



# 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



July 2, 2004

Mr. James Caplan, Forest Supervisor  
USDA Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest  
2900 NW Stewart Parkway  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Dear Mr. Caplan:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has worked closely with all parties that formed the Diamond Lake Project Working Group in October 2001, and compliments you and Umpqua National Forest staff for the active role in this effort. ODFW is a signatory under an MOU, with the USDA Forest Service as the lead agency and ODFW and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) as cooperating agencies in the development of the Diamond Lake Restoration Project. In 2004, the Umpqua National Forest, in cooperation with the multiple state and federal agencies, proposes to initiate a series of actions that will meet the need for improvement of recreational fishery and water quality at Diamond Lake. The implementation of this restoration project will include a lake draw down in 2005, rotenone treatment in 2006, and fish restocking in 2007. The selection and implementation of the strategy used to stock the lake with fish after the treatment is within the State of Oregon's jurisdiction and authority, and will be accomplished under state processes with no federal money, assistance or required authorization.

In August 2001, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) directed ODFW staff to adopt interim fishery strategies that reflect experimental fish stocking, consistent with the previously adopted management policy for Diamond Lake (OAR 635-500-703). ODFW will continue to manage for both maintenance and experimental fisheries through 2008, provided the rotenone treatment is successfully completed in 2006. We will design and recommend a post-treatment stocking strategy that best meets the goals of the lake based on the environmental indices described in the DEIS. Actual stocking numbers could vary based on a number of factors including availability of eggs/fish, facility capacity, actual costs, available funding, monitoring results and management decisions. The experimental fish stocking plans for 2007 and 2008 include 50,000-100,000 rainbow trout fingerlings and 10,000-25,000 larger-size predacious rainbow during the first post-treatment year, and 100,000-200,000 fingerlings and 10,000-25,000 larger-size trout the following year. Also, a minimum of 50,000 put-and-take-size rainbow trout will be stocked each year if sufficient funding is secured. Annual stocking rates and fishery levels are expected to increase in concert with the recovery of the lake's health.

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ODFW is fully committed under our agency's statutory authority and related policies and plans to design and implement an ecologically sound fish stocking strategy. Our Commission will enter into a public review of the Diamond Lake Management Plan when sufficient information is available regarding the fishery that can be maintained in the long term. This decision process will take into consideration the environmental, biological, economic, and community values of the people of Oregon. With the help and guidance of our public partners together we can provide a sustainable fishery and water quality for Diamond Lake for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Sincerely,

  
Lindsay A. Ball, Director  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

c: Elicker  
Bowles  
Sanders  
Denney  
Loomis  
Muck