

# **Public Correspondence**

**Public correspondence received  
as of July 2, 2010**





Comment on ODFW  
2011-13 Budget Development

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is seeking your comments as we develop our 2011-13 agency budget. You can add your comments to the record by completing this form and turning it in at a locally hosted town hall meeting, faxing it to ODFW at 503-947-6042, mailing it to the ODFW Director's Office, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem OR, 97303 or sending it via email to [ODFW.Comments@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Comments@state.or.us). Please submit written comments by May 13, 2010.

AS ODFW IS DEVELOPING THE 2011-2013 AGENCY BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE RE-ESTABLISHING THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT FISH BIOLOGIST POSITION FOR THE PENOLETON OFFICE.

WITH THE ESA LISTINGS OF BULL TROUT AND MID-COLUMBIA STEELHEAD, THE RESTORATION PROJECTS, PERMITTING DEMANDS, AND PLANNING EFFORTS HAVE ALL INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN THE UMATILLA AND WALLA WALLA BASINS. IN ADDITION, ASSISTING WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF HATCHERY STOCKS TO ENSURE THERE ARE MINIMAL IMPACTS TO NATIVE STOCKS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND MONITORING THE FISHERIES, AND THEIR HABITATS ALL CONTRIBUTE TO AN EXCESSIVE WORKLOAD FOR ONE PERSON (THE PENOLETON DISTRICT FISH BIOLOGIST). I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND AM AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL AT [brian.walcott@wwbwc.org](mailto:brian.walcott@wwbwc.org)  
THANK YOU, BRIAN WALCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
WALLA WALLA BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL.

PHONE 541.938.2170  
810 SOUTH MAIN ST MILTON-FREEWATER, OR 97862



## COMMENTS ON THE 2011-13 ODFW PROPOSED BUDGET: TOWN HALL MEETINGS

“Wildlife caused Oregon farmers and ranchers \$158 million in damage to crops and livestock, structures, veterinary and prevention expenses in 1997 according to a survey conducted by the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. Of that total, production losses of \$147.1 million occurred to crops and livestock production, structure damage total \$4.5 million, livestock injury costs were \$214,000 and damage prevention expenses of \$6.0 million were incurred.” (1997 Oregon Wildlife Damage Survey) This survey did not include damage to timber which also adds millions of dollars. According to the 2004 USDA Agricultural Statistics, sheep and lamb damage/kills in Oregon amounted to over \$600,000. The one very important concept with all of this wildlife damage issue is that if you do not eliminate the animal, they will continue to kill and/or damage.

“Oregon farmers and ranchers voluntarily provide significant habitat for Oregon’s wildlife and the appropriate management of wildlife population is imperative so as to not create undue economic hardships to Oregon farmers and ranchers, and other landowners. Appropriate measures must be taken to assist farmers and ranchers and others in resolving wildlife problems. Federal, state, county’s and other local governments should mutually cooperate in their related efforts.” These quotes are from HB 2040 that was passed through legislature and signed by the governor in 2001. What has happened in Oregon where the State, ODA, and ODFW no longer deem it important to protect agriculture, the very industry that not only provides food and habitat for wildlife but also food for the public?

In Coos County, estimated wildlife damage losses for 2009 by WS are as follows: Timber/forestry damage from wildlife: \$100,000; livestock, \$7,000 to 10,000; property, \$10,000 (building damage,

\$3,500)(Fruit trees and gardens \$2,500)(culverts and dikes for flood control, \$1,000's of dollars). Note: these estimates do not include damages that were never reported.

Landowners spend thousands upon thousands of dollars on preventative measures: deer fencing for gardens, cranberry bogs, orchards; coyote aprons to keep out coyotes, electric fences to keep wildlife out on areas, tubing for newly planted trees, etc.

Direct income losses/damage: crops, livestock, forage, poultry, etc. Buildings and other structures such as dikes, and culverts.

Rural residential losses/damage: fruit, gardens, flowers, fruit trees, buildings and houses.

ODFW needs to step up to the plate and start funding control measures for the wildlife that damage landowner's property and crops. Wildlife Services is the entity that has the professional expertise to control Oregon's predators/wildlife. The Wildlife Services budget revenues for the 2009-11 are as follows: Federal, \$2,248,624; Oregon Department of Agriculture which cut their contribution by 73%, \$120,000, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who also cut funding in this biennium, \$220,000; leaving the counties to pick up the remainder of \$2,419,758, an increase of just over a half million dollars. Why should the Counties have to pick up the difference when the wildlife belongs to the State and is regulated, managed, and controlled by ODFW and the State?

What does Wildlife Services do? Each year they serve to remove predators that kill livestock, poultry, and pets, damage timber, orchards, ditches, dikes, culverts, buildings and other property, are nuisance animals such as skunks and most importantly, remove species that are detrimental to public health and safety. WS also does special projects such as control of predators during snowy plover nesting season, pigeon control, bird control for aviation, etc.

When they are doing these special projects, we ranchers may have a cougar killing but WS is not allowed to come and assist which means an increased loss of livestock and income. Ranchers and farmers are not authorized to use the tools that the WS staff can utilize to remove detrimental animals.

Coos County recently received the billing for their portion of the WS program. Coos County was billed \$153,301 while the ODFW funds only provided \$4,000 to our county's program. Now, that amount is less than what our operation loses in forage, livestock, and damage to Oregon's wildlife each year. You can't imagine how the County as well as the landowners view this when ODFW has a proposed budget of \$313.14 million in revenues!

ODFW priorities for ensuring the people abide by regulations in order to protect fish and wildlife is 7% of the proposed budget or \$19.4 million to state police. However, public health and safety, property damage, crop and livestock damage, pets, timber must not be much of a priority to the State and ODFW as ODFW only allocated .07% (that is less than 1%) or \$220,000 to Wildlife Services for the control of predators/wildlife in order to resolve human/wildlife issues and for public health and safety.

Cougars: In Coos County there have been numerous cougar sightings in the urban areas, especially the North Bend area according to the local newspaper. We private landowners provide a safety net or buffer to urban Oregon as we provide, at our own expense, food and habitat for wildlife. When we can no longer afford to stay in business due to the extreme losses from wildlife depredation, what do you think we will do with our lands? Our property is prime for small acreage ranches, homesites, or commercial tourism business. Where will the wildlife go if we no longer provide the food and habitat for them? Right into the rural residential and urban areas. What do you think will happen when the first child or adult is attacked by the ever increasing population of cougars?

What will the hunters do as the cougars reduce deer and elk populations in Oregon? Who will ultimately be responsible for the management and control of the predators if Wildlife Services is no longer adequately funded? Wildlife is the responsibility of the Feds, State and ODFW! Step up to the plate! Even if ODFW's budget includes the full county portion, it is true bargain for the public and wildlife.

I request ODFW increase funding to the Wildlife Services program in an additional amount of 50-75% of the "County portion" with annual "costs of doing business" increases for now and the future.

Thank you,

Sharon Waterman  
87518 Davis Creek Lane  
Bandon, Oregon 97411



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

## 1997 Oregon Wildlife Damage Survey



**Oregon**  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

October 28, 1998

Phone: 503 326 2131

### Wildlife damage losses total \$158 million

Wildlife caused Oregon farmers and ranchers \$158 million in damage to crops and livestock, structures, veterinary and prevention expenses in 1997 according to a survey conducted by the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. Of that total, production losses of \$147.1 million occurred to crops and livestock production, structure damage totaled \$4.5 million, livestock injury costs were \$214,000 and damage prevention expenses of \$6.0 million were incurred.

According to the survey, 47 percent of the state's farms reported some type of wildlife damages.

### Crops suffer most damage

Damage to crops amounted to \$145.6 million and livestock losses totaled \$1.5 million. Deer, elk, geese and rodents caused the most damage to crops while predators, specifically coyotes, cougars and dogs, inflicted the most damage to livestock. Deer and elk were also responsible for about three fourths of the damage to structures, mostly fences. Costs incurred for injured livestock were an additional \$214,000. That total includes \$80,000 to treat injuries caused by dogs.

### Damage prevention cost \$6.0 million

Expenses incurred for wildlife damage prevention were necessary on 19 percent of Oregon farms and totaled more than \$6.0 million. Field crops required the most prevention costs (\$3.6 million) while costs for fruits and vegetables and livestock were evenly divided at \$1.2 and \$1.3 million, respectively. Prevention expenses included fencing, hazing devices, guardian animals, etc.

### Losses total 3.3 percent of total value of production

Total losses amounted to 3.3 percent of production, and were incurred mostly to crops, where 3.6 percent of the value of production was lost. Livestock losses totaled 0.4 percent of total livestock values.

### Publication

The random sample survey of 6,000 Oregon agriculture operators was sponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture at the request of the Board of Agriculture through funding by the State Legislature. The report was published by the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. A special thanks goes to the many farmers and ranchers participating in this survey.

**Wildlife damage to value of production: Oregon, 1997**

Category	Damage value	Average per farm reporting damage
	1,000 dollars	Dollars
Crops	145,616	9,223
Livestock	1,528	740
Structures	4,478	806
Prevention costs	6,045	1,555
Injury costs	214	466
<b>All costs</b>	<b>157,881</b>	<b>3,517</b>



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

February 11, 2010

Stakeholders:

We wanted to share with you some information regarding Wildlife Services (WS) program activities in Oregon. As many of you know, WS is a cooperatively funded program housed within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Given the current economic situation, it is becoming more and more of a challenge to continue to find ways to fund WS' work. The state general fund support has been reduced, counties are finding it difficult to continue or maintain funding and of course landowner's budgets are squeezed to make ends meet.

Both the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife believe that it is critical for Oregon to maintain an effective WS program. Sometimes challenges bring opportunities and we wanted you all to know that - we have joined forces in an effort to work cooperatively to find ways to collectively meet the challenges that lie ahead. Over the next few months our staff will be reviewing program needs and financial information in an effort to engage all of you in this important discussion for making the program viable. We look forward to sharing this information with all of you and it is our hope that we can find ways to meet all of our needs.

As more information becomes available, we will circulate that information amongst our respective stakeholder groups and anticipate organizing several meetings to discuss the program as it moves forward. As always please feel free to give any one of us a call to discuss your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Coba".

Katy Coba  
Oregon Department  
of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Elicker".

Roy Elicker  
Oregon Department  
of Fish and Wildlife

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Williams".

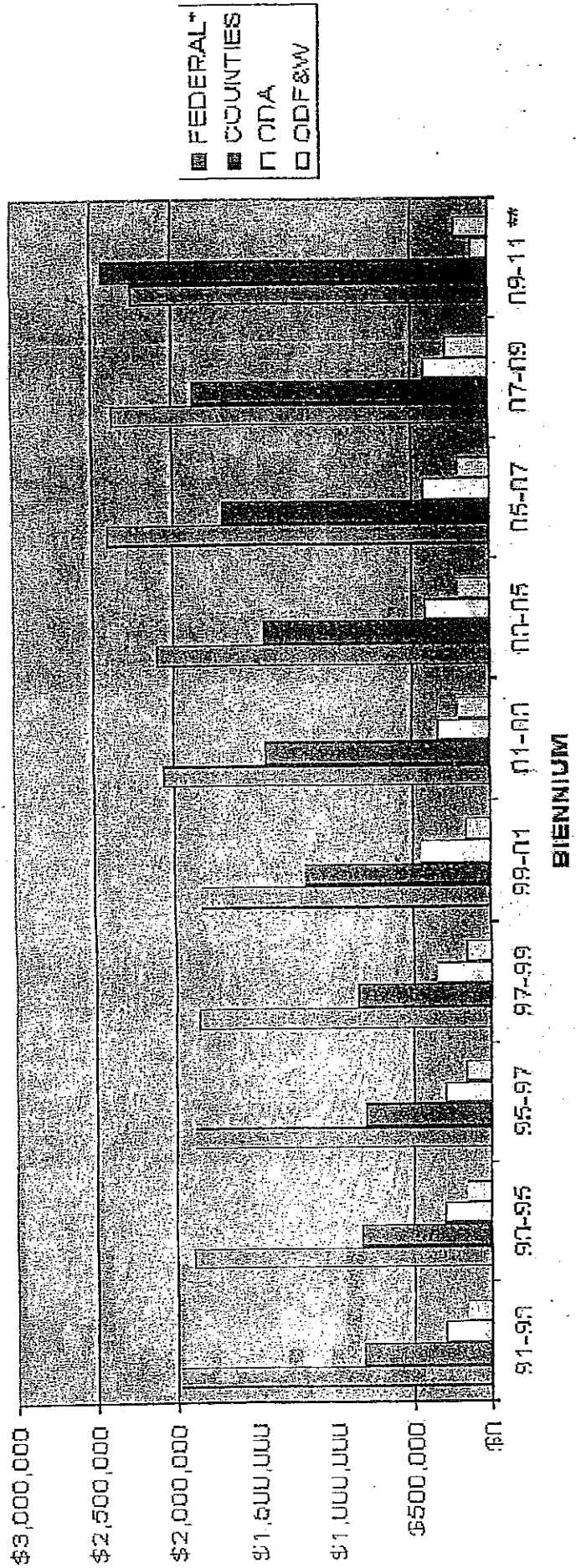
Dave Williams  
USDA  
Wildlife Services

## Biennium Funding Trend for the Cooperatively Funded Wildlife Services Program

BIENNIUM	91-93	93-95	95-97	97-99	99-01	01-03	03-05	05-07	07-09	09-11 **
FEDERAL*	\$1,979,530	\$1,895,111	\$1,883,844	\$1,854,910	\$1,837,582	\$2,064,032	\$2,105,680	\$2,402,256	\$2,363,313	\$2,248,624
COUNTIES	\$817,348	\$826,112	\$813,230	\$863,485	\$1,192,526	\$1,429,719	\$1,442,894	\$1,697,613	\$1,862,646	\$2,419,758
ODA	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$294,920	\$353,900	\$449,444	\$329,625	\$419,245	\$431,864	\$422,616	\$120,000 - reduction
ODF&W	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$285,000	\$220,000
TOTALS	\$3,251,878	\$3,176,223	\$3,161,994	\$3,242,295	\$3,649,552	\$4,033,376	\$4,177,819	\$4,741,733	\$4,933,575	\$5,008,382

\*Federal allocation = Base funding + Aviation allocation

\*\*Biennium 09-11 consists of Federal (OCT-SEP) FY 2010 & 2011 and coinciding State (JULY-JUN) FY 2010 & 2011. FY 2011 funds are based upon anticipated funding level with no change in FY2011 Federal funds, no change in State Funding, and with County funds remaining the same except for known reductions in two counties as of March 15, 2010.



July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 Proposed Budget Plan – Coos County

Listed below are the costs and sources of funding for the Wildlife Services program outlined above:

Costs include:

Salary & Benefits	\$120,070
GSA Vehicle Expense	22,219
Reimbursements	6,852
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,160
Total Costs	\$153,301

Funding Sources:

USDA	\$22,241
ODA Funds	4,000
ODF&W Funds	4,000
Coos County Funds	123,060
Total Funds Available	\$153,301

# Cougar prowls North Bend area

**NORTH BEND** — Community members should keep an eye out for a cougar that was seen roaming North Bend on Thursday near Virginia Avenue and Crocker and McKinley streets.

North Bend police officers went to the area about 5 p.m., after a Crocker Street man reported he had seen a cougar near the tree line in the dunes area of McKinley. According to a police press release, two men from the area had walked east toward the animal, but it fled into a wooded area.

The officers moved on to

McKinley for a better vantage point. Sgt. Brian Allen said he and two other officers also saw the animal.

"When it got up and ran, the officers with their naked eyes could actually see what it was and we believe what we saw was indeed a cougar," Allen said. "It was absolutely not a house cat."

Police department officials warn the public to be cautious while walking in the wooded area between Virginia Avenue and Lakeshore Drive.

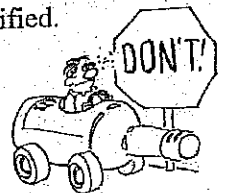
The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was notified.

## Cougar Sighted in McKinley Area of North Bend

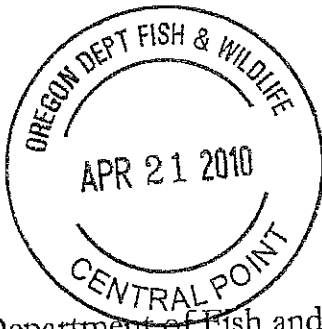
According to a press release from the North Bend Police Department, on April 14, 2010, North Bend Police officers responded to a cougar sighting near the tree line in the dunes area off McKinley Street, near Virginia Ave. Three officers on scene observed what they believed to be a cougar near the tree line. Two men from the area of Crocker street walked east toward the animal. As they approached, the animal got up and fled into the wooded area.

The North Bend Police Department is warning the public to be cautious when walking in the wooded area between Virginia Ave. and Lakeshore Drive.

The Oregon department of fish and Wildlife were notified.







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To Whom It May Concerns:

I was a hunter and trapper for U.S. and Jackson County many of the ranchers plus town residents have revealed their gratefulness for the services performed for their benefit by USDA APHS Wildlife.

With the present economic times, the farmers are facing many losses and especially the loss of calves, lambs, pig & goats are destroyed by wildlife creatures.

Hopefully the services of USDA-APHS Wildlife <sup>Service</sup> can be a continued to help.

Alvin Peyton





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To whom it concerns:

My main concerns Oregon  
are without a trapper in the summer.  
The cougar + coyotes are still here.  
I am a sheep rancher on 2 Miles E.  
Bandon, Ore. We always still have  
animals killed during the time when  
we don't have a trapper. I have a small  
ranch compared to others but my losses  
mean whether I have a profit or not.  
Please support more funding for  
wild life services.

Yours truly,  
Ellen Perry





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*It would be advantageous to increase  
funding for Wildlife Services  
Ron Petrock*



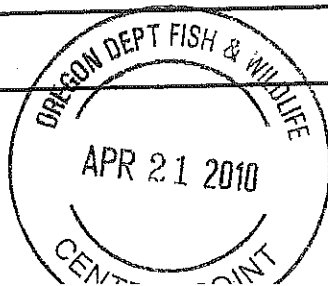


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Wildlife continue to invade my property in the city of Ashland, thus I would appreciate the the assistance of your dept. and personnel. I certainly have been pleased & grateful for the past APHIS/USDA Wildlife Service help given me. Hundreds of raccoons, skunks, foxes, opossums have been removed from here. Bears have taken down two trees (apricot, plum) and broken branches in the apple & pear trees. Thus invade annually! Hopefully the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Service can be continued & hopefully the wildlife specialist Cricket Peyton's services will continue.

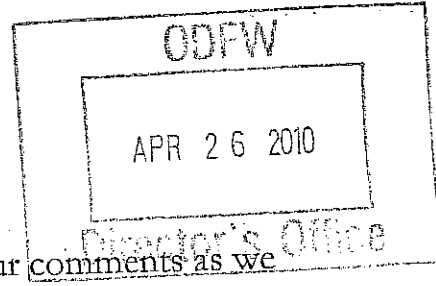
In sincere appreciation  
Claraz L. Fader







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*It appears that the most budget expense is for fish enhancement. Does the revenue from fishing license pay for this service or does most of the funds come from wildlife funds?*

*You ask for support from the hunting community yet you work against the hunter by backing road closers and stopping the use of ATVs on M-1, 2, 3, 4 roads. You come up with a phony harassment on Elk. Elk will run from any vehicle. Deer will stand and watch ATVs or vehicles go by. Elk running away is normal! Also you think your ATVs don't harass because your doing game management! You must think we are stupid and believe shitch crap!*

*I do not think ATVs should run all over the woods but roads built with tax money belong to the public not you not the forest service and not the government!*

*I'm quiet sure that this letter or any public meeting does not make one difference because you do what you want to and to heck with the public!*





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What a complex responsibility!!

It seems that every since the "Fish & Game" became the "Fish and Wildlife" - The game (deer, elk, antelope, big horn sheep, etc.) has decreased. It would be interesting to know how many serve on the commission actually hunt and also how many fish, including the governor

I know your hands are tied when it comes to predators (cougar, bear, <sup>wolves</sup> and sealions\*) however ~~it~~ is the commission trying to be politically correct, when they point at habitat, poaching, road kill etc as the <sup>main</sup> problems in 73 and am very familiar with ~~four~~ areas (Hart Mt, Silver Lake/Waypoint, Trout Creek, and Keno Unit) In these areas predation is the number 1 problem

The hunters and fishermen are getting very disturbed by the mis-management created mostly by the "valley vote". When predators were managed many did not mind the increase in fees but now are thinking "why pay more for less opportunity" (over)

\* wild horses are <sup>not</sup> predators but the damage they cause when they adopt and area for their territory! is very big.

Locally (Klamath County) our men and women  
in the OFWD are a great group of people!!

My prayer for the commission is to  
serve humbly and seek wisdom!!

Thanks and love to  
you all,

Gary Nichols (73 yr resident  
of Klamath Falls)  
210 S. Rogers  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

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Dear ODFW & ODA

My name is Mike Perry. Me and my family live in So. Ore. we live in a rural area and are very thankful to have W.S. in our area. They do a great job at controlling predators and other problem animals around here.

I believe that without W.S. in this area we would experience a cougar explosion and there would be extreme dangers to human life.

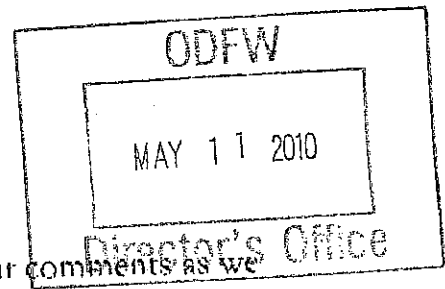
W.S. is a tool we can't afford to lose

Michael R Perry





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My wife and I run a small (320 acre) 4<sup>th</sup> generation (Est. 1886) sheep ranch (200 Ewes) without wildlife services, we will be out of production within a year. We incur losses every year to cougar - bob cat - foxes and coyotes. Wildlife services helps keep these losses to a minimum by targeting these rogue predators. I have noticed an alarming increase in the predator population the last 10-15 years. Also our game animal population has been on a decrease. Fawns are being eaten by Bobcat and Coyotes. Mature deer taken down by cougar. Turkey eggs and sitting hens eaten by red and gray fox. Our elk herd chased out of their feeding grounds by cougar. I personally don't have the time, equipment or expertise to control these rogue predators. Without wildlife services not only will our sheep ranch suffer but our sportsmen will have far less game animals to pursue which will lead to a decrease in hunting licenses and tags. We need wildlife services and I believe ODFW does too.

Steve Miller

Miller Ranch 88526 Bandon, Or 97411



**Colleen R Munson**

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**From:** Ronald Anglin  
**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2010 8:17 AM  
**To:** Shirlene A Gonzalez; Cameron Smith; Liz Dreith  
**Cc:** Debbie L Colbert; Curt Melcher; Eric Rickerson; Larry Cooper  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW 2011-13 budget

Had this request from Warren for information.

Liz please work with budget to see what we can come up with. Didn't give Warren any time line for getting it done.

Ron Anglin  
Wildlife Division Administrator  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
503 947-6312

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**From:** Warren W. Aney [mailto:aney@coho.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 04, 2010 9:39 PM  
**To:** Ron Anglin  
**Subject:** ODFW 2011-13 budget

on, at Saturday's EBAC meeting I asked about the use of General Fund money to match Federal grants and whether it was sufficient so that ODFW had no turnback. I believe the answer given was that it wasn't substantial and that ODFW had little or no turnback of Federal grant money. However, I think it would be good to know what will happen in 2011-13 if ODFW has no General Fund money. So could you or your staff provide some figures on:

1. For 2009-11, how much State Wildlife Grant money can ODFW match with General Fund or other non-Other Fund monies and how much has to be turned back?
2. What could happen in 2011-13 if no General Fund match money is available?

As I understand it, the State Wildlife Grant funds from USFWS Federal Aid require a 50% non-Federal match, part or all of which comes from General Fund monies and this is what primarily funds ODFW's Conservation Program. Correct me where I'm wrong.

Since funding by non-consumptive wildlife users and finding other sources of funding are among the concerns raised on Saturday, you may want to provide this information to the entire EBAC.

Thanks,

Warren W. Aney  
Tigard, Oregon



4.8.10

To: ODFW Staff

Following are some comments and suggestions from Bill Bakke of the Native Fish Society regarding the presentation of the budget. I am hopeful that you can provide this additional information to the EBAC for the May meeting.

Thanks,  
Jim Myron

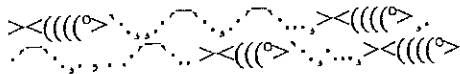
----- Original Message -----

From: [Bill Bakke](#)  
Subject: ODFW Budget Linkage

Since ODFW has a mission statement, it would be helpful in understanding the effect of the budget in terms of support for their mission. Some assessment should be evident in this budget package. In addition, linking the budget to the "overriding obligation to prevent the serious depletion of indigenous species" should also be made evident. There should be an assessment of just how this budget is consistent with this primary obligation.

It would be helpful to display hatchery expenditures in terms of FTEs, Funding, and % of the fish division budget. Likewise doing the same for natural production would help to make these two programs comparable on basic terms. Right now it is impossible to know how these metrics compare. I am sure that ODFW would not want people to think they are being deceived by how the budget is displayed, so some clarification would help put this concern aside. A persistent question is how much is being spent on wild steelhead, trout and salmon. What programs are in place or contemplated under this budget for wild steelhead and how does it compare to how much is being spent on other wild salmonids and to what is being spent on hatchery programs for each of these broad species categories? I have always been a fan of providing the public with as much useful information as possible, and since the budget drives policy and program, it would be nice to know exactly what is being driven and what is not.

--  
Bill M. Bakke  
Native Fish Society  
7830 SW 40th Street, Suite 6  
Portland, Oregon 97219  
503.977.0287  
[www.nativefishsociety.org](http://www.nativefishsociety.org)  
<http://bakke-nativefish.blogspot.com/>





## Debbie L Colbert

---

**From:** Jim/Kathleen Myron [myrons@canby.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Cc:** Bill Bakke  
**Subject:** Budget Cut Lists

Debbie:

I support Mark Labhart's suggestion at the EBAC meeting that the group have some input into where cuts to the budget should be made in addition to giving you our thoughts on any potential POPs. With that in mind, I hope you will share your 10/20/30% cut lists with us before they become final documents.

One suggestion that the Native Fish Society would like to make regarding potential cuts has to do with the fish propagation budget. We believe that there needs to be an evaluation of hatchery costs to produce a fish for harvest and the benefit that fish provides. Each hatchery program could then be ranked in importance based upon this cost-benefit ratio. The propagation programs within the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program should also be subject to this cost-benefit review and ranking exercise.

Thanks,  
Jim Myron



## ODFW Budget 2011-2013 Meeting

April 14, 2010

I'm Dick Olson, President of Central Oregon Fly Fishers. I represent more than 200 member families, who live in central Oregon. I'm here to defend the budget of the ODFW, which strongly contributes to recreational activities here.

We understand the State's financial difficulties, but please, please, don't even think of siphoning off funds collected for sports fishing, hunting or other recreational fees to fund other, unrelated programs. We really appreciate the work ODFW does, and can see the impact of their programs here.

Central Oregon's economy has suffered more than the bulk of the state by this recession, so let's not worsen that. Our economy - and that of the state - is strongly dependent upon tourism. Let's not make it worse by reducing funds to ODFW, which provides major value to the tourism industry here. If we in central Oregon want a strong recovery in 2011-2013, we need to count on income from tourism, and so does the whole state of Oregon. Let's support ODFW and not siphon funds away from them.

Thank you.



**Colleen R Munson**

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**From:** Trey Carskadon [trey@bdcadvertising.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2010 5:18 PM  
**To:** Roy.Elicker@state.or.us  
**Cc:** Rep.davehunt@state.or.us; Curt.Melcher@state.or.us; 'Ed Bowles'; Stephen.H.Williams@state.or.us; NSIALIZ@aol.com  
**Subject:** ODFW Budget Presentation - NSIA Comments

Hi Roy,

Thanks so much for your presentation of the ODFW budget on Monday. Your willingness to discuss these issues, explore solutions and look ahead is appreciated and valued.

I wanted to re-cap the statements and position of The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association from Monday for you and your colleagues. Again, we are grateful for the bridges you're building, the work of the agency in Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead recovery, the access you've provided us and our continuing conversations related to Sportfishing opportunity, resource management and success of the ODFW in meeting their mission.

These comments in no way are intended to be a complete summary of our thinking on the spectrum of issues we are working on with the agency, legislature, Governor's office and the other agencies and groups we collaborate with. I simply wanted to provide an overview and highlights of the thinking we shared at the meeting.

**General:**

NSIA's position regarding agency funding has changed little in the past 15 years.

Rather than taking regular fee increases we believe the emphasis needs to be placed on **increasing license sales and participation**. For us, the last place to cut is agency positions and programs. We've been down that road this decade and it doesn't work.

**Participation** is at the center of our thinking and we believe in the best interests of the agency for the future financial well-being of the agency and the sport fishing businesses that serve the license buying public. We know and you know there is a fee threshold that will drive people away from the sport. Retention will only be with the most enthusiastic anglers. That is not the direction we want to head. It bodes poorly for the agency, our industry, the conservation mission and ultimately the resources we treasure and rely on.

**Opportunity** drives participation. You've heard this on the hunting side and through us as well. Opportunity is the driver --- without it there's no reason to buy a license.

These two fundamental principles represent the foundation of any strategy to grow revenues and

expand the agency's mission.

### The NSIA applauds ODFW's efforts to:

- **Recover Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead through the Federal courts.** As the lone state voice in this issue the payback has been historic returns of salmon and steelhead. The benefits of these returns have been felt far and wide. Right now, the N.W. is a bright spot nationally. Meaningful fishing opportunity is critical to our survival. Thank you.
- **Work cooperatively with other agencies.** The national recognition the agency has received for its efforts to retain and recruit new anglers is opening doors and is striking evidence that intra-agency partnerships work. While several other states have tried and failed, ODFW was successful in creating a model that's being used nationally to recruit and retain anglers and boaters. ODFW's work with tourism, state parks and the marine board has not gone unnoticed. Pooling resources and partnering with these agencies not only fully optimizes expenditures but has landed one of the most innovative outreach programs in the United States through Grant's Getaways and the collaboration you've achieved with the other agencies. The model you're creating is one that should be replicated throughout state government. Thank you.
- **Marketing and I&E efforts are paying for themselves.** The addition of the marketing position in the agency and renewed emphasis in Information and Education outreach has paid enormous dividends in campaigns that are helping to increase license sales and keep people informed of the abundant Sportfishing opportunities across the state. Thank you.
- **Youth fishing opportunities.** Your work with the St. Louis Ponds and efforts to expand youth fishing opportunities is refereshing and overdue. Youth fishing access and opportunity can bring entire families into the sport. Embracing youth is looking out for the future of the resource, agency and industry. Thank you.

### Please:

- **Don't give up on salmon and steelhead.** Your work and success on the Columbia shows what we've been saying for decades. When meaningful opportunity for salmon and steelhead fishing is available it drives license sales, industry, rural development and tax base. The multipliers are huge and with over 90,000 angler days on the Columbia so far this spring Chinook season it's a vivid reminder of just how much benefit this run generates. By the time this spring Chinook season's over I have no doubt that we'll generate more than 150,000 angler days on the Columbia and Willamette. We've done better in past years but this is an outstanding step in the right direction.
  - In the past we've discussed trying to convert Oregon anglers to warm water species and the history on this issue is clear. As hard as we've tried there's no appetite for this change. The fact is, we'll log more days for warm water game fish, trout and other fisheries if our salmon and steelhead fisheries are flourishing.
  - The importance of salmon and steelhead fishing opportunity cannot be overstated. For instance, if we want to properly fund the conservation mission we need to generate license sales and the best way of doing that is to deliver meaningful salmon and steelhead fishing opportunity.

- ODFW has done a brilliant job of creating new steelhead fisheries through innovative “brood stock” programs. This year, just like the previous few years have provided outstanding recreational fishing opportunity for steelhead that’s being discovered by droves of anglers. Kudos for your work on this. These new winter and spring fisheries punctuate just how effective these programs have been in firing enthusiasm and participation on the coast and several interior rivers.
- **Continue to work with our congressional delegation to fund Mitchell Act.** Please don’t let them sidestep their responsibility to mitigate for the impact of the dams on the region’s fisheries. NSIA applauds your thinking in wanting to assume responsibility for operation of the Eagle Creek hatchery on the Clackamas but this is really the Federal Government’s responsibility not yours. Let us help you in pushing this forward. We’ll need every financial resource we have to continue hatchery operations on the coast. Diverting some of those resources to assume operation of Eagle Creek while appreciated should be the feds responsibility. Thank you also for understanding the importance of November and December steelhead fisheries to our industry. It’s the reason we need Eagle Creek and pray that it stays open...hopefully using federal money.
- **Continue to build bridges between stakeholder communities.** NSIA stands willing and ready to work collaboratively and cooperatively with ODFW to look ahead at funding the conservation mission. It’s going to take all of us who depend on these resources to overcome the financial and political challenges we face in restoring, enhancing and recovering fish and wildlife. We appreciate your efforts to get us to the table to create an environment where productive dialogue, planning and vision can occur. This effort needs to be continuing and top-of-mind. The importance of getting your stakeholders working together cannot be overstated --- we all have a stake in the success of our fish and wildlife resources and a flourishing fish and wildlife agency.
- **Continue to develop new and innovative fisheries, particularly those that are close to population centers.** Whether its river trout fisheries that target resident steelhead that failed to out-migrate to landlocked Chinook fisheries or wholesale trout stocking programs for kids, it’s these kinds of opportunities that will provide important and productive gateways into the sport.
- **Finally, continue to work on building the Willamette River spring Chinook run.** With more than 5 million smolts planted we should be returning in excess of 100,000 adults. Through no fault of the agency this has been a disappointing result given the hatchery emphasis on this river. Achieving this standard, or close to it, will fire wide-ranging benefits from Portland to Eugene.

### Conclusion:

These comments are intended to impress on the agency our commitment to your success, our gratitude for your work and our willingness to be part of the solution.

As you know our thumbprint is vividly etched into the fabric of the agency. Whether it’s the hatchery harvest bill, two rod fee concept, shellfish tag or any one of several dozen regulations or agency policies NSIA is an active advocate for the ODFW. It’s unnecessary to check down the

litany of projects we've worked on collaboratively with the agency --- we're in this together. Our success depends in large part on your success.

Here are our key issues:

1. We are quickly reaching the fee threshold for licenses in both hunting and fishing. Turning away non-residents is not a sound objective for the agency or state. Tourism is important business and when weighted to rural communities, most with double digit unemployment, particularly valuable. We need to either quickly identify new funding sources (unlikely); cut programs and staff (undesirable); or grow participation (preferred). Increases in participation will have widespread benefits that include: tourism, industry, tax base, commerce and rural development.
2. Salmon and steelhead are an undeniable force in this state and region. They drive the economic train and no matter how hard we try to shift the emphasis to other fisheries, the market is unwilling to go there.
3. We can have stable salmon and steelhead fishing. You've spoiled us. You showed us it's not only possible but probable. By continuing to tweak hatchery practices and win in court salmon and steelhead can be returned in numbers that keep everyone fishing. Continued emphasis in habitat restoration is essential right along with the work that's being done with hatcheries, harvest and hydroelectric production.
4. Growing the conservation footprint and mission is essential. Frankly, without more fishing and hunting opportunity and participation it's unlikely this can happen. We understand the importance of restoring habitat, clean water, unrestricted access for anadromous stocks, predator control, riparian restoration and the hundreds of other components that are captured under the state's conservation umbrella. The reliance on fish and wildlife funding has jeopardized these efforts. We pray the conservation community will recognize the importance of working more closely with anglers and hunters in the legislature as we all try to grapple with the reality of declining membership and funding.
5. Once again, the 2010 spring Chinook fishery has clearly demonstrated the economic impact of Sportfishing on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Businesses are growing and people are being put back to work. We assume the agency is benefiting as well. It's even more clear to us that the importance and value of finally achieving full seasons on the Columbia River are overdue. Solving the allocation issues will secure stable salmon and steelhead fishing for our customers. Resolving the conflict between in-river sport and commercial interests is vitally important. The state is unnecessarily wasting economic opportunity at a time when both communities, sport and commercial, should be reaping the benefits. The fact that the commercial gillnet fleet chose not to fish the select areas when they were filled with fish is an affront to good sense and sound policy. Letting petty, unproductive politics trump what is best for the agency, state and so many industries and communities makes no sense. We're hopeful the 2011 legislative session sees what's being lost and finally moves to resolve this age-old conflict.

Thanks again Roy. We deeply and sincerely appreciate the continuing courtesies and consideration you've extended our industry. We can always do better but I understand that door swings both ways.

All the best

Trey Carskadon  
Government Affairs Director  
N.W. Sportfishing Industry Association



**Lisa Evans**

---

**From:** Chris Wheaton [chris.a.wheaton@state.or.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 8:41 AM  
**To:** COLBERT Debbie L  
**Subject:** FW: Clam digging and Crabbing Action Alert

I think this should go under the heading of comments on our budget proposal.

CW

---

**From:** Rick Klumph  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 8:25 AM  
**To:** Caren Braby  
**Cc:** Chris Wheaton  
**Subject:** FW: Clam digging and Crabbing Action Alert

fyi

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**From:** WILLIAM LACKNER [mailto:williamlackner001@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2010 2:08 PM  
**To:** ROBESTEPH3@cs.com; Bill Morris; Dan Avery; Doug Cottam; Dr. Bauman; Dr. Michael Harris; Alison Ma; David and Sandi Randleman; David\_Leer; Ed Bowles; greg harlow; Jerald Lynch; Jill Pridgeon; Matt Hunter; Jim Heinrich; KLAUSNER Hans; Kris Vanderpool; Kristina Lackner; Leslee Parr; ODFW Commission; Pete Heley; Mich Vance; Randy Fish; Rhine Messmer; POWELL Rhonda; Rick Klumph; Robert Buckman; Roy Elicker; Scott D. Groth; Walt Summerton; Tim Josi  
**Subject:** Re: Clam digging and Crabbing Action Alert

Hi Bob, the portion of the ODFW budget that was deleted covers the ODFW component of shellfish testing that is part of the Department of Agriculture's monitoring program for shellfish safety. I received a letter of concern from Pete Strutton, Associate Professor College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University in a letter to Roy Elicker. In his lengthy letter he states, "This omission restricts the capacity of the state to monitor a sever risk to human health (HABs) and mitigate economic losses to coastal communities." Pete's email address is, [strutton@coas.oregonstate.edu](mailto:strutton@coas.oregonstate.edu).

I have asked ODFW for a clarification for deleting the funding for monitoring Harmful Alga Blooms (HABs) from their budget, but to date have not received a response; therefore, our participation to bring this to the attention of our membership in a effort to restore the funding. Thanks Bill

----- Original Message -----

**From:** ROBESTEPH3@cs.com  
**To:** williamlackner001@msn.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2010 10:52 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Clam digging and Crabbing Action Alert

Hello Bill,

I wasn't aware that the state was stopping the monitoring of the blooms. This is definitely bad news. I take it this means that there won't be any alerts on the potential toxins? This is insane, and I will follow through on your letter suggestion.



April 26, 2010

In 1843, destruction of livestock (grizzlies, cougars, wolves and black bears) gave rise to a "Wolf Meeting" which led to a decision to form a government. The wildlife problem as well as other problems, led to the formation of the State of Oregon in 1859. Now, just as then, we still have destruction of livestock and pest problems. The State of Oregon claims the wildlife and manages the wildlife through its agency the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Currently we have a funding problem in the control of destructive wildlife.

The breakdown of the cost sharing is as follows for the 09-11 budget year:

Federal	\$2,248,624
Counties	\$2,429,758
<b>ODA</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>
<b>ODF&amp;W</b>	<b><u>\$ 220,000</u></b>
Total	\$5,008,382

From my perspective, the State of Oregon's funding of "their" wildlife is woefully inadequate! The State of Oregon funds less than 7% of the destructive wildlife problem, yet the State claims the wildlife. The state should be funding 50% of the program, not the counties! Coos County, as well as other counties is in a funding crisis. Coos County alone, is being asked to contribute \$123,301 to the program, which is over half of the ODF&W contribution. The counties can't continue to fund the State of Oregon's wildlife problem and without the funding the people of the State of Oregon will be overrun with destructive wildlife. I urge you to reconsider the amount of funding that the State of Oregon provides the USDA Wildlife Services program.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Robert "Bob" Main

Coos County Commissioner



April 17, 2010

TO: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, OR 97303-4924

FROM: Douglas County Livestock Association  
P.O. Box 1165  
Roseburg, OR 97470

RE: Wildlife Services Funding

Dear Commissioners,

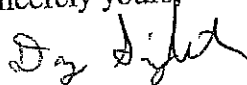
The Douglas County Livestock Association fully supports the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife budget proposal for the 2011-2013 budget years. In particular we support the proposed increase for the Wildlife Services budget of \$106,000 of general funds. This proposed increase will reinstate past reductions to this vital and important program.

Wildlife Services provides an important resource to the farming and ranching community of Douglas County. Not only do they react quickly to livestock damage situations but they also help prevent damage from occurring. They are very systematic and professional in their approach to damage situations. They also provide services to other sectors of the public including reacting to waterfowl damage at airports and golf courses, disease control and monitoring, protecting trees from bear damage, protecting endangered species, road protection from beaver as well as providing public education on ways to prevent wildlife damage.

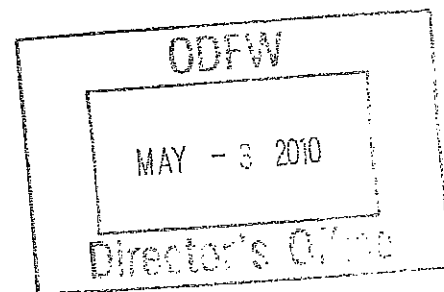
The number of interactions between humans and wildlife appear to be increasing in both urban and rural areas. As our society has evolved over time to become more urban, there are fewer people who know how to solve problems related to these interactions. Wildlife Services personnel have the knowledge and expertise in these situations to take care of any necessary action. Providing adequate funding to Wildlife Services so that it can maintain a high level of functional efficiency will benefit many Oregon residents.

The Douglas County Livestock Association has worked closely with the local ODFW biologists on a number of issues and projects and look forward to continuing that relationship. Again, we support the proposed budget increase to the Wildlife Services Program. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,



Doug Singleton  
President, Douglas County Livestock Association







# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director  
3406 Cherry Avenue, NE

Salem, OR 97303

503.947.6044

FAX 503.947.6042

TTY 503.947.6339

[www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)

April 20, 2010



Richard W. Linton  
Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies  
1266 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1266

Dear Mr. Linton:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Policy Option Package (POP) for the monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms along the Oregon Coast.

The Department developed this POP in the fall of 2009 for submission with the 2011-2013 Agency Requested Budget. Since then, the Governor has announced that currently the State of Oregon is projecting to have a 2.5 billion dollar shortfall in both General Funds and Lottery Funds. The agency is expected to take reductions in both of these fund types. While these funds only represent approximately 6% of the agency projected revenue, any reductions will have a significant impact to programs.

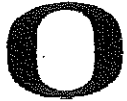
Based on the uncertainty of state General Funds in the upcoming biennium and the potential need to backfill for any reductions, the agency has suspended all requests for enhancements to programs in the Agency Requested Budget. This suspension also includes funds that are dedicated to specific programs such as the Recreational Shellfish, and Commercial Fish funds.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Curtis E. Melcher, Deputy Director  
Fish and Wildlife Programs

c: file



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

April 16, 2010

ODFW Director's Office  
3406 Cherry Ave. NE  
Salem, OR 97303-4924

I am writing in my capacity as the University of Oregon's Vice President for Research to express concerns regarding the omission of a policy option package (POP) from the recently posted Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) budget. This POP, designed to enhance monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), would have augmented HAB sampling efforts along the Oregon coast.

The first occurrence of domoic acid, a potent neurotoxin produced by marine algae, occurred in Oregon in the early 1990s. This had an enormous impact on both Dungeness crab and razor clam fisheries. Ever since that event, the University of Oregon (UO) has promoted scientific study of HABs in Oregon through conferences and basic research by faculty and students. We have worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to analyze the patterns of toxicity and with scientists at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Oregon State University (OSU) to develop methods of predicting and tracking HABs. Through these efforts, Oregon's scientific community has an improved understanding of the conditions that lead to harmful algal blooms on our coast. More recently, with federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service (NOAA/NOS) Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Bloom (MERHAB) program, UO scientists have been working with ODFW, OSU, and NOAA to develop a program that would greatly enhance the state's capacity to respond to the problem of increasing HAB events. **This team has identified a need for the creation of at least one full-time HAB position within ODFW and the additional 0.25 FTE called for in the HAB POP as essential components to a monitoring program that allows for rapid, efficient prediction and mitigation of algal bloom events in Oregon.**

The NOAA funding for this competitively selected research project is ending in 2012. Therefore, it becomes important that Oregon takes advantage of the advances in methods and program development that have come from the funding provided by NOAA. As part of the current project, our faculty are poised to share equipment and training with ODFW to support a permanent HAB position. If the HAB POP is not reinstated, this important transfer cannot occur in a timely fashion, and the successfully piloted ODFW monitoring program and expertise that has been developed with federal funding is at considerable risk. Overall, this would be a significant loss of opportunity that cannot be easily overcome.

Our faculty and their colleagues at ODFW, OSU, and NOAA have contributed significantly to an understanding of why expanded plankton monitoring is important, and how a HAB program can be managed efficiently. Opportunity to transfer this knowledge from a clearly successful federally funded pilot program to an operational program for Oregon is possible this biennium. I encourage you to give every consideration our request that the HAB POP be reinstated.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Linton  
Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES**

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# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Salem, OR 97303  
503.947.6044  
FAX 503.947.6042  
TTY 503.947.6339  
www.dfw.state.or.us

April 20, 2010



Angelicque White  
Assistant Professor  
Oregon State University  
104 COAS Administration Building  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5503

Dear Ms. White:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Policy Option Package (POP) for the monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms along the Oregon Coast.

The Department developed this POP in the fall of 2009 for submission with the 2011-13 Agency Requested Budget. Since then, the Governor has announced that currently the State of Oregon is projecting to have a 2.5 billion dollar shortfall in both General Funds and Lottery Funds. The agency is expected to take reductions in both of these fund types. While these funds only represent approximately 6% of the agency projected revenue, any reductions will have a significant impact to programs.

Based on the uncertainty of state General Funds in the upcoming biennium and the potential need to backfill for any reductions, the agency has suspended all requests for enhancements to programs in the Agency Requested Budget. This suspension also includes funds that are dedicated to specific programs such as the Recreational Shellfish, and Commercial Fish funds.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Curtis E. Melcher, Deputy Director  
Fish and Wildlife Programs

c: Pete Strutton, Associate Professor, OSU  
Bill Peterson, Adjunct Professor, OSU  
file



College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences  
Oregon State University, 104 COAS Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5503  
T 541-737-3504 | F 541-737-2064 | <http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu>

April 7, 2010

To: Roy Elicker, ODFW Director  
Members of the ODFW External Budget Advisory Committee  
Members of the Oregon Coastal Caucus

To whom it may concern,

As scientists and citizens, we are writing to express our sincere concern at the recent omission of an ODFW policy option package (POP) designed to enhance monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) along the Oregon coast. This POP would have supported one full-time employee to lead a HAB monitoring program and 0.25 FTE to augment sampling efforts in the state. This support is not being included in the proposed ODFW biennium budget. From our perspective, this omission restricts the capacity of the state to monitor a severe risk to human health (HABs), effectively manage coastal resources (shellfish) and mitigate economic losses to coastal communities.

The accumulation of HAB toxins in commercially- and recreationally-harvested shellfish in Oregon has had significant negative impacts on the local ecology and economy. A considerable body of state and federally funded research has shown that HABs are globally increasing in their frequency, persistence, toxicity and geographical extent. Oregon is no exception. Razor clam and mussel closures due to contamination by the neurotoxins domoic acid and saxitoxin are becoming more frequent. In 2003, ODFW estimated that the closure of the Clatsop razor clam fishery cost the local communities \$4.8 million. The potential loss from a large, coast-wide HAB event is much greater. For example, the commercial Dungeness crab fishery is worth ~\$97 million to the state of Oregon, while recreational shellfishing is worth \$31 million to coastal communities<sup>1</sup>. To minimize the human health and economic impacts of HABs, effective routine monitoring of water samples to detect the presence of HAB species is absolutely necessary. The monitoring not only tells managers of the resource (ODFW and ODA) when to expect toxins to appear in shellfish, it also indicates when the threat may be diminishing, which is important for reopening harvesting and minimizing economic losses.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/docs/Report\\_5\\_6\\_09--Final%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/docs/Report_5_6_09--Final%20(2).pdf)

In addition to the human dimension, we were also recently reminded of the impact that non-toxic algal species can have on coastal ocean ecosystems. In October 2009, in an event extensively covered by local news media, dense accumulations of the algal species *Akashiwo sanguinea* were observed for the first time off Oregon. This organism produces surfactant-like substances that generate foam in stormy conditions. This foam destroys the waterproof layer of feathers that keeps seabirds dry, leading to extensive seabird mortality due to hypothermia. For Washington state, where good data are available (Julia Parrish, University of Washington, personal communication), it is estimated that between 6,000 and 12,000 seabirds were killed by the bloom that extended from the Olympic Peninsula to Newport, OR. Now that we are aware of the potential threat that this algal species represents, we can monitor for its presence and alert bird rehabilitation centers that were caught off guard in October last year.

Since 2008, we have been working with ODFW on a research project to develop a HAB monitoring and event response program in Oregon that enhances protection of fisheries and public health. The grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Service (NOAA) has supported crucial routine monitoring of HAB species by ODFW personnel that allows for better predictions of the impacts of both toxic and non-toxic algae. Our NOAA research funding ends in 2012 jeopardizing ODFW's ability to continue monitoring algal abundance along Oregon beaches. The HAB POP is crucial to maintain ODFW's HAB monitoring efforts. This is a serious matter for natural resource and public health interests in Oregon as well as for the economies of coastal communities. Hence we are asking that you reinstate the HAB POP in the proposed ODFW biennium budget and strongly support its funding.

Regards,

Angelicque White, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University,  
[awhite@coas.oregonstate.edu](mailto:awhite@coas.oregonstate.edu)

Pete Strutton, Associate Professor, Oregon State University,  
[strutton@coas.oregonstate.edu](mailto:strutton@coas.oregonstate.edu)

Bill Peterson, Adjunct Professor, Oregon State University,  
[Bill.Peterson@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.Peterson@noaa.gov)

Disclaimer: While we are scientists affiliated with Oregon State University, we should stress that our opinions stated here do not necessarily reflect those of OSU.

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

**Angelique White**  
**Comments at ODFW budget town hall meeting**  
**ODFW Headquarters, Salem**

My name is Angelique White, Assistant Professor of Biological Oceanography at Oregon State University. I wanted to say a few words about the work that ODFW does to ensure the safety and prosperity of coastal Oregon shellfish resources. While my research deals with this topic I want to point out that the opinions I'm about to express are not necessarily those of OSU.

Phytoplankton form the base of the marine food chain and feed the productivity of ocean ecosystems, but some phytoplankton produce toxins that can accumulate in shellfish, causing illness and death in humans and marine mammals. For Oregon, the main toxins of concern in shellfish such as razor clams, mussels and dungeness crabs are domoic acid and saxitoxin. The phytoplankton blooms that produce these toxins are generally referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms, or HABs.

Razor clam and mussel closures due to contamination by these toxins are becoming more frequent. In 2003, ODFW estimated that the closure of the Clatsop razor clam fishery cost the local communities \$4.8 million. The potential loss from a large, coast-wide toxin event such as we had in 2005 is much greater. State-wide, recreational shellfishing is worth \$31 million to coastal communities and the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishery is worth ~\$97 million. To minimize the human health and economic impacts of toxic blooms, effective routine monitoring of water samples to detect the presence of toxic species is absolutely necessary. The monitoring not only tells ODFW and ODA, the managers of the resource, when to expect toxins to appear in shellfish, it also indicates when the threat may be diminishing, which is important for reopening harvesting and minimizing economic losses.

Until recently, the ODFW budget included a policy option package, or POP, that would support one full time person to analyze water samples for toxic and non-toxic phytoplankton, as well as ¼ FTE to contribute to sample collection. These positions would be funded by revenue from recreational shellfish harvesting licenses. The omission of this POP restricts the capacity of the state to do three things:

- (1) monitor a serious risk to human health,
- (2) effectively manage coastal shellfish resources and
- (3) minimize economic losses to coastal communities.

In addition to the human dimension, we were also recently reminded of the impact that non-toxic algal species can have on coastal ocean ecosystems. In October 2009, in an event extensively covered by local news media, dense accumulations of the algal species *Akashiwo sanguinea* were observed for the first time off Oregon. This organism produces surfactants that generate foam in stormy conditions. This foam destroys the waterproof layer of feathers that keeps seabirds dry, leading to extensive seabird deaths due to hypothermia. For Washington state, where good data are available, it is estimated that between 6,000 and 12,000 seabirds were killed by the bloom that extended from the Olympic Peninsula to Newport, OR. Now that we are aware of the

potential threat that this algal species represents, we can monitor for its presence and alert bird rehabilitation centers that were caught off guard in October last year.

Since 2008, ODFW has been working with ocean scientists from OSU, UofO and the Hatfield Marine Science Center on a research project to develop an Oregon monitoring program that enhances protection of fisheries and public health. The grant from NOAA has supported crucial routine monitoring by ODFW personnel that allows for better predictions of the impacts of both toxic and non-toxic algae. This funding ends in 2012, jeopardizing ODFW's ability to continue monitoring algal abundance along Oregon beaches.

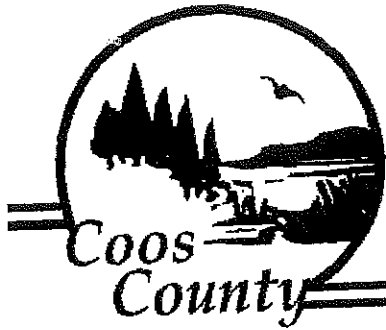
The opportunity to transfer our existing knowledge from a clearly successful federally funded pilot program to an operational program for Oregon is possible this biennium. This is a serious matter for natural resource and public health interests in Oregon as well as for the economies of coastal communities. I therefore ask that you reinstate the POP in the proposed ODFW biennium budget and strongly support its funding.

Sincerely



Angelique White, Assistant Professor  
College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences  
104 COAS Admin Building  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331-5503  
Ph: 541 737 6397, Fax: 541 737 2064  
awhite@coas.oregonstate.edu





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NIKKI WHITTY KEVIN STUFFLEBEAN ROBERT E. "BOB" MAIN

April 27, 2010

Marla Rae, Chair  
ODFW Commission  
333 High Street NE Suite 202  
Salem, OR 97301

In re: Wildlife Services

Dear Marla:

Our request from Wildlife Services for a contribution to help pay for their program has grown to over \$123,000 this year.

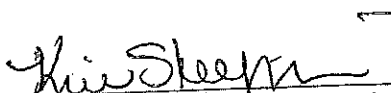
For many years our contribution hovered around \$70,000, last year it rose to \$111,000 and now over \$123,000.

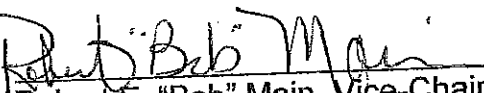
We have been paying a portion of this cost out of our old Title III dollars but they are nearly depleted. We are fearful that at least the O&C Counties will not have the resources to continue to participate at these amounts when that old Title III money is gone. Our requested contribution this year equals 80% of the cost of the program delivered in Coos County.

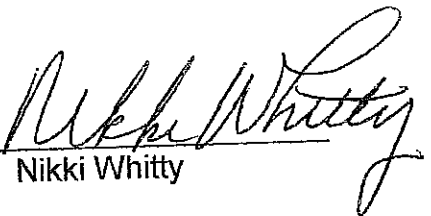
Please let us know how we can help you make the legislature understand the importance of this program so they will increase your departmental contribution. This is no longer a rural issue as predators are showing up in many of the urban areas of the state.

Sincerely,

COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Kevin Stufflebean, Chair

  
Robert E. "Bob" Main, Vice-Chair

  
Nikki Whitty

April 26, 2010

In 1843, destruction of livestock (grizzlies, cougars, wolves and black bears) gave rise to a "Wolf Meeting" which led to a decision to form a government. The wildlife problem as well as other problems, led to the formation of the State of Oregon in 1859. Now, just as then, we still have destruction of livestock and pest problems. The State of Oregon claims the wildlife and manages the wildlife through its agency the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

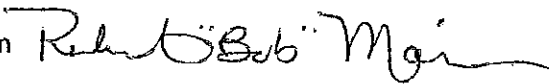
Currently we have a funding problem in the control of destructive wildlife.

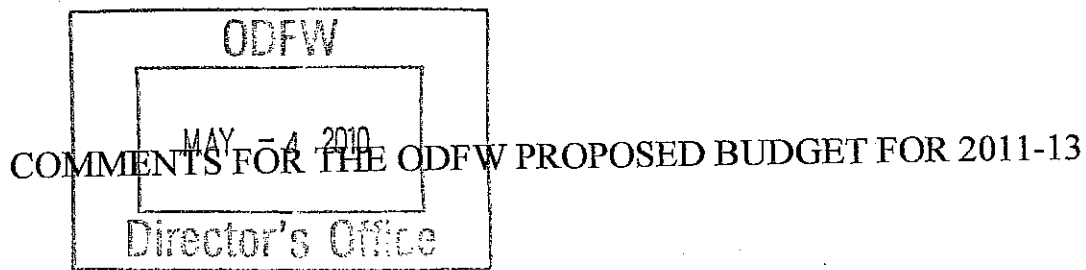
The breakdown of the cost sharing is as follows for the 09-11 budget year:

Federal	\$2,248,624
Counties	\$2,429,758
ODA	\$ 120,000
ODF&W	<u>\$ 220,000</u>
Total	\$5,008,382

From my perspective, the State of Oregon's funding of "their" wildlife is woefully inadequate! The State of Oregon funds less than 7% of the destructive wildlife problem, yet the State claims the wildlife. The state should be funding 50% of the program, not the counties! Coos County, as well as other counties is in a funding crisis. Coos County alone, is being asked to contribute \$123,301 to the program, which is over half of the ODF&W contribution. The counties can't continue to fund the State of Oregon's wildlife problem and without the funding the people of the State of Oregon will be overrun with destructive wildlife. I urge you to reconsider the amount of funding that the State of Oregon provides the USDA Wildlife Services program.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Robert "Bob" Main   
Coos County Commissioner



I support ODF&W increasing the funding for Wildlife Services in the 2011-13 budget proposal in the amount of 1.5 million additional dollars for the biennium.

After all, ODF&W receives hunting license and tag funds from deer and elk hunters. The very predators that the Wildlife Services control also are the predators that kill deer and elk populations. With increases in deer, elk, and turkey populations, hunters would purchase more tags and licenses. However, if Wildlife Services does not have an adequate budget to cover predation and control predator populations, the bear, cougar, and coyote populations will increase while there will be a decrease in game animals.

Wildlife Services are the "police" that control predators by only killing target animals that cause death and injury to domestic livestock and pets: ie. Chickens/poultry, rabbits, ducks, sheep, cattle, goats, dogs, and cats.

Homeowners and landowners do not have the ability to keep the predators under control because of the laws and rules pertaining to wildlife both at the Federal and State level. We need the Wildlife Services adequately funded by the agencies, State and Federal government that regulate, manage, and control species populations.

The State General Fund could be increased through income taxes paid by agricultural and forestry producers if products that are now damaged or killed by Oregon's wildlife were able to grow and be harvested. Without the loss of revenue to the natural resource industry from wildlife depredation, farmers, ranchers, and timber operators would have more income, therefore paying more taxes and in some cases putting more people to work. This is extremely important in this economic crunch. Increased income brings more income tax revenues to the State which in turn can increase ODF&W's budget to adequately fund the Wildlife Services program which controls the animals which literally eat up landowner and State revenues.

If you use the most recent OASS Survey results which was in 1997 and only use the crop losses and livestock deaths at an amount of \$147,100,000. (That number is more than likely very low as the cougar and geese

populations have increased dramatically since that time plus our products in the livestock industry have increased in value.) But just to make the point, if you round off the numbers to say, \$150,000,000 just in crop losses and livestock deaths and assuming the average income tax would be ten percent on that amount. The State of Oregon has just lost revenue of \$1.5 million per year while the economics of agriculture is down \$150 million. Lets to look at the timber industry. Wildlife damage and kill trees in the 180,000 acres of Coos County's and North Curry private and county timberlands. Bear populations are some of the highest in the State in this area. If you consider a 1% loss of timber or 3.5 trees per acre, the annual loss of income to the landowners runs approximately \$540,000 according to one large timber company. Many times the mortality runs around 3% for \$1.62 million per year. A 10% income tax on the 1% mortality is a loss of revenue to the State of Oregon of \$5,400 just from the Coos/North Curry forestlands.

The State of Oregon and ODF&W need to look at the economics of this situation and provide more funding for the Wildlife Services which not only would benefit the State and landowners but also protect the public's health and safety. Wildlife Services serves to help the hunters as for every cougar they eliminate that is killing our livestock, they have just saved the lives of many deer and elk. It is a WIN/WIN for everyone involved.

Support additional funding for Wildlife Services.

Thank you for your time.

  
Charlie Waterman

87518 Davis Creek Lane  
Bandon, Oregon 97411

## Debbie L Colbert

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**From:** Roy Elicker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2010 2:04 PM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Cc:** Ronald Anglin; Larry Cooper; Curt Melcher  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW budget town hall meetings/wildlife services budget

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sen Verger [mailto:verger.sen@state.or.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2010 12:37 PM  
**To:** ELICKER Roy  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW budget town hall meetings/wildlife services budget

Senator Verger ask me to forward this to you.

Anne Johnson-Staff

---

**From:** Charlie and Sharon Waterman [watermanranch@webtv.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 18, 2010 12:32 PM  
**To:** Rep Roblan; Rep Krieger; Sen Verger; sen.jeff.kruse@state.or.us  
**Cc:** nwhitty@co.coos.or.us; bmain@co.coos.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW budget town hall meetings/wildlife services budget

Dear Legislators:

As I'm sure you already know, ODFW is having town hall meetings throughout the State to discuss budgeting for 2011-13. Meetings will be held from 7 - 8:30 in Roseburg, April 22; Brookings, April 27; and Newport, April 28.

As a landowner/rancher/timber owner you need to know what part of our profits are eaten up by the "state's" wildlife. The amount varies from year to year depending on what we are dealing with. The bears, fox, coyotes, bobcats and cougars all take a toll on our lamb crop. We also provide feed and habitat for the deer, elk, geese, etc. all at a loss of income to us. When we try to save back pastures for lambing season, the deer migrate to those pastures, eating the very feed we want for the ewes and lambs at lambing time. When we do a pasture renovation project, we want the livestock off the pasture until the species have been established. We can do that but there is no way to keep the deer out. The deer and elk love newly planted trees and we must tube them in order to give them a chance to establish their root systems...all at a cost to us. Elk can wreck havoc on a fence and who has to do the repairs? The birds practically strip the apple trees. I planted an orchard the first year we lived on the place only to have the wildlife kill my orchard even after fencing the trees and putting lined stovepipes around the trunks. One year the geese were so bad that the one hay field looked like the cattle had been in and yet there had been no livestock in that pasture for four months. One rancher figures the geese in his area eat about \$20,000 to \$30,000 of crop each year. The wildlife put holes in the diking systems in the Coquille Valley which must be repaired by the landowner and in some cases cause washouts during the winter. I could go on and on but I think you get the point.

If you read Friday's, THE WORLD newspaper, you would have seen the article on another cougar sighting in North Bend. The public and the state seem to believe it is acceptable that we ranchers allow the cougars, coyotes, bear, etc to kill our livestock and live on our lands

but when they come to town, that is a different story. Who assists with these sightings? WS staff.

Now for my issue: The funding of the Wildlife Services program. I have before me the WS budget for Coos County as well as the proposed ODFW budget (pie graphs) for 2011-13. Coos County alone has been billed out \$123,301 for their portion the the two WS staff people that serve our county for 2010-2011. ODFW provides only \$4,000 to this program. USDA provides \$22,241 while ODA provides \$4,000.

ODFW has a proposed estimated budget expenditure for 2011-2013 of \$269.53 MILLION and a staffing of 1,162.20 FTE's (employees). The ODFW estimated revenue for 2011-2013 is \$313.41 MILLION. One of ODFW's goals is to "work with landowners to prevent and reduce wildlife damage to agricultural and timber crops." They need to be paying their fair share to the WS program which actually does the majority of work with the landowners to prevent and reduce wildlife damage to our agricultural and timber crops. This is an essential tool in Coos County as the WS staff are trained and professional at their job.

The goal of this email, is to request that you attend the ODFW town hall meetings and support a proposed ODFW budget line item that would reduce the County's portion of the WS portion by 75%. As you know, the County finances are tight. The "State" and ODFW have control over the wildlife, manage and regulate them, so they need to step up to the plate on controlling predatory species and wildlife damage. I would recommend this additional funding come from the ODFW'S Habitat budget of \$22.34 million since private landowners presently provide much of the habitat and food for their wildlife at no cost to ODFW or the State or take it out of the difference between proposed revenue and expenditures (carry over).

Lastly, I have assumed you know what WS program does. I'm not sure if you realize they also protect snowy plover nesting areas in the County. Without their control of predators, you will see more and more articles in the paper about cougar, bear, elk, etc. in the cities. What will happen when that first person is killed by the "state's"/ODFW's wildlife?

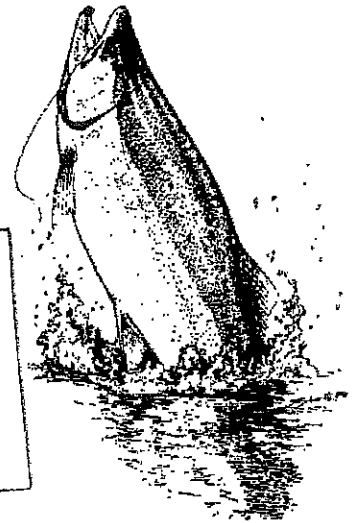
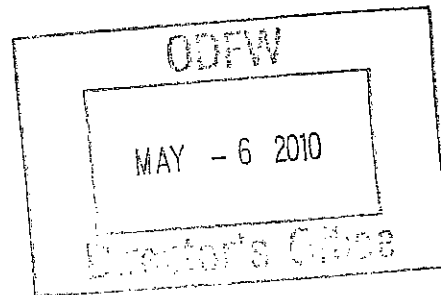
Thank you so much for your time. I appreciate your efforts on behalf of the natural resource industry and Coos County. I hope you all will attend one of these ODFW town hall meetings and will support a budget item to increase WS funding. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (541)347-3453.

Respectfully,

sharon waterman  
87518 Davis Creek Lane  
Bandon, Oregon 97411

# Oregon South Coast Fishermen

P. O. Box 2709 • Harbor, OR 97415



April 29, 2010

Mr. Roy Elicker, Director  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Ave, NE  
Salem, OR 97303

Dear Roy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Department Budget for the 2011-2013 biennium. The Oregon South Coast Fishermen (OSCF) have been long time partners with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) focused on the inventory and management of anadromous fish in southern Curry County.

Our organization would request funding for two seasonal employees to perform comprehensive creel surveys for winter steelhead on the Chetco River. We request the survey effort to establish an updated harvest baseline to inform expansion data applied to harvest tag returns and to help calibrate the accuracy of harvest tags and that this effort be the highest priority for these positions. The next priority would be to conduct spawning surveys on the Chetco and Winchuck Rivers to determine the spawning presence and density of Fall Chinook. We would further request that those seasonal employees participate in the combined effort of ODFW and OSCF to collect scale samples from Chinook in both watersheds. These efforts will contribute to the monitoring necessary to provide accurate, up to date data to better inform the fishing community about Chinook abundance and steelhead harvest in lieu of anecdotal interpretations of unsubstantiated "stream bank legends".

We request that a funding priority be attached to projects and programs necessary to successfully implement the Rogue SMU Fall Chinook management plan. This benchmark planning effort has involved a volunteer advisory committee, including a representative of our organization, who have contributed many hours over a two year period to help ODFW clearly articulate management goals and conservation objectives for coastal streams in southern Oregon. We view the completed plan as a commitment by the Department and we are adamant that the plan be fully implemented. Anything less than full implementation and monitoring could weaken public confidence in agency planning efforts and jeopardize future public involvement. We also believe that placing funding priority on completed plans will serve to stimulate additional planning efforts which are necessary to implement the Native Fish Conservation Policy.

We would suggest that in preparation for your budget presentations to the Commission and Legislature you include information on the growing agency deficit created by deferred maintenance and equipment purchases. We are particularly concerned with the potential of closing some hatcheries in order to save others. This is especially troubling to OSCF and other STEP groups because the State hatcheries not only produce fish for ODFW programs but are also integral to many STEP propagation projects. These hatcheries play a key role by holding eggs through various developmental stages or by providing fry and smolt based on the

individual project needs. OSCF is representative of many STEP groups in that we have invested nearly \$9,000 for a net pen designed to hold and imprint Chetco River smolt to an estuary tributary in an effort to improve in-river recreational fishing opportunity and to reduce upstream straying in compliance with the Native Fish Conservation Policy and Chetco River HGMP. In addition to the cash outlay for the net pen, we volunteer approximately 130 hours annually to support the net pen operation. The fish for our project are raised at the Elk River Hatchery. To eliminate the key support element for the volunteer effort and those STEP propagation projects represents a tremendous loss to Oregon's fishery resources and a loss of value to Oregon's citizens.

We are also concerned about the loss of field positions by both ODFW and the Oregon State Police Wildlife Division. Staff tenure in field positions is especially important because of the unique nature of these jobs. Both biologists and troopers require considerable specialized training and local area familiarization to become proficient. Biological events occur in annual cycles and employees must experience the variations in several cycles to be able to adequately evaluate population dynamics or public use patterns. Most areas of responsibility are large, often remote and most have access challenges, all contributing to an elevated learning curve. In addition, most customer service is provided in the field and developing productive relationships with landowners and stakeholders requires a considerable investment of time and travel. When a field position is vacated, it represents a substantial loss of investment of public funds that cannot be quickly or easily recouped if and when the position is eventually refilled. Spreading the responsibility to a smaller workforce will result in a significant reduction in productivity and efficiency. We know that you are working hard to retain field positions and we support that effort as good, cost effective agency and resource management.

We stand ready to help in any way we can as you progress through budget development and hearings and we wish you and ODFW success with this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Hobbs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Hobbs, President

cc. Rep. Wayne Krieger  
Russ Stauff  
Todd Confer  
John Weber

# Early Fishing, Inc.

Gary & Valarie Early

PO Box 1688  
Brookings, OR 97415  
541-469-0525  
FAX: 541-469-4643  
email: [val@earlyfishing.com](mailto:val@earlyfishing.com)

PO Box 753  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-262-6132  
FAX: 907-262-1523  
Website: <http://www.earlyfishing.com>

May 6, 2010

Mr. Roy Elicker, Director  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Ave, NE  
Salem, OR 97303

RE: ODFW Budget 2011-13

Dear Mr. Elicker:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed budget for the 2011-13 bienniums. As one of the leaders and representatives for the guides in the southern Oregon region we would like to offer comments relating to specific items in our region.

We would like to request funding for two seasonal employees to perform comprehensive creel surveys for winter steelhead on the Chetco River. We request the survey effort to establish an updated harvest baseline to inform expansion data applied to harvest tag returns and to help calibrate the accuracy of harvest tags and that this effort be the highest priority for these positions. Guides, as a group, are feeling this will be an important baseline for future regulations regarding native fish as well as hatchery propagation.

The next priority would be to conduct spawning surveys on the Chetco and Winchuck Rivers to determine the spawning presence and density of Fall Chinook. We would further request that those seasonal employees participate in the combined effort of ODFW and Oregon South Coast Fisherman to collect scale samples from Chinook in both watersheds. These efforts will contribute to the monitoring necessary to provide accurate, up to date data to better inform the fishing community about Chinook abundance and steelhead harvest. Having been involved, as a guide representative, with the planning efforts for the native fish policy for fall Chinook this will be of upmost importance in the future for providing accurate, scientifically based, data. We would also request that funding for implementation of the Rogue SMU plan be viewed with upmost importance to provide additional public confidence in these planning efforts for future fish populations.

We also support the efforts of Oregon South Coast fishermen to conduct and implement a CWT program for fall Chinook to help with the baseline data. We would request ODFW strongly consider funding of this project.

Many in the guide community are concerned with the increase in predation in our local streams. Without any hard data to support who the "real" predators are, many rumors abound. We would request that any funding requests to increase the knowledge about the predators be considered to help build some baseline data regarding activities affecting not only the salmon populations but steelhead and resident species as well.

We are very concerned with the lack of budget appropriated to ODFW and would suggest the agency impress upon the Commission and Legislature the importance of these projects for maintaining public confidence in the agency. Already we are seeing skepticism regarding the recent price hikes for licenses

- many people don't see the money benefiting the agency but rather the general budget for the state. This can only lead to a decrease in license sales as disillusionment, as well as apathy, takes hold. Another area of concern for many guides, as well as fishermen, in our region is the potential for closing some of the hatcheries in order to save others. We have a huge volunteer base in our region with groundbreaking partnerships formed with ODFW, the STEP groups and Oregon South Coast Fishermen. Our regional hatcheries are crucial to the STEP propagation projects as well as providing recreational and economic support to the fisheries.

Many in the guide community are willing to help with any and all planning projects and are involved with the Oregon South Coast Fishermen to support their projects. Additionally, direct support is provided by the guides to OSCF for many of these projects through our fund-raising efforts.

Our local ODFW office is able and willing to work with the groups important in our community to ensure the longevity of these fisheries. We applaud those who have helped to accomplish this partnership in the efforts to protect the importance of these fisheries to our local economies and to Oregon as a whole.

Sincerely,

Val Early

Gary Early

Cc Rep. Wayne Krieger  
Todd Confer, ODFW  
Russ Stauff

**Debbie L Colbert**

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**From:** Teri Kucera on behalf of Roy Elicker  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 1:39 PM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert; Stephen Williams; Curt Melcher  
**Subject:** FW: Kids Free Fishing Days.

Comments from a budget Town Hall meeting. – Teri Kucera

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**From:** WILLIAM LACKNER [mailto:williamlackner001@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 1:05 PM  
**To:** Roy Elicker; SAMUELS Jeff; Tim Josi  
**Cc:** Bill Morris; David and Sandi Randleman; Dean J. Fleck; Dean Nelson; Dr. Bauman; Dr. Michael Harris; VANMETER Heather.M; John Lackner; Leslee Parr; Allson Ma; Michael Ma; Jerald Lynch; Rick Klumph; Walt Summerton  
**Subject:** Kids Free Fishing Days.

Dear Roy, I would like to emphasize the points for supporting a Kids Free Fishing Weekend, a Kids Free Clam Digging Days and Free Kids Crabbing Weekend that were discussed somewhat at the budget meeting.

Introducing parents and their children to the recreational opportunity offered by fishing, clam digging and crabbing is the primary reason for sponsoring the Kids Free Fishing Events; however, the focus of the program is to provide ample opportunity for those new to fishing to learn while leaving those who choose to crab or dig clams left to their own devices.

The low tides usually associated with the Kids Free Fishing Weekend are usually marginal, however, the low tides that occur over the period of Kids Free Fishing Weekend for 2010 are ideal. We are recommending scheduling the Free Kids Clam Digging Days over the 2 days in June with the lowest tides of the month. We recommend ODFW and the OSP sponsor a series of free clam digging classes instructing kids, parents and interested adults the proper method and ethics for taking clams. Such a program would go a long way toward achieving compliance and respect for clam digging regulations by the clam digging community.

The male crabs common to Oregon's Bays begin molting during June

and crabbing is not as productive during periods with low spring tides such as will occur during Kids Free Fishing Weekend. We recommend scheduling the Kids Free Crabbing Weekend during a period on Neap tides in late September or early October. The most productive crabbing occurs during periods of Neap tides. Again we recommend ODFW and OSP sponsor a series of free classes instructing kids and interested adults the proper methods and crabbing ethics. Such a program would go a long way toward achieving compliance and respect for crabbing regulations and ethics.

There is an economic component that should be considered by expanding the Free Kids Fishing Weekend to include a Free Kids Clam Digging Day and a Free Kids Crabbing Weekend. Once implemented the Free Kids Crabbing and Fishing days would be a significant economic boost to coastal communities. FYI, our Clam Clinics have attracted participants from all across our marvelous country as well as thousands of Oregonians. Our program has had a positive influence on the people who have taken our classes. We do not see a downside to our suggestions. Thank You. Bill Lackner for the CDAO



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Contributions to ANWS are  
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# Association of Northwest Steelheaders

PO Box 22065 • 6641 SE Lake Road • Milwaukie OR 97269

503-653-4176 • fax 503-653-8769

www.nwsteelheaders.org

May 11, 2010

Re.: ODFW 2011-2013 Budget

Dear: Governor Kulongoski:

The Northwest Steelheaders was proud to be a participant in the External Budget Advisory Committee and the town halls around the state. We have participated in this process for over the past decade and feel the need to respond to the adverse trends taking place in natural resource agency budgets. The following comments are for consideration in the subsequent budget planning process.

We beseech the Governor and legislature to maintain ODFW's general fund allocation. It is important to point out that:

The department's general fund allocation has been repeatedly cut for at least the last decade;

As a result, the department has been forced to redistribute other funds to backfill the needs of programs originally funded by general funds;

This has diminished the department's ability to some extent in all program areas other than those protected by contract or legislation;

This has also created an unjust dependency on sport fees to provide services to the general public, agriculture, industry, development, and other interests. The Steelheaders know the importance of these programs and in the past showed a willingness to fund those efforts beyond the reasonable share of sport anglers. Our members are now saying "enough is enough"! Further general fund cuts will make this disparity worse;

Several legislators during the 2009 legislative session expressed that they understood the sport fee / general fund disparity and that natural resource funding in general is already drastically underfunded and promised to help start correcting this in the future; and

While very important to ODFW, whatever general fund dollars would be considered to be eliminated, would be a far less significant dollar amount for other agencies with much larger general fund distributions.

We ask in particular that programs enabling volunteer support for fish, wildlife, and habitat be kept whole. These funds are the most leveraged in the state, providing many fold benefit for the actual expenditure. It would be wise to expand these programs to the extent possible.

Should you have any question or comments, please contact either:

Bob Oleson

(503) 329-9528

[Boboleson@hotmail.com](mailto:Boboleson@hotmail.com)

Norm Ritchie

(503) 807-7729

[NormRitchie@q.com](mailto:NormRitchie@q.com)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jay Burris* N.R.

Jay Burris, President

Cc: Michael Carrier  
Marla Rae  
Roy Elicker  
Ed Bowles



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Division  
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May 13, 2010

Greetings,

As the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) representative in ODFW's EBAC process, I am submitting the following comments for consideration in the subsequent budget planning process.

The STAC and the STEP groups and individual volunteers the STAC members represent urge ODFW's internal leadership to implore the Governor and legislature to maintain ODFW's general fund allocation. It is important to point out that:

- The department's general fund allocation has been repeatedly cut for at least the last decade;
- As a result, the department has been forced to redistribute other funds to backfill the needs of programs originally funded by general funds;
- This has diminished the department's ability to some extent in all program areas other than those protected by contract or legislation;
- This has also created an unjust dependency on sport fees to provide services to the general public, agriculture, industry, development, and other interests. Sport anglers (and hunters) know the importance of these programs and in the past have expressed that importance in a willingness to fund those efforts beyond their reasonable share. They are now saying "enough is enough"! Further general fund cuts will make this disparity worse;
- Several legislators during the 2009 legislative session expressed that they understood the sport fee/general fund disparity and that natural resource funding in general is already drastically underfunded and promised to help start correcting this in the future; and
- While very important to ODFW, whatever general fund dollars would be considered to be eliminated, would be a far less significant dollar amount for other agencies with much larger general fund distributions.

In addition, the STAC would like to propose the following Policy Option Packages (POPs):

1. A new STEP Biologist FTE for the west side NWWD. A West Side District Fish Biologist was added about four years ago, but that position lacks the important STEP support. The whole district has only one STEP Biologist for two District Fish Biologists, to serve 60% of the angling public (based on license sales data). This is also the most complicated district for STEP activities because of its multi jurisdictional characteristics with multi state, federal, and tribal authorities in the region's fisheries. An additional STEP biologist would also be able to tap the state's largest potential volunteer force toward leveraging sparse funds for habitat restoration, monitoring, propagation, and education (including the 25 year angling plan).
2. A half FTE STEP Biologist for the Klamath District and a half FTE STEP Biologist for the La Grande District. There is currently only one STEP Biologist for the entire east side of the state. The travel requirements for this position are costly and time consuming, creating an inefficiency that in itself can offset in part the cost of these positions. The Klamath position is important because of the accelerating activity around the reintroduction of Salmon & Steelhead potentially through dam breaching or fish bypass in the lower Klamath River and water management changes for in stream needs. There is already increasing pressure on staff time for education. The La Grande position would be centered in the active restoration and enhancement efforts underway in the northeast corner of the state, including the Grand Ronde and Snake River drainage. This will allow the existing STEP Biologist to concentrate more on the Deschutes River Basin with the re-introduction of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout above Round Butte Dam.

Sincerely,

*Tod Jones* by N.Ritchie

Tod Jones, Chair,  
Salmon Trout Advisory Committee  
cell: (503) 791-9854  
email: [tod\\_j@hotmail.com](mailto:tod_j@hotmail.com)

**Debbie L Colbert**

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**From:** Teri Kucera on behalf of Roy Elicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 1:46 PM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Subject:** FW: Improving the fiscal accountability of the hatchery system  
**Attachments:** Radtke MAH Eval table 1 09.pdf; Radtke Econ Study Mitchell Act Hatchery 09.pdf

For your information. – Teri Kucera

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**From:** Jim/Kathleen Myron [mailto:myrons@canby.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:12 AM  
**To:** ed.bowles@state.or.us  
**Cc:** marlarae@marlarae.com; Roy Elicker; Curt Melcher; bruce.mcintosh@state.or.us; Bill Bakke  
**Subject:** Improving the fiscal accountability of the hatchery system

Ed:

Attached is some financial information that was developed recently for Mitchell Act hatcheries. This is the sort of information that the Native Fish Society would like to see you provide for all of your individual hatchery programs at the various facilities around the state. Providing the public with this information will help determine whether the recreational and commercial anglers and the state and federal taxpayers are getting a fair return on their investments in these programs. Having the cost/benefit information should also assist you in prioritizing which of your hatchery programs should be cut first to meet your budget reduction goals.

NFS will be advocating to legislative leadership and others that improving the fiscal accountability of the hatchery program is critical to the long-term health of your agency and the sustainability of the native fish resource itself. We hope you agree and will instruct your staff to immediately begin working to develop a process that will provide this important information on an annual basis for all of your artificial production programs.

Thanks,

Jim Myron for  
The Native Fish Society

*Revised, Hines Division Chief's Order, 1989, Summary Paper: Economic Effects  
of Small Smolt Production from Internal Mitchell Act Federal Hatcheries.*

Table 1  
Cost Per Smolt, Smolt Survival Rates, and Ratios for Cost Per Harvestable Adult and Cost per Direct Financial Value

Species	Smolt Production	Cost Per Smolt			Average SAR	Harvestable Adults	Harvestable Adult	Direct Financial Value Per Harvestable Adult	Cost to Harvest Value Ratio	
		Operation	Headquarters	Capital Total						
Fall Chinook	43,043,000	\$0.096	\$0.025	\$0.055	\$0.176	0.29%	125,068	\$61	\$49	1.2
Spring Chinook	3,881,120	\$0.596	\$0.154	\$0.337	\$1.087	0.46%	17,840	\$237	\$258	0.9
Coho	16,310,000	\$0.454	\$0.093	\$0.549	\$1.095	1.57%	256,098	\$56	\$42	1.3
Summer steelhead	794,000	\$1.301	\$0.353	\$0.914	\$2.568	1.16%	9,240	\$221	\$177	1.2
Winter steelhead	895,000	\$1.350	\$0.367	\$0.808	\$2.526	1.10%	9,882	\$229	\$179	1.3
Total	64,923,120						418,128	\$73	\$60	1.2

- Notes:
1. Average production costs are weighted averages based on baseline condition agency release strategies.
  2. Smolts are from MA funded hatchery production for baseline conditions.
  3. Average SARs are across brood years representative of the early 2000's.
  4. The operation costs include maintenance costs, but do not include estimated hatchery facility construction costs. The annualized estimated construction facility costs are adjusted by the ENR Construction Cost Index to 2007 and use the Bonneville Power Administration annual amortization method.
  5. External costs are included in the operation costs. External costs for agencies not funded with MA funds that receive fish for rearing and acclimation from MA hatcheries include estimated headquarter costs. External smolt production is the internal production and transferred to other hatcheries for final rearing and liberation. An example is Bonneville Hatchery complex coho transferred to the Select Area Fisheries Enhancement Project (SAFE) program for acclimation to sustain a terminal fishery.
  6. The basis for the harvestable adult cost ratio are harvests in commercial, recreational, and treaty fisheries plus escapements to hatchery returns and spawning ground straying.
  7. Direct financial value is commercial harvest value plus recreational fishing expenditures. Commercial harvest value includes tribal and non-Indian fisheries ex-vessel revenue, and hatchery surplus market sales. Recreational spending is based on catch (retained fish). Total expenditures are the calculated amount of fish catch times success rate (days per fish) times angler spending per day. The calculated amount does not include fixed costs for angling, such as boats, rods, etc.

## **Summary Paper**

# **Economic Effects and Social Implications From Federal Mitchell Act Funded Hatcheries**

prepared by:

Hans D. Radtke and Chris N. Carter  
Natural Resource Economists

prepared for:

Native Fish Society

September 2009

## Introduction

An economic effects and social implication discussion about Columbia River Basin federal Mitchell Act (MA) funded fish hatcheries was developed by The Research Group, Corvallis, Oregon (TRG).<sup>1</sup> Bill Bakke, Executive Director for the Native Fish Society, asked Hans Radtke and Chris Carter, who were technical advisors on TRG study, to summarize TRG's findings. This summary paper is written to minimize economic terminology and methodological descriptions so as to make it understandable to a wide audience of reader backgrounds.

TRG collected baseline condition data from hatchery program managers that detailed hatchery operations, administration, and facility capital costs. Relationships between the cost data for raising smolts and the number of harvestable adults surviving were developed.<sup>2</sup> Economic returns were calculated to show benefits from fisheries and benefits to communities where hatchery operations and administration are located. The economic returns calculations included three economic measurements: direct financial value,<sup>3</sup> net economic value (NEV), and regional economic impacts (REI). The NEV was then used in a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) framework. In addition to the hatchery production and resulting economic effect descriptions, TRG also discussed some social implications of the MA funded hatchery operations.<sup>4</sup>

While TRG report has a wealth of other descriptions, this summary paper will center on descriptions for production cost per released smolt and harvestable adult, REI measurements for fisheries and hatchery operations, and the BCA results. The estimated NEV used in the BCA is for commercial harvest and recreational fishing activities. Budgets for various vessel categories involved in harvesting and budgets for processing firms involved in manufacturing primary salmon products are used to develop the commercial active use NEV estimates. The NEV for recreational fisheries relies on recent literature findings. Other benefits not measured by harvesting, such as passive use NEV, were not included in the BCA equations.<sup>5</sup> The costs used in the BCA were solely hatchery production costs.

BCA can provide useful information. BCA results may be added to the usual political and social considerations for an activity to examine any alternative's economic efficiency standing. In contrast, REI provides estimates of the activity effects on regional economies using such aggregate measures as jobs and total personal income.<sup>6</sup> The REI information is usually very important to people in a region because funding for the activity is viewed as new money coming from outside the area. This regional point of view is in contrast to the BCA which is from a national accounting stance.

### **Background**

There were 18 MA supported hatchery complexes existing at the time of the investigation. The basis of the funding support for these hatcheries is to mitigate for lost salmon and steelhead natural production that came about from Columbia River dam construction and other water and land developments. The hatchery production objectives are to augment remaining natural production for the benefit of fisheries. About \$11.5 million out of the \$16 million of MA appropriations are provided annually to state (Oregon and Washington) fisheries agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and treaty tribes for hatchery operations.<sup>7</sup>

Total smolt production by all Columbia River Basin hatcheries in the early 2000's was about 136 million, which is about half of all hatchery and wild production (IEAB 2005). The estimated production of hatcheries wholly or partially funded by the MA in recent years is about 65 million smolts. Harvest contributions from all Columbia River Basin production is more than three-quarters hatchery production in recent years. This is due to fishery management attempts using fish mark selective fisheries, avoidance, and other techniques to reduce impacts on adults from natural production origins.

Columbia River commercial, tribal, and recreational fisheries are of major economic importance in Pacific Northwest states. Due to the migratory behavior of Pacific salmon

and steelhead, fish originating in the Columbia River also contribute to distant water fisheries. For example, a significant proportion of the Chinook catch in southeast Alaska and British Columbia salmon fisheries are from the Columbia River. The U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty adjusts allocations between countries, depending on production origin abundances.

Hatchery operations are receiving close study because of their potential impacts to wild runs. Once thought to be straightforward, using hatchery production for mitigating lost habitat due to dam construction has given way to scientific findings about their adverse impacts (NRC 1996, Levin and Williams 2002, Araki et al. 2007, and Buhle et al. 2009). There is even evidence that salmon enhancement programs on their own, i.e. having objectives not associated with mitigation, provide no net gain to harvests through displacement of productivity in wild-spawners (ISG 1996).

Hatcheries have been referred to as a foolish bargain (Walters 1996). More recently, Naish et al. (2008) discusses hatchery production in context with the political response to societal demands for salmon and steelhead harvest and conservation. They found that economic analysis rarely plays a role in decision making for that response. They conclude that knowledge gaps may have prevented that information being generated in the past, but suggest that future political responses need not be made in ignorance of economic implications.

Several hatchery review projects have been completed or are underway in the Pacific Northwest to determine ways hatcheries can operate to reduce impacts to wild spawners. The approach used in the State of Washington started in 1999 was directed by Congress in 2005 for application to the entire Columbia River Basin. This review is called the Columbia River Basin Hatchery Reform Project and \$3 million was appropriated by Congress for NOAA Fisheries to undertake the review. The process has been completed and final recommendations can be found at: <http://www.hatcheryreform.us>. Economics was not explicitly used as criteria to decide on the final recommendations.

### **Inputs Into the Economic Analysis**

It is essential to determine the costs of producing salmon and steelhead for the economic analysis modeling. Typically, costs can be separated into the following categories:

- Operations and maintenance (O&M) costs.
- Indirect costs.
- Capital costs (facility construction and new equipment purchases necessary to change operation practices and or expand production).

O&M costs typically refer to those variable costs that pertain directly to the day to day operations of hatcheries and often includes annual maintenance costs to keep the hatchery operable. Indirect costs typically refer to overhead costs, administrative costs, headquarters costs and the like. The treatment of capital costs deserves some special attention when a BCA is conducted on hatchery development. Original facility construction costs may sometimes be considered "sunk costs," particularly if the hatchery was built 20 or 30 years ago, or last had major modifications that long ago. However, decisions made today that have long term cost implications for the future should consider all relevant costs, including capital construction costs. Because Columbia River Basin hatcheries are being reviewed for long term policy changes in terms of their contribution to harvest and their impact on salmon recovery, the consideration for including all relevant costs is meaningful.

MA funded hatchery system outcomes, such as harvest benefits, depend on production and ecosystem conditions over which agencies may have no control. These conditions affect the smolt survival rate (SAR).<sup>8</sup> While not yet fully understood on an ecosystem basis, ocean conditions appear to strongly influence SAR.

A hatchery consequence model was used for determining estimates of harvests and hatchery returns.<sup>9</sup> The hatchery model uses early 2000's broodstock SAR and recent

years' ocean and river harvest exploitation rates. The hatchery consequence model's output was adapted to reflect actual 2006-2007 agency hatchery production. The marine fisheries harvests were assigned to economic regions corresponding to available economic models for use in the economic analysis.<sup>10</sup>

### **Analysis Results**

The economic analysis results are provided for production costs and three measurements of economic returns. One economic return measurement is direct financial value, the value that a commercial harvester receives (usually called ex-vessel value) or that a recreational angler spends per fish. Another is a benefit-cost comparison of a measurement for generated net economic value to the costs of hatchery production. The third is a measurement of income and resulting employment that may be created from harvesting and producing salmonids at the MA funded hatcheries.

Hatchery costs generally depend on the size of smolts at release. Fall Chinook, which are usually reared at a size of 30 and up per pound depending on whether they are up-river bright or tule stocks, average \$0.176 per smolt, spring Chinook and coho are usually released at 10 to 15 per pound which cost about \$1.09 per smolt, and steelhead which are released at larger sizes at six to the pound cost about \$2.55 per smolt to produce (Table 1). The total hatchery cost per harvestable adult ranged from \$56 for coho to \$229 for winter steelhead with an overall average cost per harvestable adult for all species of \$73. For all species, total hatchery costs exceeded the economic returns using measurements for direct financial value by a ratio of 1.2. That means that overall it costs \$73 to produce a salmon for which \$60 is received by a commercial fisherman and what a recreational angler spends. The only species production that is less than one is spring Chinook at 0.9, which is a reflection of its higher commercial harvest price and its recreational angling attraction.

The production costs of the 65 million MA hatchery releases is estimated to be \$30.4 million (including MA funding, other funding resources, and annualized capital costs). The benefits as measured in this paper are estimated to be \$18.9 million annually. The BCA analysis resulted in a minus \$11.5 million calculation under baseline SAR's with annualized capital construction costs included (Table 2).

When the assumption is made that hatchery costs are paid from money originating outside the study region, then resulting income and employment in the Pacific Northwest Region is considerable as measured by REI. The contributions are in those economies where the hatchery produced adults are caught, including Alaska, British Columbia, and ocean and river regions in Washington and Oregon; and, where hatcheries and administration services are located. The annual MA funding for hatchery operations and administration generate about \$50.3 million in regional personal income which translates to 1,400 full and part-time jobs (Figure 1). About 46 percent is from fishery related effects and business use of marketable surplus hatchery returns. The other 54 percent are contributions made in local economies from hatchery operations and administration. The fisheries and operations contributions are especially important to rural economies dependent on fisheries and/or where hatchery operations occur.

### **Discussion of Analysis Results**

The negative BCA calculation of a minus \$11.5 million for hatchery production is not unusual. Carter (1999) found, for example, that coastal Oregon COH hatchery production SAR's of at least 1.7 percent coupled with selective retention management would be needed to generate positive BCA. Oregon Coast hatcheries rarely attain this SAR level. For example, the Bandon Hatchery located along the southern Oregon Coast had fallen below the level in three out of six years for the 1995-2000 brood years and the Salmon River Hatchery on the northern Oregon Coast did not attain that level in any of those same brood years. Caudill (2002) reported the economic contributions and hatchery costs for four mid-Columbia River USFWS hatcheries. An extension of that

information can be interpreted to show a negative BCA for the USFWS hatcheries. Pearse (1994) studied the British Columbia hatchery system. The BCA results varied widely at the individual hatchery level, but overall generated a 0.6 benefit to cost ratio. The author provided additional investment strategy information by dropping past capital cost expenditures and the benefit to cost ratio rose to 1.6. Boyce et al. (1993) raised similar BCA questions by studying several alternatives for the operation of the Alaska Salmon Enhancement Program.

The calculation of BCA is dependent on the highly variable SAR parameter and assumptions about cost accounting policies. An uncertainty analysis using ranges for the economic modeling parameters shows that when smolt-to-adult survival rates are increased 60 percent over the modeling baseline conditions, then the benefit-cost analysis moves into a positive range. Also, when cost accounting definitions exclude administration and management and/or facility capital costs, measurements of economic returns also move towards a positive range. Making these accounting assumptions would not be sound policy when considering long run public investment strategies. Centralized administration and management of hatcheries is not a discretionary cost item given the management complexities and interrelationships with ecosystem conservation obligations. Annualized capital costs not only represent the costs of the past construction, but also life cycle replacement costs that will be necessary in the future.

It is not argued that the hatcheries should operate with a positive benefit-cost calculation. They were built and operate to mitigate in a much more involved economic and social context. The usefulness of such a measurement can be to show economic efficiencies in different hatchery production or operation alternatives and/or to decide on alternative means for accomplishing the same objectives to sustain fisheries. It is a comparative tool that can provide insight into the existing baseline condition effects and relative magnitude and direction of economic changes associated with hatchery operation and practices changes.

Economists have defined and occasionally measured values associated with the simple existence of natural fish populations. The value is reckoned as the amount that people (counted appropriately) would be willing to pay to assure the existence of a fish stock, or to pay for a specified increase in the fish stock. The valuations are important for bringing into perspective market and non-market active use values, such as commercial and sport fishing as compared to the non-market, passive use values. Policy discussions about continuing or refining artificial propagation whose purpose is to support fisheries need to consider society's comparative importance on the continued existence of natural origin salmon and steelhead stocks.

TRG report used other study results to determine the passive use value of adult returns during baseline conditions for natural salmon and steelhead populations at risk from the MA funded hatcheries. The selected at risk populations were all of the natural populations that are found in the same subbasins where the MA funded hatchery smolt releases occur. Even though the adult natural returns were only about one-seventh the hatchery returns in these subbasins, the passive use value was par with the net economic value of hatchery stocks. TRG study only discusses and does not quantify possible damages caused by hatchery production on natural stocks.

Social implications were qualitatively discussed using indicators for income distribution, quality of life, local government fiscal conditions, and cultural effects. The discussions are an interpretation for how changing hatchery operations may disproportionately affect socio-economic groups using federal environmental justice criteria. The interpretations are based on a methodological approach to answer the contentious question for fair distribution of environmental burdens and benefits. It is not a surprise that American Indian ethnicity in certain geographic areas are a socio-economic group particularly vulnerable to hatchery system changes. Given the group's thousands of years of life dependency on Columbia River fish resources, an analysis of hatchery production and practices changes may more appropriately be analyzed from a pre-hatchery system condition rather than a status quo condition. This finding is particularly apropos to current policy considerations for MA funded hatcheries because of the drastic alteration

in natural origin salmon and steelhead populations caused by the initial MA funded hatchery system. The initial hatchery system development was designed to and accomplished by moving natural origin populations lost to upstream hydropower development to lower river hatchery production.

These economic analyses and social implication discussions should prove useful in understanding the effects from hatcheries whose purpose is fishery augmentation. While not addressed in this study, an analytical extension using the information would be to assess the tradeoffs between changing hatchery production and practices and the recovery and improvement in natural stocks through habitat enhancements, passage improvements, and harvest management decisions.

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Table 1  
 Cost Per Smolt, Smolt Survival Rates, and Ratios for Cost Per Harvestable Adult and Cost per Direct Financial Value

Species	Smolt		Cost Per Smolt		Average		Cost Per		Direct Financial		Cost to	
	Production	Operation	Headquarters	Capital	Total	SAR	Harvestable	Harvestable	Value Per	Harvestable	Adult	Value Ratio
Fall Chinook	43,043,000	\$0.096	\$0.025	\$0.055	\$0.176	0.29%	125,068	\$61	\$49			1.2
Spring Chinook	3,881,120	\$0.596	\$0.154	\$0.337	\$1.087	0.46%	17,840	\$237	\$258			0.9
Coho	16,310,000	\$0.454	\$0.093	\$0.549	\$1.095	1.57%	256,098	\$56	\$42			1.3
Summer steelhead	794,000	\$1.301	\$0.353	\$0.914	\$2.568	1.16%	9,240	\$221	\$177			1.2
Winter steelhead	895,000	\$1.350	\$0.367	\$0.808	\$2.526	1.10%	9,882	\$229	\$179			1.3
Total	64,923,120						418,128	\$73	\$60			1.2

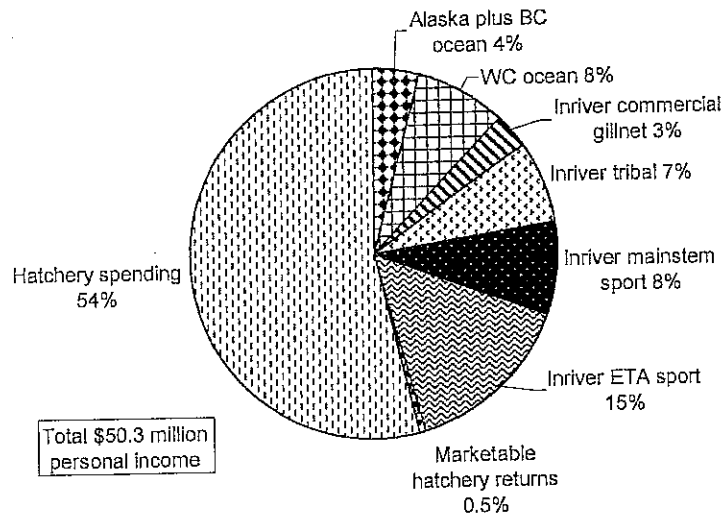
- Notes:
1. Average production costs are weighted averages based on baseline condition agency release strategies.
  2. Smolts are from MA funded hatchery production for baseline conditions.
  3. Average SAR's are across brood years representative of the early 2000's.
  4. The operation costs include maintenance costs, but do not include estimated hatchery facility construction costs. The annualized estimated construction facility costs are adjusted by the ENR Construction Cost Index to 2007 and use the Bonneville Power Administration annual amortization method.
  5. External costs are included in the operation costs. External costs for agencies not funded with MA funds that receive fish for rearing and acclimation from MA hatcheries include estimated headquarter costs. External smolt production is the internal production transferred to other hatcheries for final rearing and liberation. An example is Bonneville Hatchery complex coho transferred to the Select Area Fisheries Enhancement Project (SAFE) program for acclimation to sustain a terminal fishery.
  6. The basis for the harvestable adult cost ratio are harvests in commercial, recreational, and treaty fisheries plus escapements to hatchery returns and spawning ground straying.
  7. Direct financial value is commercial harvest value plus recreational fishing expenditures. Commercial harvest value includes tribal and non-Indian fisheries ex-vessel revenue, and hatchery surplus market sales. Recreational spending is based on catch (retained fish). Total expenditures are the calculated amount of fish catch times success rate (days per fish) times angler spending per day. The calculated amount does not include fixed costs for angling, such as boats, rods, etc.

Table 2  
Benefits From Fisheries and Marketable Hatchery Returns and  
Hatchery Production Costs by Species

Species	Smolt Releases	Production Cost (\$000's)	Harvest and Hatchery Returns NEV (\$000's)				Total	Net Benefits (\$000's)
			Commercial	Treaty Commercial	Recreational	Hatchery Returns		
Fall Chinook	43,043,000	\$7,592	\$714	\$309	\$2,694	\$48	\$3,765	-\$3,827
Spring Chinook	3,881,120	\$4,220	\$50	\$106	\$3,419	\$6	\$3,582	-\$638
Coho	16,310,000	\$14,251	\$474	\$187	\$8,001	\$28	\$8,690	-\$5,562
Summer steelhead	794,000	\$2,039	\$0	\$9	\$1,354	\$1	\$1,364	-\$675
Winter steelhead	<u>895,000</u>	<u>\$2,260</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,478</u>	<u>\$1</u>	<u>\$1,479</u>	<u>-\$782</u>
Total	64,923,120	\$30,363	\$1,239	\$611	\$16,946	\$84	\$18,879	-\$11,484

- Notes: 1. Production costs include MA funding, other funding sources used at hatcheries where MA funding occurs, and estimated capital costs.  
2. The net economic value (NEV) includes active use effects from all Columbia River inland, U.S. West Coast, Alaska, and British Columbia harvesting and processing regions. NEV does not include passive use valuations.

Figure 1  
Regional Economic Impacts From Ocean and Inriver Fisheries, Business Use of  
Marketable Hatchery Returns, and Hatchery Operations and Administration Spending



- Notes: 1. Regional economic impacts (REI) measurement is total personal income in thousands of 2007 dollars.  
2. Ocean fisheries include commercial, recreational, and tribal.

## Endnotes

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1. TRG was retained by NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Regional Office in 2007 to provide initial economic analysis professional services for the development of a draft economic impact statement (EIS). The EIS purpose is to provide information for policy decisions about the funding and operation of Mitchell Act supported hatcheries. Additional information about the draft EIS purpose can be found at: <http://www.mwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/Hatcheries/Mitchell-Act-EIS.cfm>. Another economic consulting business was subsequently retained to complete the EIS alternatives' economic analysis. Hans D. Radtke was an advisor to TRG. Dr. Radtke is a consulting professional natural resource economist who lives in Yachats, Oregon. Dr. Chris N. Carter (professional economist recently retired from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) was also an advisor to TRG.
2. Harvestable adults are fish catch plus hatchery returns and straying to wild spawning grounds.
3. A common harvest measurement is direct financial value. The value is sometimes called transaction value and is the addition of commercial harvest value (or ex-vessel value) and recreational trip expenditures. This measurement is simply an economic activity indicator.
4. The hatchery production data and economic modeling methods are fully described in TRG report. A large number of literature references were included in that report for the convenience of the reader wishing to pursue a broader and deeper understanding of the economic analyses of fish hatcheries. A few of the more pertinent literature references are repeated in this paper.
5. In this summary paper, estimated NEV's are reported for active uses like commercial and recreational fishing activities. NEV's can also be estimated not only for active uses like fishing and even viewing fish, but also for "passive uses" like people being willing to pay to preserve natural fish runs. Economists have defined passive use values to include many different value categories, the most prominent being existence values. The passive use values were not included in the BCA quantifications because of definition, method, and measurement challenges. However, it is important to note their applicability because conceptually they are an economic rationale for preservationist laws such as the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
6. Total personal income includes not only the direct effects of the fishing industry and hatchery operations, but also the indirect and induced effects that follow as a result. Economic input/output (I/O) models are used to estimate the REI from fish production changes and to calculate the contributions of an industry to a regional economy. The REI estimates are based on the simplifying assumptions that all hatchery costs are paid from federal funds originating from outside the regions, and that there are no active use substitution activities.
7. In addition to hatchery funding, MA appropriations are used for other fish resource protection programs, like funding the construction and maintenance of existing water diversion fish screens and fishways.
8. SAR is the ratio of smolts released divided by the number of fish harvested plus the number of fish returning to the hatchery and straying to spawning grounds.
9. The consequence model is titled the All-H-Analyzer (AHA) Model by its authors (Mobrاند/Jones & Stokes). The model was used by the congressionally-established Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) to allow managers to explore potential outcomes of strategies of balancing hatcheries, harvest, habitat and hydroelectric system constraints (HSRG 2009). Harvests in the AHA Model are estimated for marine and in river fisheries. An add-on harvest model used coded wire tag (CWT) recovery information and West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska port landings to allocate the marine catch.
10. For any particular mix of species, liberation size, and passage circumstances; and, the environmental conditions faced by the released smolts, about one-quarter to one-third that survive to adults are returns to hatcheries or strays to spawning grounds. In recent years, only about 10 to 15 percent of the returns to hatcheries are needed for broodstock. About 25 percent of the returns are sold as marketable food fish (manufactured product can be smoked fish, rendering for protein meal, etc.) and the rest of the disposition is used for stream enhancement, buried, given to food banks, or other disposal means.

**Debbie L Colbert**

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**From:** Teri Kucera  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010 8:26 AM  
**To:** Roy Elicker; Curt Melcher; Debbie L Colbert  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comments from the Web, Attn: Roy Elicker, Revenue

Suggestion regarding raising revenue.

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**From:** ODFW Comments  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** Teri Kucera  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comments from the Web, Attn: Roy Elicker, Revenue

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**From:** Rebecca Walker [mailto:walkerfamily21@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2010 7:23 AM  
**To:** odfw.comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Public Comments from the Web, Attn: Roy Elicker, Revenue

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

Topic: Other  
Name: James Walker  
E-mail: [walkerfamily21@msn.com](mailto:walkerfamily21@msn.com)

Comment: I would like to thank-you for starting the Juvenile Sports Pac, it helps keep the fishing and hunting family traditions alive. I have one suggestion that could help with your revenue and our pocket books. Start offering next year a license for point savers only, at a reduced rate ( \$10 ). I personally have a child attending college next year and she won't be able to go big game hunting for the next 4+ years. The cost would be to great to keep trying add to her points if I had to get a regular license, that would not be used. This would also help the military, someone out of country, and anyone that may have an health issue during that year. It is money you would not be receiving otherwise.

Thank you for your time,  
James Walker



**Debbie L Colbert**

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**From:** Jim/Kathleen Myron [myrons@canby.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:25 AM  
**To:** marlarae@marlarae.com  
**Cc:** Roy Elicker; Curt Melcher; Debbie L Colbert  
**Subject:** Thoughts from our conversation

Marla:

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with me last week to talk about ODFW and its budget. Here are a few follow-up thoughts about our conversation.

Oregon Wildlife Policy ORS 496.012

You mentioned that you carry around with you a copy of the seven co-equal goals of wildlife management articulated in the policy and that many of the commission's decisions involve balancing these sometimes conflicting goals. I agree with your assessment about these goals. However, it needs to be kept in mind that the goals are meant to carry out the policy itself, which directs the department and commission to manage fish and wildlife "to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations..." of Oregonians. On a number of occasions, the Attorney General has advised the agency that its overriding obligation is to prevent the depletion of native fish and wildlife. If the resource isn't conserved first, there may be little, if any, opportunity to utilize that resource. Therefore, the conservation of native species must be clearly stated as the department's primary mission.

The agency's budget should clearly reflect this primary mission, not only in the narrative for the budget, but also in how resources are allocated. That does not seem to be the case, at least in the information that has been provided to the EBAC. Most of the focus seems to be on protecting the "core programs" of the agency as determined by public comments over the years. Those "core programs" include agency field staff, enforcement, hatchery operations, wildlife damage control and providing fishing and hunting opportunities. Conservation has not been mentioned as a core program of the agency and many of the existing conservation programs do not rank very high in the prioritization that was provided to the 2009 Legislature. The Native Fish Society is hopeful that the current review of the agency's priorities will reflect a much more pronounced effort toward conservation and carrying out the commission's primary mission of conserving the native fish and wildlife resources of the state.

With regard to the allocation of limited general fund dollars within the agency, NFS believes that these dollars should be directed to programs within the agency that benefit the public at large, not specific resource users. Programs that should have GF dollars allocated to them include programs that protect and restore native species, the wildlife diversity program and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The hatchery program is an example of a program that should be funded with fees from recreational and commercial anglers, the groups that benefit directly from the hatchery program.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet. Please let me know if you have any questions about these additional thoughts.

Jim Myron for  
The Native Fish Society  
503.819.5589





**Native Fish Society**

PO Box 568/103 S. Molalla Ave.  
Molalla, OR 97038  
503-829-6202  
nativefishsociety@molalla.net

*The Voice for Native Fish*

Conserving biological diversity of native fish and protecting their habitats

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May 27, 2010

Memo to: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Subject: The Oregon Hatchery Accountability Project  
From: Jim Myron, Contract Lobbyist

The attached document contains a proposal from the Native Fish Society for a Hatchery Accountability Project that would be completed as part of the process of developing the 2011/13 budget for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We would anticipate that the information developed by this analysis of Oregon's hatchery program would be provided to the governor and the Oregon Legislature as part of the process that will lead to the approval of the department's next budget. Please consider directing the agency to begin developing this information as part of the ongoing budget development process.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this proposal or if you need any additional information about the plan.

Jim Myron for  
The Native Fish Society  
503.819.5589  
myrons@canby.com

## THE OREGON HATCHERY ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

### A MORE ECOLOGICALLY AND FISCALLY SOUND APPROACH TO MANAGING OREGON'S HATCHERIES

#### Background

Oregon operates a fish hatchery system statewide that includes several dozen separate facilities. These facilities produce millions of salmon, steelhead and trout each year for release into the waters of the state to support commercial and recreational fisheries. The annual cost to operate the state hatchery system is about \$24 million, with the bulk of the funding coming from the federal government. Commercial and recreational license revenues contribute most of the rest, except for just over \$2 million from the state general fund (Oregon taxpayers). The cost of the hatchery program is projected to increase by another \$2 million in the 2011/13 biennium.

#### Proposed Action

The Native Fish Society is seeking a way to provide more fiscal and ecological accountability in the operation of Oregon's hatchery system. This need is even more acute now with the recently announced declines in the state general fund. Our proposal would have the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife complete a cost/benefit analysis for each of its separate hatchery programs in order to help determine the risks of these programs to native species and to help prioritize individual hatchery operations as reductions in these program occur. This analysis would be based upon the following criteria:

- What is the return on investment in terms of fish caught in commercial and recreational fisheries?
- Are the angling opportunities provided commensurate with the investment?
- What are the environmental risks and costs associated with each hatchery program?

The first place to begin with this analysis would be those hatchery programs that a) seem overly expensive b) only serve small segments of the angling community or c) have a high risk of adversely affecting native fish and wildlife populations. Examples of such programs include:

1. The Atlantic salmon stocking program
2. The Cascade lakes brook trout stocking program
3. Trout stocking in flowing waters
4. The Willamette basin summer steelhead program
5. Programs that utilize non-native or introduced fish stocks
6. The transfer of anadromous salmonids among watersheds

#### Conclusion

The Native Fish Society believes that the information provided by this Hatchery Accountability Project will provide ODFW, the governor and the Oregon Legislature with valuable tools to use in assuring that Oregon's fish hatchery program is operated in the public interest for the long-term benefit and health of our native fish and wildlife populations consistent with the Oregon Wildlife Policy (ORS496.012).

**Colleen R Munson**

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**From:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2010 3:03 PM  
**To:** Colleen R Munson  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

Comment for the commission packet.

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**From:** CHUCK SMITH [mailto:csmith5147@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2010 9:11 PM  
**To:** debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us  
**Subject:** RE: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

Debbie

In response to your recent E-mail about the budget cuts I believe these guidelines should be included in the decision process.

1. Those programs paid for with general funds should be cut first to the extent general funds are used
2. Administration cost should drop at least the same percentage as the overall budget.
3. A high priority program may include a low priority component which should be cut. An example would be a low priority hatchery in the propagation program.
4. We should do everything possible to cut wildlife programs when the fund shortage is there & the same on the fish side.
5. Non-funded mandates should also be given a good deal of scrutiny in tough times. Those paying for services should be given priority over non revenue generating programs.

If you have any questions please call me at 541-779-5147.  
 Chuck Smith

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**Subject:** ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs  
**Date:** Wed, 23 Jun 2010 18:32:53 -0700  
**From:** debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us  
**To:** acmeeker@verizon.net; alanu@deschutes.org; alelkins@att.net; aney@coho.net; art.ayre@state.or.us; boboleson@hotmail.com; bpettinger@ortrawl.net; brad@wildrogue.com; brucebuckmaster@charter.net; bsallinger@audubonportland.org; btaylor@defenders.org; csmith5147@msn.com; damaro@budget.net; daniel.edge@oregonstate.edu; davewiley@wvi.com; diane@usendowment.org; ghouston@hevanet.com; hnjarvis@msn.com; jackfish4u@yahoo.com; jgibbs@lrtc.com; jim@markee.org; jimy@oregoncoast.com; kari@travelanecounty.org; katie@oregonfb.org; ken@muledeer.org; marlarae@marlarae.com; mathers@bendnet.com; matt@markee.org; mike@ofic.com; mlabhart@co.tillamook.or.us; morgan@co.douglas.or.us; myrons@canby.com; nevans@tnc.org; nick@oregondungeness.org; njf@class.orgeonvos.net; norbert.hartmann@iinet.com; normritchie@q.com; paul.r.siebert@state.or.us; portman@portofnewport.com; rgilman804@comcast.net; rjhaines64@msn.com; rodharder@comcast.net; rohleder@teleport.com; sallen@pewtrusts.org; seafood@integra.net; shawn@millerpublicaffairs.com; smcclelland@forestcap.com; starrcs@peak.org; steve@fishhawkfisheries.com; tandjlearned@yahoo.com; tim@owhf.org; tmlowolf@msn.com; trey@bdcadvertising.com; ttompson@co.lincoln.or.us  
**CC:** roy.ellicker@state.or.us

EBAC,

I am attaching our draft 2011-13 Program Priorities and Reductions and Policy Option Packages (POPs) for your input.

As we discussed at our last EBAC meeting, the state is facing significant shortfalls in General Fund (GF) and Lottery Funds (LF) in the next biennium. As a result, state agencies have to prepare 5%, 10%, and 15% reduction scenarios for GF and LF to submit with their Agency Requested Budget.

To do this, we started by listing and prioritizing our existing programs – our intent is to take reductions in our lowest priority programs. We also used our program priorities to rank our draft Policy Option Packages (POPs).

In ranking our programs, we looked to our statutes and considered what we've heard from you and the public at our townhall meetings.

The attached spreadsheet shows the programs ranked from highest priority to lowest priority. The proposed GF/LF reductions are listed with an explanation of how the reduction or shift to Other Funds or Federal Funds would occur. Note that we did not include any fund shifts onto Other Fund – general license dollars. This is consistent with our goal to make the fee increase last six years.

We are very interested in your feedback on these lists as we prepare for our Commission presentation on July 16 at 1 pm in Salem.

If you would like to submit written comments on the draft materials, you can send those to me by email (by June 30 so I can include them in my Commission packet).

You can also drop by anytime between **10 am to noon for our EBAC Open House on Monday, June 28** (Grouse Conference Room – check in at reception). We will be on hand to walk through the materials, answer any questions you have, and take your input.

As always, I want to thank you for your help in developing our budget. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Debbie

Debbie Colbert  
Deputy Director for Administration  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303  
(503) 947-6031  
[debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us](mailto:debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us)

**Jolleen R Munson**

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**From:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 8:52 AM  
**To:** Colleen R Munson  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs  
**Attachments:** Business Card.pdf; Hatchery Accountability Project FAQ.doc; Hatchery Accountability Project news release 060810.doc; Hatchery Accountability Project.doc

For commission packet  
 Thanks

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**From:** Jim/Kathleen Myron [mailto:myrons@canby.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 7:55 AM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Cc:** Bill Bakke; Russell Bassett; tom; pjtronquet@aol.com  
**Subject:** Re: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

6.28.10

To: Debbie Colbert, ODFW Deputy Director for Administration

Debbie:

In addition to the previous proposal to establish the Oregon Hatchery Accountability Project, the Native Fish Society would like to encourage the commission to focus the department's remaining general fund appropriations on programs that benefit the public in general, not any particular user group. Programs that fit into that definition include the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the Wildlife Diversity Program and the conservation programs within both the Fish and Wildlife Divisions. Programs like the propagation program should be funded by the commercial and recreational fishing interests who benefit directly from these programs, not by the general public, even if it means using some of the license fund ending balance earlier than anticipated.

Please include this suggestion in your Commission Packet along with the attached documents about the hatchery accountability project.

Thanks,

Jim Myron, Lobbyist  
 The Native Fish Society  
 503.819.5589

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Debbie L Colbert  
**To:** Tony Meeker ; Allen Unger ; Al Elkins ; Warren Aney ; Art Ayre ; Bob Oleson ; Brad Pettinger ; Brad Niva ; Bruce Buckmaster ; Bob Sallinger ; Bruce Taylor ; Chuck Smith ; Lonnie Johnson ; Dan Edge ; Dave Wiley ; Diane Snyder ; George Houston ; Hedge Jarvis ; Jack Glass ; Jake Gibbs ; Jim Markee ; Jim Young ; Kari Westlund ; Katie Fast ; Ken Hand ; Marla Rae ; Steve Mathers ; Matt Markee ; Mike Dykzeul ; Mark Laphart ; Susan Morgan ; Jim Myron ; Nan Evans ; Nick Furmen ; Nancy Fitzpatrick ; Norbert Hartmann ; Norm Ritchie ; SIEBERT Paul R ; Don Mann ; Bob Gilman ; Richard Haines ; Rod Harder ; Joe Rohleder ; Susan Allen ; Rod Moore ; Shawn Miller ; Steve McClelland ; Craig Starr ; Steve Fick ; Terry Learned ; Tim Greseth ; Tom Wolf ; Trey Carskadon ; Terry Thompson  
**Cc:** Roy Elicker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2010 6:32 PM  
**Subject:** ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

EBAC,

I am attaching our draft 2011-13 Program Priorities and Reductions and Policy Option Packages (POPs) for your input.

As we discussed at our last EBAC meeting, the state is facing significant shortfalls in General Fund (GF) and Lottery Funds (LF) in the next biennium. As a result, state agencies have to prepare 5%, 10%, and 25% reduction scenarios for GF and LF to submit with their Agency Requested Budget.

To do this, we started by listing and prioritizing our existing programs – our intent is to take reductions in our lowest priority programs. We also used our program priorities to rank our draft Policy Option Packages (POPs).

In ranking our programs, we looked to our statutes and considered what we've heard from you and the public at our townhall meetings.

The attached spreadsheet shows the programs ranked from highest priority to lowest priority. The proposed GF/LF reductions are listed with an explanation of how the reduction or shift to Other Funds or Federal Funds would occur. Note that we did not include any fund shifts onto Other Fund – general license dollars. This is consistent with our goal to make the fee increase last six years.

We are very interested in your feedback on these lists as we prepare for our Commission presentation on July 16 at 1 pm in Salem.

If you would like to submit written comments on the draft materials, you can send those to me by email (by June 30 so I can include them in my Commission packet).

You can also drop by anytime between **10 am to noon for our EBAC Open House on Monday, June 28** (Grouse Conference Room – check in at reception). We will be on hand to walk through the materials, answer any questions you have, and take your input.

As always, I want to thank you for your help in developing our budget. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Debbie

Debbie Colbert  
Deputy Director for Administration  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3406 Cherry Avenue NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303  
(503) 947-6031  
[debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us](mailto:debbie.l.colbert@state.or.us)



**JIM MYRON**

**NATURAL RESOURCE**

**POLICY / PLANNING / ADVOCACY**

503.819.5589

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P.O. Box 675

Canby, OR 97013

## THE OREGON HATCHERY ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT FAQ

Why do we need an accountability review of Oregon's hatchery system?

- Oregon's fish hatchery program is growing at the rate of about a million dollars a year. This growth rate is unsustainable given the likely loss of general tax revenues that currently help fund the program. The only way to compensate for the loss of state taxpayer support for the hatchery program would be for the recreational and commercial anglers to support additional large increases to their license fees. The Hatchery Accountability Project provides a legitimate process that the department could use to determine which hatchery programs need to be reduced or eliminated. This process could lead to a smaller and more fiscally sound and sustainable hatchery program over the long term.

Hasn't the state already been implemented reforms to the hatchery system?

- For many years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has told us that the reform of the hatchery system is underway. The only major visible reform that we have seen has been the relocation of coastal coho releases to the Young's Bay area and the expansion of supplementation and acclimation programs. These changes are a beginning but some may actually be counterproductive. There has not been any fundamental change to the way ODFW operates the hatchery system. The Hatchery Accountability Project provides a real opportunity for reforming the hatchery program to make it ecologically sustainable.

What is the primary purpose of the project?

- The Hatchery Accountability Project would provide the department with a legitimate way to prioritize its various programs based upon which programs are the most cost effective, which ones provide the largest benefit to the most anglers and which projects have the least potential for inflicting harm to native fish and wildlife resources. Saving the best programs and eliminating others should help lead to a more sustainable state hatchery program.

What other options are available?

- Without reductions to Oregon's hatchery program, the only alternative for the department may be to use up their license revenue surplus more quickly than anticipated and return to the legislature to request additional fee increases much sooner than they had promised. This outcome would risk the department's credibility with legislators and the angling community.

Would the project look at all of the hatchery programs regardless of funding source?

- The Project should review all hatchery programs within the department, regardless of the particular funding source. To do otherwise would not accomplish the goal of providing a comprehensive assessment of the hatchery program. Once the individual hatchery programs have been prioritized, where the funding comes from could affect the final decision about whether the program should be eliminated, changed or kept in place. In some cases with federally funded programs, there may be an opportunity to shift funds to more appropriate activities.

June 8, 2010  
For immediate release

## **Native Fish Society asks ODFW to provide better accountability of the state's hatcheries**

The Native Fish Society has asked the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete a cost/benefit analysis of Oregon's hatchery system. Fiscal and ecological accountability is needed in the operation of Oregon's hatchery system. This need is even more acute now with the recently announced decline in the state's general fund.

Oregon's fish hatchery program is growing at the rate of about a million dollars a year. This growth rate is unsustainable given the likely loss of general tax revenues that currently help fund the program. The only way to compensate for the loss of state taxpayer support for the hatchery program would be for the recreational and commercial anglers to support additional large increases to their license fees.

NFS has asked the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete a cost/benefit analysis for each of its separate hatchery programs in order to help determine the risks of these programs to native species and to help prioritize individual hatchery operations as reductions in these programs occur. The Hatchery Accountability Project provides a legitimate process that the department could use to determine which hatchery programs need to be reduced or eliminated. This process could lead to a smaller and more fiscally-sound and sustainable hatchery program over the long term.

Oregon operates a fish hatchery system statewide that includes several dozen separate facilities. These facilities produce millions of salmon, steelhead and trout each year for release into the waters of the state to support commercial and recreational fisheries. For many years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has said reform of the hatchery system is underway. The only major visible reform that NFS has seen has been the relocation of coastal coho releases to the Young's Bay area and the expansion of supplementation and acclimation programs. These small changes are relatively insignificant and some may actually be counterproductive. There has not been any fundamental change to the way ODFW operates the hatchery system.

The Hatchery Accountability Project would provide the department with a legitimate way to prioritize its various programs based upon which programs are the most cost effective, which ones provide the largest benefit to the most anglers and which projects have the least potential for inflicting harm to native fish and wildlife resources. Saving the best programs and eliminating the worst ones should help lead to a more sustainable state hatchery program.

The Oregon Hatchery Accountability Project is based upon the following criteria:

- What is the return on investment in terms of fish caught in commercial and recreational fisheries?
- Are the angling opportunities provided commensurate with the investment?
- What are the environmental risks and costs associated with each hatchery program?

NFS has asked ODFW to begin the analysis on hatchery programs that a) seem overly expensive b) only serve small segments of the angling community or c) have a high risk of adversely effecting native fish and wildlife populations. Examples of such programs include:

1. The Atlantic salmon stocking program
2. The Cascade lakes brook trout stocking program
3. Trout stocking in flowing waters
4. The Willamette basin summer steelhead program
5. Programs that utilize non-native or introduced fish stocks
6. The transfer of anadromous salmonids among watersheds

“The Native Fish Society believes that the information provided by the Hatchery Accountability Project will provide ODFW, the Governor, the Oregon Legislature and the public with valuable tools to use in assuring that Oregon’s fish hatchery program is operated in the public interest for the long-term benefit and health of our native fish populations,” said NFS Executive Director Bill Bakke, “All we ask is that ODFW conduct an annual cost-benefit analysis of its hatcheries. That way the taxpayers, who are paying for the hatcheries, can make informed decisions about them. It just makes sound business sense to do so.”

The ODFW Commission will decide on the agency’s budget at their July 16 meeting, and it is NFS’ hope that the Commission will direct the agency to begin the Hatchery Accountability Project at this time.

For more information, contact

Bill Bakke  
Executive Director  
(503) 246-5890  
[bmbakke@gmail.com](mailto:bmbakke@gmail.com)

Jim Myron  
Lobbyist  
(503) 819-5589  
[myrons@canby.com](mailto:myrons@canby.com)

## THE OREGON HATCHERY ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

### A MORE ECOLOGICALLY AND FISCALLY SOUND APPROACH TO MANAGING OREGON'S HATCHERIES

#### Background

Oregon operates a fish hatchery system statewide that includes several dozen separate facilities. These facilities produce millions of salmon, steelhead and trout each year for release into the waters of the state to support commercial and recreational fisheries. The annual cost to operate the state hatchery system is about \$24 million, with the bulk of the funding coming from the federal government. Commercial and recreational license revenues contribute most of the rest, except for just over \$2 million from the state general fund (Oregon taxpayers). The cost of the hatchery program is projected to increase by another \$2 million in the 2011/13 biennium.

#### Proposed Action

The Native Fish Society is seeking a way to provide more fiscal and ecological accountability in the operation of Oregon's hatchery system. This need is even more acute now with the recently announced declines in the state general fund. Our proposal would have the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife complete a cost/benefit analysis for each of its separate hatchery programs in order to help determine the risks of these programs to native species and to help prioritize individual hatchery operations as reductions in these program occur. This analysis would be based upon the following criteria:

- What is the return on investment in terms of fish caught in commercial and recreational fisheries?
- Are the angling opportunities provided commensurate with the investment?
- What are the environmental risks and costs associated with each hatchery program?

The first place to begin with this analysis would be those hatchery programs that a) seem overly expensive b) only serve small segments of the angling community or c) have a high risk of adversely effecting native fish and wildlife populations. Examples of such programs include:

1. The Atlantic salmon stocking program
2. The Cascade lakes brook trout stocking program
3. Trout stocking in flowing waters
4. The Willamette basin summer steelhead program
5. Programs that utilize non-native or introduced fish stocks
6. The transfer of anadromous salmonids among watersheds

#### Conclusion

The Native Fish Society believes that the information provided by this Hatchery Accountability Project will provide ODFW, the governor and the Oregon Legislature with valuable tools to use in assuring that Oregon's fish hatchery program is operated in the public interest for the long-term benefit and health of our native fish and wildlife populations consistent with the Oregon Wildlife Policy (ORS496.012).



## Colleen R Munson

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**From:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2010 4:38 PM  
**To:** Colleen R Munson  
**Subject:** FW: Butte Falls fish hatchery

For the commission packet.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ODFW Commission  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2010 2:36 PM  
**To:** Debbie L Colbert; Sandra Fixsen  
**Subject:** FW: Butte Falls fish hatchery

Comments about closing Butte Falls Hatchery. - Teri Kucera

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Charlotte Grieve [mailto:kern4fish@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 29, 2010 10:09 AM  
**To:** marlarae@quest.net; daniel.edge@oregonstate.edu; skip@erislaw.com;  
odfw.commission@state.or.us; jenglund@englundmarine.com; bobby.levy@my180.net;  
sen.jasonatkinson@state.or.us; sen.alanbates@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Butte Falls fish hatchery

Dear commissioners;

My husband and I volunteered to help with the free fishing day for children at the Butte Falls hatchery a couple of weeks ago and in talking with so many of the families that were up there I was so sad to hear that the Dept. is considering a closure of that hatchery. I realize that with so many cuts being made for our state to survive that some cuts have to be made. I do think that you really need to reconsider this closure as I was so amazed at the families taking their children up there to fish, many of the little ones were fishing for the first time in their lives. They were learning to love fishing, as you know little ones need success to enjoy anything that they are learning to do. I truly believe that this would be a lost opportunity for our states future fisherman and woman. A fantastic opportunity

for children to have a positive in their lives. It was a real special day, watching parents interact so positively with their children.

.My husband was a fishing guide for over 40 years and we were seeing so many future fisherman and woman learning to enjoy something wonderful and positive in their lives. I really do believe that there will be a huge mistake made, If this hatchery closes. I know that we need help now but with this little hatchery in a most beautiful setting and an absolutely perfect fishing pond you must reconsider any idea of this closure and look to a

more distant day when the state will need even more licenses sold. I cannot imagine that the operational costs up there could possibly outweigh the future good .  
Thank you for your time

Charlotte M. Grieve





WARREN W. ANEY  
CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
CERTIFIED SENIOR ECOLOGIST, THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

29 June 2010

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
3406 Cherry Avenue, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97303

Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I was honored to participate on the ODFW External Budget Advisory Committee as a representative of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Based on this experience, and my chapter's professional interest in maintaining Department effectiveness, I am providing some comments on the proposed Budget Reductions and Policy Option Package that will be discussed at the upcoming Commission meeting.

My comments are based on our chapter's firm support of the Oregon Conservation Strategy. We see this as a means for the Department to effectively and adaptively manage all of Oregon's species and their habitats while engaging and collaborating with landowners and land managers to identify common priorities for fish and wildlife conservation throughout the state.

The State of Oregon's current economic problems are challenging. However, this is the time to fully employ the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other innovative approaches to prioritize and implement natural resources management programs. Let me offer a few comments along this line:

- The budget reductions and priorities presented in the 23 June package rank the Oregon Conservation Strategy highly and maintain positions that implement the Strategy statewide and regionally. This is a productive decision that needs to be protected.
- Proposed cuts to watershed council liaison positions and the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program would appear to deeply affect inter-agency and landowner collaboration efforts. These programs need to be maintained.
- The proposed package does not provide a clear picture of how sound science will be incorporated into an effective and improving natural resources management program that carries out the agency's mission. This is a growing public and professional expectation, even in these challenging times.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on important issues. Please do not hesitate to let me and my organization know if we can further discuss these priorities and budget considerations.

Regards,

Warren W. Aney  
Senior Wildlife Ecologist



## Colleen R Munson

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**From:** Debbie L Colbert  
**Sent:** Friday, July 02, 2010 11:27 AM  
**To:** Colleen R Munson  
**Subject:** FW: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

I may have already forwarded this message for including in Commission packet. Sorry for any duplication

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**From:** Rod Moore [mailto:seafood@integra.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 01, 2010 11:11 AM  
**To:** 'Debbie L Colbert'; 'Tony Meeker'; 'Allen Unger'; 'Al Elkins'; 'Warren Aney'; 'Art Ayre'; 'Bob Oleson'; 'Brad Pettinger'; 'Brad Niva'; 'Bruce Buckmaster'; 'Bob Sallinger'; 'Bruce Taylor'; 'Chuck Smith'; 'Lonnie Johnson'; 'Dan Edge'; 'Dave Wiley'; 'Diane Snyder'; 'George Houston'; 'Hedge Jarvis'; 'Jack Glass'; 'Jake Gibbs'; 'Jim Markee'; 'Jim Young'; 'Karl Westlund'; 'Katie Fast'; 'Ken Hand'; 'Marla Rae'; 'Steve Mathers'; 'Matt Markee'; 'Mike Dykzeul'; 'Mark Labhart'; 'Susan Morgan'; 'Jim Myron'; 'Nan Evans'; 'Nick Furmen'; 'Nancy Fitzpatrick'; 'Norbert Hartmann'; 'Norm Ritchie'; 'SIEBERT Paul R'; 'Don Mann'; 'Bob Gilman'; 'Richard Haines'; 'Rod Harder'; 'Joe Rohleder'; 'Susan Allen'; 'Shawn Miller'; 'Steve McClelland'; 'Craig Starr'; 'Steve Fick'; 'Terry Learned'; 'Tim Greset'; 'Tom Wolf'; 'Trey Carskadon'; 'Terry Thompson'  
**Cc:** 'Roy Elicker'  
**Subject:** RE: ODFW Draft 2011-13 Program Priorities, Reductions, and POPs

Debbie -

My apologies for this being slightly late as I have been out of the country until Tuesday night with little email access, so was unable to access the attachments until this morning.

As I said several times at the EBAC meetings, I have no problems with shifting legitimate, important, commercial-fisheries related programs to the Commercial Fish Fund to cover shortfalls. Obviously, we will have to re-assess things as the biennium progresses but for immediate needs we shouldn't let key programs die. With that in mind, I generally agree with the proposals made in your 6/23 draft priorities spreadsheet.

However, there are two areas where I have to raise questions:

1) Marine Licensing and Services - it appears that you are planning to shift the entire reduction to CFF, yet a significant portion of the reduction will be in non-commercial services. If this is the case, then I would oppose the fund shift on the basic premise that commercial fisheries dollars should not be paying for recreational services.

2) Marine Mammal Research and Assessment - again, it appears that you are shifting the entire program to Commercial Fish Fund even though this appears to be a cross-cutting program with impacts on sport fish, habitat, and possibly other areas and on that basis I would have to oppose the shift.

Please understand that I am not trying to make a value judgement on the importance of these programs to the agency or to the public; rather I am trying to maintain some consistency in how essential services are funded. Getting even reluctant support from the commercial sector for the increase in license fees and ad valorem taxes last year was difficult and I think your commercial fishing constituents would not be happy to find their dollars going to non-commercial programs.

If I am incorrect in my interpretation of your spreadsheet, please let me know but based on how I read it those would be my comments.

Thanks for keeping us informed of what's happening; see you in Salem on the 16th.

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Rod Moore

West Coast Seafood Processors Association

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