



Senator Golden, Chair  
Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

March 28, 2025

**RE: Wild Salmon Center is neutral on SB 512-2, which requires the department to study the impacts of predation on hatchery fish and homing of spring Chinook salmon to Rock Creek.**

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Wild Salmon Center (WSC) is a nonprofit organization based in Oregon that works to protect and restore healthy forests, abundant clean water, and thriving wild salmon populations across the state and the Pacific Rim. WSC focuses on protecting and conserving salmon strongholds on the Oregon Coast, where wild salmon populations are strong and diverse and where habitats are highly functioning and intact. We recognize the complexities of hatchery management issues and work to be a part of creative and collaborative solutions that support wild fish.

In the Umpqua Basin, any investments in hatchery management must be grounded in science, aligned with the assessments from ODFW's hatchery resilience process, supportive of Tribal and cultural values, consistent with the Coastal Multi-species Conservation Management Plan, and represent a strategic investment for the future of Oregonians.

WSC's top priority for the future management of hatchery programs in the Umpqua Basin is preventing hatchery fish from spawning in the wild. WSC is concerned with the elevated levels of hatchery spring Chinook spawning above and around Soda Springs Dam in the uppermost section of the North Umpqua River, reducing the productivity of spring Chinook in the North Umpqua Basin. The information gained by additional research, as proposed by SB 512-2, will help alleviate these concerns.

WSC recognizes the importance of the current Umpqua Basin Hatchery Programs to Tribal partners and the local community. We look forward to continuing to engage with stakeholders to support the conservation and restoration of salmon and steelhead in the Umpqua Basin.

Sincerely,

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