

April 16, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Fully fund the ODF Small Forestland Investment In-Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) for \$10M

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber & Sanchez and Members of the Committee.

We request that this letter be entered into the public record on this matter. We urge the legislature to fully fund the SFISH Program as administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to follow through on the commitments the legislature previously made to small woodland owners (and all Oregonians) as part of the recently enacted Private Forest Accord (PFA).

First, a little background about us. My wife and I are retired, and we own and manage about 101 acres of forestland in western Oregon near Estacada, which we have been doing for over 30 years. We are proud of our forest stewardship, and we were honored for our work in 2022 as Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year. We also received the joint "Fish & Wildlife Steward Award for Forestlands" in 2020 from the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Fish & Wildlife, as well as the 2021 Partnership Award from the US Forest Service for our land stewardship and outreach in aquatic restoration. We actively manage our forest for many requirements and uses, ranging from infrequent timber harvesting to wildlife habitat enhancements, recreation, carbon sequestration & storage (our property is a verified carbon reserve) and significant riparian and fish habitat restoration.

The ODF SFISH program is a necessary and integral program of the Private Forest Accord to assist small woodland owners in complying with the requirements of the Accord. This program funds the restoration of nonconforming fish passage structures (or other structures that impede the movement of fish), which is triggered when small forestland owners that have property that fish-bearing streams flow through conduct forest harvest operations

If this program is not fully funded, then some of the principal salmonid recovery goals of the PFA will not be fulfilled, to the detriment of all Oregonians.

Please fund this program to its promised level of \$10 million.

Thank you.
Sincerely,



David & Mary Ann Bugni,
30265 SE Kowall Rd.
Estacada, OR