

Submitter: Shane Blair  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB512

I am writing to express my full support for the Rock Creek Hatchery and its efforts in the summer steelhead release program on the Umpqua River. As an advocate for both the local ecosystem and sustainable fishing practices, I believe that the hatchery plays a crucial role in maintaining and restoring the steelhead population in the region.

The summer steelhead release program at Rock Creek Hatchery is vital for sustaining healthy fish populations, especially as the species faces numerous challenges such as habitat loss, environmental degradation, and the pressures of overfishing. By supporting the hatchery's efforts, I am confident that we are ensuring the future of this remarkable species, both for ecological balance and for the continued enjoyment of local communities.

Steelhead fishing is a tradition that brings people together, providing not only a recreational experience but also an economic boost to the region. The hatchery's efforts to release steelhead into the Umpqua River contribute to the continued vitality of our local fishing industry, supporting businesses and creating job opportunities while maintaining the natural beauty of the river for future generations.

I also recognize that the hatchery's work helps to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem in the Umpqua River. Steelhead are a keystone species, and their presence is critical for the biodiversity and health of our aquatic systems. By bolstering their numbers, the hatchery is playing a key role in protecting the overall health of the river and the species that depend on it.

For all these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the Rock Creek Hatchery and its summer steelhead release program. I look forward to seeing continued success in these conservation efforts and will continue to advocate for their importance within our community.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving our natural resources and supporting the future of the Umpqua River's fishery.

Sincerely,  
Shane Blair