEB POP #201.

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (OCTU) is a registered non-profit representing the 3400 Trout Unlimited members and volunteers in Oregon. We are known for our science-based approach to conservation and our habitat restoration successes. Our mission encompasses the conservation of cold, clean and abundant water as well as the recovery of salmon, trout and other aquatic wildlife. I serve as the volunteer chair of the Council.

I'd like to highlight 3 of our Council's priority funding items. None of which are listed in the Governor's budget.

Number one: ODFW Policy Option Packages 109 and 119 Klamath fish reintroduction biologists.

Next biennium, 4 dams will be removed on the Klamath River, opening over 400 miles of habitat for salmon in Oregon. It's essential to fund ODFW's request for \$1.1 million for fisheries biologists to manage salmon reintroduction. We respectfully request that you fund these staff positions as a key component of Klamath river restoration. Without funding, Oregon will be headed into one of the largest river restoration projects in history without biologists working on critical fish reintroduction.

Number two: DEQ POP # 124 for watershed restoration. This item would provide 3.5 FTEs to the agency at a cost of \$1.1 million to work on the technical and funding aspects of preparing plans that bring waterbodies back into compliance with current water quality standards.

Number three: OWEB POP # 201 regarding carryforward of the \$27 million currently in OWEB's accounts for post-fire recovery and off-channel livestock watering. In 2021 and 2022, OWEB received over \$30 million for projects to restore watershed and forest health after wildfires, and to move livestock out of fragile riparian areas by providing alternative livestock watering wells. Those projects are ready to go, but many grant recipients need carryforward funding in the early part of the next biennium to complete the projects and spend down the funds.

Sincerely,
Mark W. Rogers
Chair Oregon Council