



April 17, 2021

Senator Betsy Johnson

Senator Steiner Hayward

Representative Rayfield

Re: Ways and Means CD#2 Field Hearing – Klamath ODFW Biologist Critical Position

Dear Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayfield, and member of the committee,

On behalf of the 3400 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon we ask that the legislatively adopted budget include **POP 103 for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**. POP 103 provides funding to continue a limited duration biologist position to help further critical components of the restoration of the Klamath Basin. Reintroduction of anadromous fish into the upper Klamath basin is a principal goal of the Yurok, Karuk, and Klamath Tribes, many conservation organizations and commercial fishing interests.

ODFW POP 103 – Klamath Reintroduction & Monitoring Biologist: \$134,500 Other Funds and \$134,500 General Fund: Requests continuation of 1 position (1.00 FTE), with Services and Supplies expenditure limitation to assist with the reintroduction of anadromous fish into the Klamath River Basin.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a reintroduction plan for anadromous fish in 2008, and ODFW is now required to develop and complete the implementation phase of this effort to guide the actions necessary to reintroduce and reestablish salmon and steelhead populations in certain reaches of the Klamath River and its tributaries. The fish biologist funded by this POP is critical to Klamath dam removal efforts (dam removal is estimated to begin in 2023) and is charged with developing the reintroduction plan and assisting with monitoring and implementation of the plan upon its completion. The individual who holds the position currently has done an exceptional job developing the plan and coordinating the interests and needs of the diverse stakeholders engaged in this effort.

Klamath basin stakeholders having been working together for decades to resolve fish and water issues in the basin and achieving successful reintroduction of anadromous fish is crucial to maintaining this progress. Loss of this position will set the reintroduction efforts back significantly and further exacerbate the crisis conditions in the basin. It is TU's understanding that the POP's omission from the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) was an error that

was the result of a misunderstanding and that the Governor's Office supports its inclusion in the legislatively adopted budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chrysten Lambert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chrysten Lambert  
Oregon Director