

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Fredrick and Representative Emerson Levy, My Name is Mark Hutchinson I am with Northwest Steelheaders the Oregon Representative for National Wildlife Federation our organization spends over 10,000 hours of service to assist ODFW providing help with maintenance of aging facilities, river restoration and teaching people of all ages and types to fish and explore the fish and wildlife only found in Oregon.

We support HB 5009 and ask that you consider reinstating cuts to enforcement for fish and wildlife poaching, and monitoring for salmon in streams and river especially on the upper Willamette River, where salmon are nearing extinction. We also support the fishing license fee increase and Columbia River endorsement.

The things that resonate with Northwest Steelheaders are modernizing ODFW. ODFW has a lot of aging infrastructure, that needs to be renovated just like our capitol. I am a civil engineer and in my past life I worked on water infrastructure projects for about 40 years, I have an idea what I am seeing across the state when visiting ODFW facilities fishing, camping and hunting.

The ODFW is having to spend way more time these days with the aging facilities as water habitat is particularly stressed when Coupled with the hotter summers, and weather conditions. An example of this is my recent visit to the Baker ODFW office this last fall hunting talking to the very helpful staff with a back drop of burned mountainsides, and stories of how they assessed the damage and recovery efforts. Our point here is about providing fish and wildlife for our future generations to see, photograph, hunt and fish for.

Last week ODFW provided for Scouts (boys and girls) to catch fish, licenses for crabbing, and a tour of the Trask fish hatchery learning about how salmon and steelhead find their way back to their native river, how cold-water supplies are so important and the results of wildfires as a Tillamook hatchery was raising fish for a Klamath hatchery that burned down. Expanding these opportunities to educate the youth and people who do not grow up in outdoor families is so important. The fish hatcheries serve more than fisherman.

The following weekend our local Steelheaders group joined at the coast to fish for steelhead (a trip planned far in advance). But as the rivers were flooded and were flowing too full fish, advice by ODFW provided rivers to checkout many of us had never seen and few fish were caught and released too, but most of all we were able to experience and strengthen our desire to protect Oregon's fish and wildlife.

As I'm sure you hear the federal government is not making things any easier, The US Army Corp has been taking drastic measures to comply with lawsuits at the Dams on the Willamette River, there efforts require monitoring by ODFW. Data ODFW provides

monitoring provides data for US Army Corp allows them to determine the success of the dam flushing.

In the end the department has done amazing work on a shoe string budget for many years, the budget request is modest at best and should be approved. Consider our future Oregon and our children's, children, allow them to see the fish and wildlife we have enjoyed.

Please approve the ODFW budget and consider reinstating the enforcement money for poachers cut, and the monitoring of salmon above Detroit reservoir.

Think of our children and grandchildren the Oregon we love for future generations.