



Court Boice, Commissioner

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

May 14, 2019

Oregon State Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
RE: **HB 2379-A**

Honorable members, as Curry County Commissioner, may I ask that you give special consideration to HB 2379-A which is important to rural Southern Oregon and the counties of the famous Rogue River Basin.

Rep. David Brock Smith has worked with us to craft a piece of legislation that reaffirms the ability of our 3 counties (Jackson, Josephine and Curry) to seek a strong position in dealing with an uncooperative and under-achieving U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in relation to the iconic Rogue River Spring Chinook salmon run. Our Rogue River Spring Chinook have been decimated by unfulfilled mitigation agreements to keep salmon and steelhead resources healthy and abundant as it was before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Lost Creek Dam Project in 1977. The Rogue River Hatchery Spring Chinook run has fallen by 63% in the last 14 years, the wild spawning portion by 60% all causing an economic loss of over \$366,000,000 to state and local economies during the last 21 years. Further, these three Rogue Basin counties are recognized as some of the most depressed areas in Oregon.

I include this passage from ODFW Hatchery Management Document that shows what we are facing.

From: Status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hatchery Mitigation Program with Oregon
Prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife February 8, 2017

“The Corps actions and failure to communicate, cooperate and collaborate in good faith with Oregon demonstrates their lack of commitment to their mitigation responsibilities. Despite ODFW’s leadership continuously communicating Oregon’s expectations regarding the federal governments’ mitigation responsibilities and the importance of these programs to Oregonians, the Corps leadership has continually failed to neither understand the role of these programs nor engage ODFW in discussions or negotiations regarding the fate of these programs. They have basically told Oregon what they are going to do, take it or leave it”. ODFW 2017

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