

Exhibit (C)

Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Overview, STEP Advisory Committee Membership Reduction and Territory Realignment

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence received
as of November 12, 2020**

Lisa Kingsley

From: Michelle Dennehy <Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Lisa Evans; Michelle Tate
Subject: FW: Letter from Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery
Attachments: Dear ODFW Commissioners.doc.docx

From: Jesse Nolan <nolanjesse707@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Letter from Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

Good afternoon,

I'm submitting a letter from the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery Board of Directors that explains our opposition to the proposed change to STAC representation.

Thank you for your time,
Jesse Nolan



Board of Directors:

Mike Coopman

Jaytuk Steinruck

Robert Westbrook

Debbie Boardman

Jesse Nolan

Erika Partee

Cari Nelson

In Partnership with:



Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
140 Rowdy Creek Rd.
Smith River, CA 95567-9525
Phone: 707.487.9255
Fax: 707.487.0930

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

We, the Board of Directors of the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery, urge you to deny the proposal to reduce the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) from 13 members to 7 members. We understand that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted state agency budgets, but feel that the value provided at the current staffing level of STAC far outweighs the costs incurred. Travel costs incurred by STAC members in 2019, which are the crux of this proposal presented to you, have likely been reduced due to the current trend of meeting via teleconference or other media.

Since its inception in 1981 the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), and its governor appointed advisory body STAC, have produced tremendous benefits for salmon and steelhead populations throughout Oregon. The volunteer efforts that form the backbone of the STEP program encompass a wide range of activities – from outreach and education to habitat improvement and fish culture. The value of volunteer work conducted during the 39 years of the program is estimated at \$139,000,000 dollars, a truly impressive total. Volunteers, working with regional ODFW STEP biologists who provide guidance and technical expertise, form a partnership that has a proven track record of success. In its latest annual report, covering 2018-2019, the STEP program generated the equivalent of 36 full time employee (FTE) positions, representing an estimated value of \$2,650,000 dollars. This level of volunteering shows that the program is performing as intended, and is certainly working towards the STEP/STAC stated goal of 'achieving the recovery and sustainability of the state's native salmon and trout through the education of Oregon citizens and their involvement with fish management efforts.'

A large part of the successes attributed to the STEP/STAC program can be credited to the relationships formed between regional ODFW biologists, local STAC representatives and the community based volunteer groups. Our neighboring region to the north, the Lower Rogue, provides an excellent example of this type of cooperative – ODFW STEP biologist John Weber has teamed up with both the Oregon South Coast Fishermen and the Curry Anadromous Fishermen to provide meaningful benefits to the salmonid populations throughout Oregon's south coast. John's relationship with these local volunteer groups is what makes this program a success. We feel that reducing the number of STAC appointees will negatively impact the formation of these regionally based partnerships, which will lead to decreases in the productivity of the program.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has led many people to find new ways to recreate, and fishing has surged in popularity in many areas across the country. The opportunities available to anglers, both those new to the sport as well as those who participate regularly, would benefit by having the STEP/STAC program continue to operate in its current form.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Coopman

Lisa Kingsley

From: Michelle Dennehy <Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:41 AM
To: 'odfw. commission@state. or. us'
Cc: Michelle Tate
Subject: Fwd: Proposal to cut numerous positions

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rod Anderson <akteamo959@gmail.com>
Date: November 12, 2020 at 6:21:51 PM PST
To: Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us
Subject: Proposal to cut numerous positions

I request that you vote no on this proposal.

Thank You