

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2018

Colonel Aaron Dorf
Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-3440

Dear Commander Dorf:

We write today about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) obligation to fish mitigation through the hatcheries program in the Upper Willamette Basin (UWB). Specifically, we have questions about the upcoming hatchery contracts for trout, salmon, and steelhead.

The Corps has funded its mitigation responsibilities at seven hatcheries in the Columbia, Willamette and Rogue Basin since the 1950's, the first opening in 1951. The purpose of this hatchery production is to mitigate for the impact of federal dams on habitat and fish species. Since that time the Corps has worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) cooperatively to fund and operate these hatcheries. The work done at the hatcheries further supports a vigorous economy of sport-fishing enthusiasts.

As we understand, the Corps has had a mitigation responsibility of 749,800 pounds of hatchery fish annually for lost natural production of spring Chinook, winter steelhead and rainbow trout due to the Willamette Valley project. We are seeking clarification on whether the upcoming contracts will meet this responsibility.

1. We understand the contract for trout is up for renewal on July 1, 2018. Will the new contract meet the Corps' obligation to fund trout production at 277,000 pounds, the amount historically supported for the UWB? If the contract does not meet this production level, please describe the reasons why not.
2. What is the status of funding for salmon and steelhead programs? When are these contracts up for renewal? Will the Corps meet production levels at the amount historically supported for the UWB?

While we look forward to the day that healthy, harvestable wild populations of salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout do their part to support the communities and economy of the Willamette Valley, we are a long way from that and expect the Corps to fulfill their historic mitigation responsibilities.

We are hopeful that the Corps can continue to work with its partners in a collaborative manner and ensure that fish and wildlife funding is met and safeguarded well into the future. Thank you in advance for your response to our inquiries.

Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



RON WYDEN
U.S. Senator



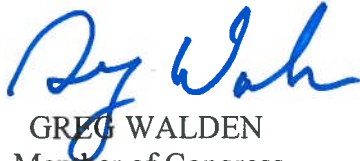
JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
U.S. Senator



PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress