

# **Public Correspondence**

**Public correspondence received  
as of  
February 5, 2009**

## Buckman, Mary

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**From:** Chuck and Mary Lang [chuckandmarylang@msn.com]  
**To:** Buckman, Mary  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: ODFW 25-Year Angling Plan Overview  
**Attachments:**

**Sent:** Wed 1/14/2009 8:21 AM

Good morning Mary,

The 4th paragraph from the bottom may have a place in it for seeking ideas from other state recreational fisheries agencies.

**Increase use of information from disciplines such as sociology, economics, recreational planning and other areas in recreational fisheries management (Goal 2):** The Department should work with universities and others to have access to professionals with these skills to aid in management decisions regarding recreational angling, either through training current staff, hiring new staff, partnering with other state recreational fisheries agencies, or contracting with outside consultants.

Chuck

**From:** [Buckman, Mary](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:23 PM  
**To:** [Chuck and Mary Lang](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ODFW 25-Year Angling Plan Overview

Hi Chuck -

Sorry you will not be there.

Regarding your comment - I do not mean to preclude seeking ideas and advise from other states, but perhaps it needs to be more explicitly stated. Do you see a good place to insert that phrase? I will look also.

Thanks, Mary

*Mary Buckman  
Biometrician  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
28655 Highway 34, Corvallis, OR 97333  
541-757-4263, ext 229  
[mary.buckman@oregonstate.edu](mailto:mary.buckman@oregonstate.edu)*

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**From:** Chuck and Mary Lang [mailto:chuckandmarylang@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tue 1/13/2009 5:25 PM  
**To:** Buckman, Mary  
**Subject:** Re: ODFW 25-Year Angling Plan Overview

Hi Mary,

Summary look good. One question. Will Oregon not seek ideas and advise on increasing or enhancing recreational fisheries from other states? I will not be able to attend or phone in tonight.

Chuck Lang

**From:** [Buckman, Mary](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 4:15 PM  
**To:** [Tony Hobbs](#) ; [Chris Vest](#) ; [Bill Egan](#) ; [Lonnie Johnson](#) ; [Jim Stevenson](#) ; [Chuck Lang](#) ; [Bob Rees](#) ; [Nathan Bromley](#) ; [Jeff DeVore](#) ; [Gil Henderson](#) ; [Tom Wolf](#) ; [Bill Seitz](#) ; [Eric Tonsager](#) ; [Russell Bassett](#) ; [Marc Davis](#) ; [Edward Chin](#) ; [Don Wenzel](#) ; [Jason Hooper](#) ; [Dennis Richey](#) ; [Dave Dunahay](#) ; [Bob Bumstead](#) ; [Fred VanNatta](#) ; [Jeff Bromley](#) ; [Dave Fuske](#) ; [Jim Marquoit](#) ; [Shawn Miller](#) ; [Steve Paulsen](#)  
**Cc:** [Tom.A.Friesen@STATE.OR.US](mailto:Tom.A.Friesen@STATE.OR.US) ; [Laura.Tesler@state.or.us](mailto:Laura.Tesler@state.or.us) ; [Ed.Bowles@STATE.OR.US](mailto:Ed.Bowles@STATE.OR.US) ; [Bruce McIntosh](#) ; [Rhine Messmer](#)  
**Subject:** ODFW 25-Year Angling Plan Overview

Hi all -

Attached is an overview document for the Angling Plan. I will have hard copies available at the meeting tonight.

Mary

*Mary Buckman*

*Biometrician*

*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*

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You replied on 1/13/2009 5:23 PM.

**Buckman, Mary**

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**Subject:** Re: ODFW 25-Year Angling Plan Overview  
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**Cc:** [Tom.A.Friesen@STATE.OR.US](#) ; [Laura.Tesler@state.or.us](#) ; [Ed.Bowles@STATE.OR.US](#) ; [Bruce McIntosh](#) ; [Rhine Messmer](#)

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## D.I.R.O.

ODFW was mandated by the legislature to put together a 25 year plan to take Oregon's citizens and fish well into the 21st Century. The VERY late start in initiating citizen input to this plan indicates its status as a document that will have any effect and meaning. We have been told that it is "a house that will be completed on the inside once the shell has been fashioned for the outside." Regrettably, that sounds like a tent or, at best, a shed.

State government has worked so long at trying to please everyone's desires that they have succeeded in pleasing no one. When Director Elicker was applying for his job he stated to me personally that he would do his best to assure "Wins" for Oregon's sportsmen. That light at the end of the tunnel continues to be a train and the wins have been few and sparce.

I was an employee of the federal government for over a quarter century and I have seen how hard most civil service employees work at their jobs. The public is usually well compensated for their hard earned tax dollars. Layer upon layer upon layer of bureaucracy, however, is defeating any practical effort of Department employees to effectively manage programs and the results are what we sportsmen are currently enduring. Combine that with insufficient funding of ALL the programs and we sportsmen as well as the fish we pursue are stuck with the results we now enjoy in Oregon

It has become quite apparent that the State of Oregon is very interested in getting out of the business of dealing with fish that move. These fish are admittedly a pain to deal with because they encounter so many threats in the changing environments through which they migrate and they remain outside the control of the people who are responsible for their wellbeing and propagation.

At the two meetings held thus far I have seen and heard two mantras promoted by those in attendance. "Hatchery Fish Bad, HATCHERY FISH BAD!! And Green Fish Good!!" Don't get me wrong. There is not a better tasting fish than a walleye. Smallmouth bass are the best biting and hardest fighting fish we have in Oregon. A stringer full of perch with a few planter trout thrown in are marvelous and kokanee are unbeatable fish to catch and eat. I like 'em all! BUT I'm unwilling to give up on the premiere salmonids in Oregon and if given the choice of catching hatchery Chinook and Steelhead or none at all..... That appears to be where we are heading with this 25 Year Process and the direction the Department is taking.

ODFW is running out of money and is unlikely to get much of an infusion of new dollars from license or general tax revenues. That virtually assures we are going to continue to suffer under the current state of affairs. The department is searching frantically for any source of funding that will literally keep the wheels on. Looking to children, single mothers and ethnic groups on the lower end of the socioeconomic scales represent plans that are destined to fail from the outset. Engaging in a "marketing plan" that is trying to sell a Yugo to the fishing public will yield the expected results.

I am not speaking as a leader of a fishing group but as a sportsman whose upcoming opportunities are limited in number by the advancing years. I, like all the folks at that table, have the best interests of fish and sportsmen at heart. If I and we did not we wouldn't be doing what we are all doing which is the best we can with what we have. I am asking the department, the legislature and the governor to take a new and fresh look at what it is we are doing and what we can do. On my desk when I worked for the Feds I had a nameplate that told others who I am and on the back it had D.I.R.O. which reminded me who I am. It stands for Do It Right Once!

What I believe we in this group should be doing is telling the people who work for us in this state that we are not going to continue to accept less than mediocrity and persistent declines while paying more for poor performance. We are demanding that they pick winnable battles, that they properly fund those programs and put the best staff on them to assure success. Good employees with good managers are like all fish. Give them a chance and they will succeed in doing what needs to be done if given the proper environment. Once the fishermen and hunters in this state realize that there is that light at the end of the tunnel and that there is a reason to stay engaged they will return in numbers. Without a couple of marks in the "W" column we will assure continued failure. Most of my fishing dollars go out of Oregon for a very good reason. There is little here to entice me to spend them in Oregon. Most of the people in this group are long enough in the tooth to remember what quality fishing was like all year round! We have given up so very much that we are happy just for occasional scraps that are available in a few places for very short periods of time.

The senior folks at that table have seen how well just five and ten year plans have worked in other countries while the people are starving under an all powerful government. The legislature is tired of the department "making it up as they go along." Within the dynamic state of affairs in Oregon we are seeing changes daily that will blow out of the water decisions made on our two year budget much less five or twenty five years. The mismanagement of fisheries on much of the west coast has crippled our coastal and fishing related economies. This has to stop!

Putting the best and brightest on a job with sufficient funds to do that job is a traditional way of winning battles. Improperly funding and managing too many programs is a sure way to lose the war! The anglers and hunters of Oregon want nothing more than your success but they are not interested in funding continued failure and decline. Please, place a little more emphasis and funding on popular projects that will succeed and then make them work! Even a few wins are much better than ties or did not starts. Build it and they will come! Continue with the current process and declines are assured.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marc Davis speaking as a private individual

You forwarded this message on 1/9/2009 2:31 PM.

## Buckman, Mary

**From:** Russell Bassett [nativefish1@molalla.net] **Sent:** Fri 1/9/2009 1:40 PM  
**To:** Buckman, Mary  
**Cc:** Tom Wolf; Bill Bakke ; Tom Derry  
**Subject:** Comments on most recent 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan  
**Attachments:**

Mary, hello. NFS has the following comments on the most recent draft of the 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan:

Each draft continues to improve with an increased focus on natural production, stewardship and sustainability. This improvement gives us hope for the future. The following wording from the most recent draft is especially encouraging: *"The Department's primary goal in harvest management is to ensure adequate spawning escapement of native fish species." ... "Natural production is the primary basis for enhancing recreational fishing opportunities. ... Nature is our best hatchery."*

NFS is very concerned about the first bullet found on Page 21 of the draft plan which reads: *"Develop more reliable, tested, and cost-effective ways to produce hatchery fish that complement, rather than compete with, existing wild populations of fish: Where native fish inhabit the same waters, stocking hatchery fish requires careful consideration to avoid negative impacts on the native fish. Options can include producing sterile triploid trout that will not reproduce or spawn with native fish, selecting hatchery brood trout from the same fisheries into which the progeny will be released so that stocked fish will share the same genetic code as native fish, and developing angling regulations that favor hatchery fish and minimize impact to native populations. The Oregon Hatchery Research Center is conducting research to identify hatchery production techniques that will not be detrimental to wild fish and studies to improve the Department's ability to produce triploid trout."*

This whole bullet is based on a false premise: That hatchery fish can complement wild fish. This paragraph needs to acknowledge that in most cases in flowing water throughout Oregon hatchery fish will only harm wild fish, even if they are triploid or broodstock. The plan was a main topic at yesterday's Fish Cons meeting and all member organizations present expressed deep consternation over stockings of triploid trout. NFS addressed triploid trout in detail in our formal comments; however, due to the fact that ODFW appears to be using this plan to green-light triploid stockings, I will reiterate: While triploid trout will not spawn with wild fish, all the other issues still remain. Triploid trout will still compete with wild fish for food and space. Triploid trout will increase wildlife predation on wild fish. Triploid trout will increase angler-caused mortality of wild fish. Triploid trout cost more to produce. Triploid trout can be false spawners. NFS has been in touch with NMFS over this issue, and even if ODFW decides to pursue triploid stockings in flowing water, NOAA will likely not allow that to happen.

Thanks,

## Russell Bassett

Native Fish Society

River Steward Coordinator

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Molalla, OR 97038

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## **ODFW's 25 Year Plan for Angling Enhancement**

### **Critique by Oregon Anglers**

#### **Overview**

When the 25 year plan concept was conceived and eventually introduced in the 2007 state legislative session, the main thrust was to bring ODFW back to the forefront in the science of mitigation. At one time Oregon's hatchery system was one of the tops in the country. Now it has sunk into a sad state of disrepair. It has not kept pace with the science, and cannot produce the type of salmon, steelhead, and trout that is needed to blend with the wild stocks and do no harm.

In reality, the only way to bring back and attract new anglers is to provide more incentive. For a small percentage of anglers catch and release of a dwindling supply of wild fish, many of which would not be present in our waters if not for their past hatchery parentage, will suffice. I know many of these die-hards. They still go to Mexico, Alaska, Canada, and other bountiful destinations to fish because there is inadequate opportunity here. The 400 pound gorilla in the closet is WE NEED MORE FISH!

Let's look at the Overview first. The way the first two goals are written, many readers who already distrust ODFW because of dwindling opportunity would never read farther. The first sentence in goal 1 is an apology for our lousy fishing. Yes it's true, but if you put the second sentence first, and let the second sentence follow as the qualifier it is more palatable. The first sentence in goal 2 is a statement of fact, but the second sentence should follow that the department will work to make those angling opportunities a reality, THEN the participation will follow.

Under Strategies the first statement that the "natural production is the primary basis for enhancing recreation fishing opportunities", is idealistic. In most of the committees that I have been on staff has admitted that consumptive use of our wild stocks is many years away. Some plans say 25 years, but most acknowledge a 50 year timeline IF it's ever going to happen. The public, and most certainly the legislature, know better. If you think you've got 25 years to produce results you're dreaming. The second strategy should read "Successful recreational fishing opportunities rely on our state and federal hatcheries. The Department will work to ensure its' hatchery system has the resources and staff to meet current and future recreation angling and conservation needs."

As for the next 6 strategies, if you don't get more fish, don't waste your time!

The Actions and Pilot Programs are good. But in the first, you must realize that some streams never were, and never will be, successful producers of salmon, steelhead, or a healthy wild trout population. These should be your target for increasing hatchery opportunity. If you back down here, and let the radicals stop plantings in lakes the way they are besieging California, you might as well throw in the towel.

#### **The 25 Year Plan**

This document is a considerable improvement over the earlier draft. The key to success again is: 1.) More fish- If you want to bet your future on enhancing natural production of wild fish you'd better find a fortune, because currently many factors are working against it. Lingering effects of long-term pollution are major. Climate change is looming. More and more invasive species are affecting our waters. Population is expected to explode, and exacerbating the already heavy competition for water and watershed use. It is time to get serious about upgrading our hatchery system with both physical improvements and the best science available.

"Best science" (page 8) does not mean "Same old, same old", or whatever fits the old mold. There is a growing body of science that contradicts some of the assumptions that the department has been operating under. "A review of scientific literature for Pacific salmon and steelhead reveals that most genetic effects to date appear to be caused by the fishery or hatchery management practices and not by biological factors intrinsic to hatcheries or hatchery fish."<sup>1</sup> There are several definitive new studies done with up-to-date equipment and techniques that debunk operating procedures. The most glaring omission in this entire document is that the ongoing research at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center.

The OHRC has state-of-the-art equipment, a nationally acclaimed fishery scientist as its director, and is attracting noted scientists from all over the world. We not only need to be mentioning the investment and efforts going on there, but making the results the cornerstone of our hatchery renewal program.

Action and Pilot Programs on page 9 is commendable for using the gem of our volunteer programs. STEP could also pioneer the new direction in mitigation. Egg infusion coupled with stream nutrient enhancement has been proven to be successful in Alaska. It is cheap, and produces fish identical to wild spawned fish if F-1 broodstock and good spawning protocols are used. Tod Jones of the Clatsop County Economic Development Council's Fish Division is a local expert on the system.

The Membership of advisory boards section on page 11 has a flaw. The statement that "members must be well-informed and able to thoughtfully discuss solutions," sounds as if you want to exclude anyone that disagrees with the department.

The plan to develop resource centers (pages 14-18) misses some of the best opportunities. Several of the STEP groups already have an education component and ponds or lakes nearby, with a host of retired foster grandparents just waiting for the kids and the opportunity. And as far as an angling center, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center has an education staff, the trout hatchery, and a nearby pond to use. It is not near a major population center, but could be a great place to test the concept.

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<sup>1</sup> *Donald E. Campton 1997* "Genetic effects of hatcheries on wild populations Pacific Salmon and steelhead: overview of facts and speculation." P.1-17 in E. L. Brannon and W.C. Kinsel (eds.), Proceedings of the Columbia River Anadromous Salmonid Rehabilitation and Passage Symposium. Richland Washington, June 5, 1995. Aquaculture Research Institute, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Another possibility is to buy the trout hatchery on Sauvies Island as a center, and use the lakes nearby for the fishing.

In line with **expanding opportunities**, kids, adults, or a family could be given 2 passes to fish the lake or ponds associated with the center upon completion of the 'Angler Ed. Course". After 2 visits, any angler over the age limit would be required to have a license.

Instead of building a statewide center, I would urge you to create a mobile center that could (for example) be located at Sauvies Island for a period of time, next locate at one of the ponds in Salem, and on to Eugene, and back to Mount Hood Pond in Gresham. You would reach many more people in various areas with less cost.

One access possibility unmentioned that would definitely increase angler participation is adding more handicapped angler areas below hatcheries. Many disabled anglers cannot compete for good fishing spots, so they just don't go anymore. The available spots are usually crowded, and unless you get there very early, or know someone there, you are out of luck. More accessible areas would allow these fishermen to go without having to drive a long way and have to wait for a spot to open. Plus it would attain a hatchery goal of harvesting excess fish.

As far as angler ethics, without some enforcement codes become useless in places where crowded conditions exist. But that doesn't mean we should give up on education. One comment I often get at various fishing clubs: "guides who continually ignore ethical behavior should be censored in some way!"

Comments on fish pathogens are somewhat misleading. We have no empirical data that diseases have been, or routinely transmitted from hatchery fish to wild populations. We have documented cases where diseases were introduced into the hatchery by infected wild fish spawning and dying upstream from the hatchery water intake. One way of limiting disease is to seal all cracks in the hatchery runs- once diseases get in the leaks it is hard to eradicate them.

The efficiency of hatchery production would also be improved with different feeding regimes- different times, instead of staff walking down the run broadcast feeding bottom feed occasionally, and broadcast feed from behind screens like the tribes. More natural hatching and rearing facilities would also create a more normal smolt.

Finally, harvest tag returns could be increased if you require the return of the old tag to get a new tag at a "discounted" price. In essence it would be like a deposit on the tag. Since they are already computerized it should be inexpensive to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Richey

A RESPONSE TO THE 25 YEAR PLAN

DEAR SIRs,

I JUST SAW THAT YOUR DEPT. IS CONCERNED THAT OREGON IS NOT RECRUITING ENOUGH YOUNG PEOPLE INTO TO OUTDOOR RECREATIONS. I FIRMLY AGREE WITH YOU! BUT INSTEAD OF SITTING THERE SCRATCHING YOUR HEADS & WONDERING WHY, I SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK INTO YOUR OWN RECORDS.

BEING A NATIVE OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, I HAVE THE LUXURY OF HAVING SOME PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR DEPT. WHEN I WAS GROWING UP WE HAD A GREAT DEAL MORE TO DO IN THE OUTDOORS THAN WE HAVE NOW. FOR INSTANCE: OPENING DAY OF TROUT SEASON WAS A FAMILY RITUAL ON THE NORTH UMPQUA & WAS THE BEGINNING FOR MANY OF A LIFELONG PASSION FOR FISHING. ( SORRY, IT IS NO LONGER LEGAL TO FISH FOR TROUT THERE.)

I CAUGHT MY FIRST STEELHEAD AT WRIGHT CR. BRIDGE ON JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 1961. IT WAS A NICE BRIGHT 7 LB. HATCHERY HEN. IT STARTED A PASSION FOR FLY FISHING THAT WILL NEVER GO AWAY. (SORRY, NO HATCHERY STEELHEAD ARE BEING STOCKED ABOVE ROCK CR.ANYMORE.) THE RUNS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY WILD SUMMER FISH BECAUSE THE FRY WERE ALL KILLED IN THE HATCHERY?( THE COHO/CHINOOK/TROUT DIDN'T BUT THE SUMMER STEELHEAD DID?)

IN THE FALL WE WOULD GO FISHING FORTHOSE BEAUTIFUL "HARVEST TROUT" (SEA RUN CUTTHROAT).(SORRY, THE RUNS ARE SO LOW THAT THE SEASON IS CLOSED.) THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO STOCK ANY SEA RUN CUTTHROAT!

UP UNTIL NOW I HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO FISHING FOR THE SILVERS IN THE LATE FALL AT THE NARROWS.( SORRY, IT WAS TOO GOOD OF A RUN, SO NO COHO WILL BE STOCKED IN THE N, UMPQUA UNTIL AT LEAST 2012, WHEN THE DIVERSION DAM/SORTING FACILITY ARE COMPLETED. THAT IS A PROJECT THAT ANY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY COULD COMPLETE IN A FEW MONTHS)

DITTO WITH THE SPRING CHINOOK.... THE RUN WAS TOO GOOD. A FEW IDIOTS DID SOME SNAGGING AT ROCK CR. WHAT IS YOUR SOLUTION? MORE ENFORCEMENT TO CATCH THEM? NOPE! REDUCE THE STOCKING TO HAVE LESS FISH! AM I JUST SILLY, OR DOES THAT REALLY MAKE SENSE TO SOMEONE?

THE WINTER STEELHEAD RUNS ON THE N. UMPQUA ARE SELF-SUSTAINING & NEED NO HATCHERY SUPPORT. FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE WERE ABLE TO HARVEST 1 WILD FISH PER DAY WITH A TOTAL OF 5 PER YEAR. AGAIN, A FEW MESSED IT UP FOR ALL. GUIDES FROM OUT OF THEAREA SHOWED UP AND FLOODED THE RIVER WITH CLIENTS. DID ODFW GO TO THE MARINE BOARD TO REQUEST THAT IT BE MADE INTO A LIMITED ENTRY SYSTEM FOR GUIDES?,,,NOPE, THE FISHERY WAS ELIMINATED!

THERE IS NO FALL CHINOOK FISHERY ON THE N. UMPQUA. WHY?

THE SALMON HARBOUR/ REEDSPORT AREA WAS A GHOST TOWN THIS SUMMER... WHY? BECAUSE THERE WERE NO FISH, THE COMMERCIAL SEASON HAD TO BE CLOSED AND THE RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN FOLLOWED THE REASONING THAT THERE WERE FEW FISH TO BE CAUGHT.

ARE YOU STARTING TO SEE A PATTERN HERE?ARE YOU STILL WONDERING WHY LICENSE SALES ARE FALLING?ARE YOU STILL WONDERING WHY THE COMMERCIAL SALMON

SEASONS ARE HAVING TO BE CLOSED( ELIMINATING A WAY OF LIFE FOR MANY).IS THERE STILL ANY QUESTION IN ANYBODYS MIND AS TO WHERE TO PLACE THE BLAME? ON YOUR WEBSITE, YOU HAVE A MISSION STATEMENT THAT SAYS "TO PROTECT & ENHANCE OREGONS FISH & WILDLIFE & THEIR HABITATS FOR THE USE & ENJOYMENT BY PRESENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS".I WILL SAY THAT IN MY OPINION YOU HAVE FAILED MISERABLY TO FULFILL YOUR MISSION!!

UNTIL YOU INCREASE THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH ( IE:STOCK CATCHABLE TROUT BACK INTO THE RIVER). BRING BACK CATCHABLE SUMMER STEELHEAD STOCKS. RETURN THE COHO TO THE RIVER AND RETURN THE SPRING CHINOOK STOCKING TO PAST LEVELS, THE TAG SALES WILL CONTINUE TO SLIP AND THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW FISHERMEN WILL NEVER INCREASE.

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