

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 43: Department of Fish and Wildlife Klamath Hatchery

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Neron Misslin

The Natural Resources Subcommittee heard a request from the Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Klamath Hatchery.

The Klamath Hatchery hatch house was destroyed in a 2020 wildfire, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife received \$7.8 million in insurance settlement proceeds during the 2023-25 biennium. Construction of a new hatch house at the Klamath Hatchery began in summer 2024. Total costs to replace the hatch house are approximately \$8.1 million, including construction, permitting and design, equipment replacement, and site cleanup costs. The difference between total costs and insurance proceeds is covered with existing agency resources and Federal Emergency Management Agency funding. Most project costs were realized during the 2023-25 biennium, resulting in a project balance of \$1.5 million with completion expected in January 2026.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$1,502,845 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Fish and Wildlife in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session for the construction of a new Klamath Hatchery hatch house.