

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Klamath Basin Acquisition of Instream Water Rights

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval, retroactively, of the submission of a \$740,431 federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire water rights in the Klamath Basin for instream transfer.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is applying on behalf of the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust, which would be responsible for the purchases of irrigation water rights from Deming Creek that are appurtenant to Deming Ranch and subsequent permanent transfers for instream use. This acquisition would allow water to remain in the creek throughout the irrigation season, opening year round access to almost seven miles of critical habitat for Bull Trout. The grant would also consolidate multiple points of irrigation diversion along Sun Creek into a single screened point of diversion that will help prevent listed fish species from entering the irrigation system.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$1.7 million. The match requirement for this grant proposal would be met using funds from private foundations, donations, and possibly a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. No ODFW funds would be used as match.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.