

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF) is a seven-person board appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to advise Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department (department) staff on fish screening program development, implementation, monitoring, technology, funding and reporting. Three members represent agricultural interests, three represent fishing or fish conservation interests, and one member is appointed to represent the public. FSTF members serve a two-year term, with the possibility of serving three consecutive terms. There is currently one open position on the task force to represent agriculture and two open positions for fishing/fish conservation.

Gordon Summers served as an agriculture representative for three two-year terms. Lynden Brown and Jeff Oveson have served as a fishing/fish conservation representative for three two-year terms and are not eligible for reappointment. The Commission is responsible for appointing task force members and will be appointing one member to fill each current vacancy.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public recruitment for these FSTF positions was accomplished through a statewide news release, email notification to applicable organizations, and direct contact with people who have expressed an interest in becoming involved with this group.

ISSUE 1

APPOINT MEMBERS TO FILL ONE AGRICULTURE POSITION AND TWO FISH/FISHING CONSERVATION POSITIONS ON THE FISH SCREENING TASK FORCE

ANALYSIS

Ten people submitted applications for these open seats. Applications were reviewed based on their response to questions regarding their interest in the position, experience with angling and fish conservation organizations, fish screening or other water related experience, experience with agricultural practices and experience with public boards. After review of the applications by staff, the highest ranking applicants were interviewed and references contacted.

The following individuals applied for the agriculture position:

- Barry DelCurto, Halfway
- Frank Legee, Albany
- Marc Thalacker, Terrebonne
- Josh Thompson, The Dalles

The following individuals applied for the fishing/fish conservation positions:

- Alan Ames, Bend – Application withdrawn
- Dale Ballard, Troutdale
- William Cunningham, Bend

- Lonnie Johnson, Grants Pass
- Frank Legee, Albany
- Nathaniel Olken, Portland
- Theodore Taylor, La Grande

Alan Ames is a commercial herbicide applicator from Bend who fishes for recreation. Alan withdrew his application on March 30, 2015 due to accepting an out of state work position.

Dale Ballard is a retired firefighter from Troutdale and is currently the Capitol Chapter president of the CCA. He has been active in restoration projects in the Molalla basin and sport fishing issues through CCA. He spends a lot of time fishing.

William Cunningham is a retired attorney living in Bend. He was an attorney for the State of California representing California Fish and Game and Water Resources on fisheries protection and conservation issues. He is a fly fisherman and a member of the Deschutes River Conservancy.

Barry DelCurto is a rancher from Halfway. He is finishing his term as chair of the Access and Habitat Board. He actively irrigates for cattle and has installed fish screens on his diversions.

Lonnie Johnson is a retired printer who currently is the Oregon Bass conservation director. He is currently on the R&E Board and has served on the Angling Regulation Advisory Board. He is a devoted warmwater angler and advocate.

Frank Legee is a plumber from Albany with an interest in fish screening. He is an ardent fisherman.

Nathaniel Olken is an engineer working on fish screening issues for Alden Research Laboratory Inc. in Portland. Many of his projects involve large hydro projects nationwide. Nathaniel is an avid fisherman and a member of the Oregon Coastal Conservation Association (CCA).

Theodore Taylor is a retired US Department of Energy employee that worked on environmental remediation. He currently is on the Board of Directors for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. He has extensive experience working with government agencies and public groups to achieve consensus on large projects.

Marc Thalacker is the District Manager for the Three Sisters Irrigation District. He is also the chair of the Oregon Water Resources Congress Federal Affairs Committee and has testified in support of the authorization of the Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act. He has successfully raised funds to screen a large diversion and pipe forty-five miles of ditches resulting in restored instream flow.

Water Conservation Department. He has experience working with farmers and ranchers on fish screening and passage projects. He has experience with other restoration project such as riparian habitat projects.

This is a very good pool of applicants and many would make a great addition to the Fish Screening Task Force. Staff recommends the appointment of Barry DelCurto for the agriculture appointment due to his ability to represent agricultural interests and to represent Eastern Oregon. Staff recommends Nathaniel Olken for the first fishing/fish conservation appointment due to his direct engineering knowledge regarding fish screens and his ability to represent angling. Staff recommends Theodore Taylor for the second fishing/fish conservation appointment due to his experience working with diverse groups to resolve controversial restoration and remediation projects.

OPTIONS

1. Appoint three new members to the FSTF from the list of candidates
2. Reject the list of candidates and re-solicit for new candidates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Barry DelCurto – Agriculture Fish Screening Task Force Appointment
2. Nathaniel Olken – Fishing/Fish Conservation Fish Screening Task Force Appointment
3. Theodore Taylor - Fishing/Fish Conservation Fish Screening Task Force Appointment

DRAFT MOTION	I move to appoint _____ as the Agricultural representative on the Fish Screening Task Force and _____ and _____ as the Fishing/Fish Conservation representatives on the Fish Screening Task Force.
EFFECTIVE DATE	April 24, 2015