

## HB 2661 Testimony

The only study ever done by ODFW on the Rogue River for Pikeminnow was completed in 1987 – just 10 years after the Lost Creek Reservoir was completed and winter water flow temperatures warmed by 6 to 8 degrees. A pikeminnow will live up to 15 years so the study that showed little impact was 10 years after illegal Pikeminnow introduced in 1977, less than one generation.

The ODFW Rogue River Pikeminnow study is 34 years old and is outdated and was incomplete when written as no one knew at the time the pikeminnow life history. They eat juvenile salmonids and compete for insects (food). Law of unintended consequences rains here, build a dam for fisheries enhancement and end up creating a new habitat for invasive species.

The larger the pikeminnow grows the more the predation on salmonids rearing and traveling to sea and the more eggs they lay, which creates more pikeminnow and less salmonids.

Today's pikeminnow impacts are thought to be large by sport fishermen. ODFW does not know their population, feeding habits or predation levels, they do know they have a large and expanding population within habitat in the Rogue Basin and other non-Columbia streams.

ODFW struggles to find a way to address the invasion by pikeminnow and proposed fishing derbies are their best solution but not a realistic solution. Give ODFW this valuable tool to create a workable plan to control invasive Pikeminnow populations outside the Columbia drainage which already has a long running pikeminnow bounty program funded by Bonneville Power Administration.