

Date: March 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Chair Helm Representative Levy
Vice-Chair Hartman Representative Marsh
Vice-Chair Owens Representative McLain
Representative Boice Representative Scharf
Representative Gamba

From: Oregon Water Partnership

RE: **Input on HB 3124** – Value for Fish and Instream Flows

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Water Partnership (OWP) wishes to relay shared input on certain components of House Bill 3124, the Bipartisan Drought Relief and Water Security (BiDRAWS) Package.

We are a diverse partnership of statewide conservation groups with a common goal: to advocate for balanced water policies that ensure cold clean water to sustain healthy communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Our priorities for the 2023 legislative session are to build resilience for Oregon's water future, bring water data into the 21st century, support smart water management, and protect and restore our waters.

We have reviewed the March 16th version of the table showing items proposed for inclusion in the BiDRAWS Package.¹ While each of our organizations has its own priorities and perspectives on other parts of the document, **we are united in providing the following input on certain components of the BiDRAWS Package:**

- **#1-14:** OWP supports funding for "Increasing OWRD Field Staff Capacity"
- **#2-4:** OWP supports the concept of "Increasing Water Use Measurement and Reporting"
- **#2-6:** OWP supports funding for "Statewide Streamflow and Stream Temperature Monitoring," "Instream Flow Studies," and the "Coldwater Refugia Project"
- **#5-1:** OWP supports funding for "Fish Passage Barrier Removal"
- **#5-3:** OWP supports "Water Acquisitions Grant Funds and Position Continuity (OWEB)"
- **#5-4:** OWP supports funding OCRF for projects that increase ecosystem drought resiliency
- OWP supports fully funding **ODFW POP #107** "Integrated Water Resources Solutions," elements of which appear in multiple components of the BiDRAWS Package – we suggest reassembling the POP and adding it in **Component #1-2** "IWRS Update & Implementation"
- **#6-1:** OWP recommends that "Irrigation Modernization" project implementation funding only be available to applicants that use the Allocation of Conserved Water Program to legally protect a portion of the conserved water, ensuring public benefit for public funds

Please contact us if you have any questions, and thank you for considering our input.

Oregon Water Partnership

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¹ <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/265282>

