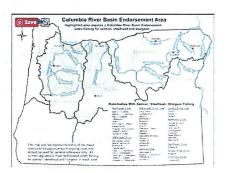
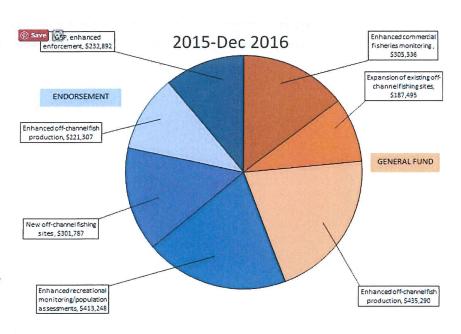
- As Director Melcher points out, 88% of all Oregonians believe this is a credible agency.
 Oregonians love this agency and its mission and the Steelheaders are no different, but there is a
 growing sentiment amongst our community that the agency's largest customer base is not
 getting what it pays for. I believe the poll results presented to this committee were a resident wide survey, if just anglers were queried, particularly Columbia River anglers, you'd have a
 MUCH, MUCH different statistical outcome.
- 2. I present a fraction of this evidence with this stack of 6,000 signatures gathered in just 10 days of effort, asking for full implementation of SB 830, and the removal of commissioner Bruce Buckmaster, former gillnet lobbyist, from the fish and wildlife commission. This body knows the angst surrounding the recent commission decision to deny full implementation of SB 830, compromising the maximization of the economics of Columbia River salmon, and meeting the expectations of the agency's 9,845 Columbia River Endorsement license holders.



3. And speaking of taxation without representation, despite \$221,000 in sportfishing funded CR endorsement fees going to off channel salmon production for the gillnet fleet, the fish and wildlife commission continues to deny the sportfleet access to the most opportune location to intercept these fish, which by law, we're supposed to keep off of the spawning grounds, by closing down the Young's Bay bubble for 45 days in peak season. We remain



committed to the FULL implementation of SB 830, including the assurance that the gillnet fleet meets their economic objectives. To do that, we'll have to continue to fund smolt production in off-channel areas, which we fully support.

4. Despite the glaring disrespect the fish and wildlife commission shows for the contributions of our community, we still support a robust budget for the ODF&W. We found it particularly ironic that on the same day the commission slashed opportunity for the sportfishing community, the 31 volunteer members of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders were shepherding 57

adults and 73 children through our 2nd annual Family Fish Camp at Camp Angelos. We're making the next generation of agency funders while the commission is cutting them out of our hide.

- 5. Now, to the meat of this conversation, we do have concerns about cuts to:
 - a. Nearshore research--please continue the scientific collection of important info inside and outside the reserves directly benefits such things as bottom fishing opportunities;
 - Avoid the cuts to hatchery facilities and staff, due to their rural economic contributions and to fishing opportunities for the public; plus restoring the fish district assistants, positions which support activities and serve the public;
 - c. Extremely important to maintain the mammal predation program, including the preliminary sea lion control efforts at Willamette Falls;
 - d. Fish recovery program staffing and fish screen technicians are important functions that should be retained;
 - e. Try to continue all or most of the work being done through western streams restoration effort, something that is essential for the well-being of many of our watersheds.