

**Exhibit I**  
**Sport Fishing Regulation**  
**Simplification Update**

**Supplemental Public Correspondence**

**Public correspondence received**  
**as of August 7, 2015**

## Amanda Mckenzie

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**From:** Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** Amanda Mckenzie  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on proposed 2015-2016 sport fishing regulation changes

Here is another for the packet.

Mike Gauvin  
Recreational Fisheries Management  
Program Manager  
Fish Division

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
[michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us](mailto:michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us)  
(w)503-947-6214  
(c) 503-910-3059

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**From:** Jessica Sall  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:03 AM  
**To:** Michael Gauvin  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on proposed 2015-2016 sport fishing regulation changes

For the record

**From:** Andrew Tunall [<mailto:andrew.tunall@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** [Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us](mailto:Michelle.N.Dennehy@state.or.us); [Jessica.Sall@state.or.us](mailto:Jessica.Sall@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Comments on proposed 2015-2016 sport fishing regulation changes

To whom it may concern,

These comments are regarding the proposed changes to the 2015-2016 sport fishing regulations, specifically the changes to the Deschutes River below Pelton and changes to the Northwest Zone to allow retention of wild trout.

As a license holder for both hunting and fishing, I understand the need to expand opportunity and allow retention. I appreciate the department's efforts to clarify the rules, making for simpler enforcement and more clarity for license holders. Given healthy fish populations and appropriate levels of fishing pressure, retention makes sense, as populations are able to sustain themselves under these conditions.

Unfortunately, populations on these two river systems do not fit these criteria, for different reasons.

First, the Deschutes may be northern Oregon's only true blue ribbon trout fishery, holding large trout and lots of fishable water. Fish populations on this river provide opportunity to catch (and release) large fish for residents

and visitors alike, supporting both recreational anglers, but also commercial enterprises in towns like Maupin that rely on river recreation. The current slot limit means that anglers looking to take fish from the river are few and far between - the river is, in essence, a catch and release river supporting large populations of fish - and also supporting a large population of anglers. With existing incidental mortality due to catch and release, a harvest fishery on the Deschutes would have the effect of attracting additional anglers looking for large, harvestable fish. More anglers and pressure will inevitably put downward population on resident fish populations. Existing fish populations cannot sustain this.

**ODFW should instead make the Deschutes River below Pelton catch and release only, simplifying the regulations by removing the confusing slot limit.**

Second, the northwest zone's coastal streams have a different issue. Supporting populations of resident and migratory cutthroat trout, many of these streams have a legacy of over-harvest, and are already under pressure due to intense logging on public and private lands. ODFW's priority should be establishing strong resident and migratory populations of fish in these rivers, rather than pushing for harvest on already stressed populations.

Simply put, angler opportunity and increased harvest opportunity are not the same thing. The number one concern I have when going fishing is not the ability to harvest fish, but rather, a lack of fish to catch period. Focusing on building and maintaining strong, healthy resident and migratory fish populations will inevitably increase opportunity for all anglers.

Regards,  
Andrew Tunall

**From:** [Geoffrey Stearns](mailto:Geoffrey.Stearns@odfw.commission.state.or.us)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** John Day River Smallmouth  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 11:08:50 AM

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I wish to submit a comment for consideration with respect to the potential removal of smallmouth bass bag limits on the John Day River.

I recently moved to Oregon from California, and I was enthused to learn that there was a world-class smallmouth bass fishery within a couple of hours of our new home in Bend.

My wife and I sampled the fishery via a Mah-Hah Outfitters drift trip, and were nothing short of amazed at the quality of the fishing, the beauty of the river and the region, and the entire experience. As currently managed, the John Day is truly a unique resource, which compares favorably to some of the wonderful places around the world I have been fortunate to fish, e.g., Lake Taupo, New Zealand; Sitka, Alaska; New Caledonia; Lake Agua Milpa, Mexico.

I can only surmise that the proposed removal of any bag limit on smallmouth bass would be designed to significantly reduce their population, apparently in service of possible/theoretical benefits to salmonoid species.

Not only is it my understanding that there is no conflict between these species, but I would respectfully caution ODFW about negatively impacting a thriving warm-water fishery, in these days of uncertain climatic conditions, which are currently contributing serious, worrying warm-water salmon die-offs in Oregon. Witness the post-2pm fishing closure in many Oregon rivers, which I believe is unprecedented.

In conclusion, I would urge ODFW to think long and hard about the current and future ramifications - and the legion examples of unintended consequences of human interventions - before taking any step that could negatively impact the robust smallmouth bass fishery in Oregon.

Thank you for the consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Stearns  
60445 Dakota Trail  
Bend, Oregon 97702

**From:** [Tom Brooks](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** John Day River  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 6:58:22 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

Please keep in force your current fishing regulations on the John Day River.

Sincerely,  
Tom Brooks

**From:** [Kurt Messenger](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** John Day Smallmouth Limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 6:44:20 AM

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I understand there is a proposal to eliminate the bag limit on the John Day River for smallmouth bass. It is my guess that this is being done for budget reasons? No bag limit, means no enforcement, which saves money? I trust it's not for the misguided reason of thinking that the bass are detrimental to salmon and steelhead. There is plenty of science which shows that bass and Salmonoids coexist and even thrive in the JD system.

I have lived in Oregon since 1969 (early years were in California fishing for largemouth bass with my brother and Dad) and have fished the JD annually since 1990. It is a great fishery. The slot limit presently used seems to work well. A fisherman is allowed to take five a day, none between 12" and 16" and one over 16". Only the careless or foolish would kill one of the bigger fish. Those are the spawning trophies that need to be left for the next guy.

With no limits, more of the larger fish will likely be killed. I'm no biologist, but I expect the smallmouth to survive just fine, except we will lose the trophy fish. In my opinion this is not a fair trade for saving a few bucks on enforcement.

**Kurt Messenger, P.E.**

Vice President

JHI Engineering, Inc.

3420 SW Macadam Ave.

Portland, Oregon 97239

503.223.7799

[KMessenger@jhiengineering.com](mailto:KMessenger@jhiengineering.com)

**From:** [Steve Fleming](#)  
**To:** [ODFW.COMMISSION@STATE.OR.US](mailto:ODFW.COMMISSION@STATE.OR.US)  
**Subject:** August 7 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 6:22:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [ODFW.doc](#)

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Howdy,

Please read the attached letter before your meeting on August 7th about new regulations to make regulations easier....thanks

YOUR BASSIN' BUDDYS,  
Steve and Linda Fleming

PO Box 428 Fossil, OR 97830  
971-533-5733 or 503-5773834  
e-mail: [mho.bassinbuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:mho.bassinbuddy@yahoo.com)  
[www.johndayriverfishing.com](http://www.johndayriverfishing.com)

August 5, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

To: The Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

I understand you are listening to a proposal about simplifying fishing regulations this Friday, August 7. One proposal would take the bag limit off the game fish, smallmouth bass, in the Columbia, John Day, and Umpqua Rivers. I would like to talk about the fishing science of this proposal on the John Day River, and how this proposal would negatively impact the fishery. I have fished the river since 1968 and been a professional guide (Mah-Hah Outfitters) on the John Day River since 1991, and spent over 100 days a year since fishing for smallmouth bass and native steelhead.

The Department had the foresight to introduce 80 smallmouth bass in 1971, and 1200+ Channel Catfish. This has produced a World-Class Smallmouth Bass fishery, and brought many anglers from all over the world to the John Day River's remote area. Many national publications have called the John Day River one of the Best Smallmouth Bass Rivers in the USA. The Field and Stream magazine May 2015 issue labeled the John Day River the Best Smallmouth Bass River in the West.

The smallmouth bass and Salmonoids (Summer Chinook and Steelhead) have co-existed very successfully since 1971. The redd counts that have been taken since 1959 have shown a marked increase (5 times more redds/beds), and when coupled with returning native counts over the Dams, has allowed the Department to open a Summer Chinook Salmon season three of the last five years on select sections of the John Day River. Again, science with exacting field work show the smallmouth bass have had little to no impact on the salmonoids in the John Day Basin.

I participated in an intensive seven year study of the smallmouth bass ( Information Report number 99-1, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) that ended in 1994, and at that time the Department concluded that the smallmouth bass have little to no impact on the salmonoids. The science showed how the small mouth bass are driven to feed by higher temperatures and not active during the cooler water smolt migration time. Again science showed of a successful co-existence.

The biggest smolt predator is the Northern Pike Minnow, who feed on other fish year round, and here is where the smallmouth bass have played a significant role on the John Day River in decreasing the Northern Pike Minnow numbers. There is no "bounty" paid for catching and turning in Northern Pike Minnow in the reach above Tumwater Falls. When I first started guiding, 1991, we would catch over five Northern Pike Minnow measuring over 18 inches per day. The bass have predated on these fish to the point it is an event to catch even one Northern Pike Minnow a week of any size. Again, the numbers show the value of the smallmouth bass.

The steelhead fishing on the John Day River has remained good during the years. We have never had a Hatchery Release and have had to rely on the Native strain. The bass have been in the river since 1971, and yet no negative impact has been noted. The

Tumwater Falls barrier does not allow the big Pike Minnow and walleye to travel up the river, and we have been able to keep our Native strain viable. The bass have been part of this success.

In closing I thank you for reading my letter, and implore you to not speculate on the effect of Smallmouth Bass on the salmonoids. Science has showed they co-exist with the salmonoids. Please DO NOT take the limit off the smallmouth bass in the John Day River, and change the current population balance.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven J. Fleming  
President, Head Guide, Mah-Hah Outfitters.

**From:** [garymarchant@q.com](mailto:garymarchant@q.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Simplified Angling regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 9:03:56 AM

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Members Please consider a very targeted and precise scientific review of your "bag limit" proposals for non-native fish . The endangered and planted steelhead and salmon runs, seem to be at constant threat from dangers not related to non-native fish. Oregon has a "fallback fishery" most of the nation longs for.....the very best Walleye and Smallmouth Bass in the West. This slippery slope should be approached with caution; once done, a poor anadromous runs leaves us with no fishing prospects.

Your rush to simplify regs, may turn into a public relations nightmare, if there is no remaining viable fishery.

## Amanda Mckenzie

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**From:** Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 05, 2015 9:24 AM  
**To:** Amanda Mckenzie  
**Subject:** FW: Williamson River fishing regulations

For commission packet.

Mike Gauvin  
Recreational Fisheries Management  
Program Manager  
Fish Division

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us  
(w)503-947-6214  
(c) 503-910-3059

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**From:** Tom Keelin [mailto:tom@hexageniaranch.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 5:18 PM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Cc:** 'Michael Harrington'; william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us; 'Michael Gauvin'  
**Subject:** Williamson River fishing regulations

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

With respect to the proposed simplification of fishing regulations, we respectfully request that you adopt the following three regulations to govern the Williamson River:

A. Catch and release everywhere.

This regulation is included in the staff proposal. We strongly endorse it. Historically, the Williamson River has been one of the finest fisheries in the world for wild native (redband) rainbow trout. This resource has apparently been declining in recent years both in size and number of fish. This may be in part due to environmental changes such as the drought and, in particular, the lack of water feeding the river from Klamath Marsh. Is likely due in part to the many fish being taken out of the river rather than released. While no one knows the exact causes of the apparent decline, we believe that additional conservation is needed in order to protect this outstanding and unique fishery, which is important not only to local anglers but also to the economy of Southern Oregon.

B. No fishing from a floating device above Chiloquin bridge.

The staff is proposing that this existing regulation be retained. We strongly agree. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between waders and boaters. In the cold, gin-clear, small, and quiet water between Collier Park and Chiloquin, there's simply not enough room (and not enough remaining places that reliably hold fish) for both boaters and waders to coexist without conflict. Without this regulation, fishing pressure would likely increase in these sensitive waters, and even with catch and release, the disturbance of the fish and

increased mortality of injured-but-released fish would likely be detrimental. In addition, there are certain places where we believe that boat anglers slowly backing down on the fish could do significant damage to the fish near their spawning grounds. For these reasons, we strongly agree with staff that this existing regulation should be retained. Moreover, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it for one or more of these reasons.

C. No angling from a motor-propelled craft while motor is operating above Modoc Point Road bridge.

Though this existing regulation was not included in the staff proposal, we strongly believe that it should be retained. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between trollers and other anglers. Since then, to our knowledge, nothing has changed to suggest that this regulation should be eliminated. The water from Chiloquin down to Modoc Point Road bridge is generally too small to reasonably support motorized trolling. On a daily basis, numerous anglers (including many professionally-guided anglers) work their way down from Chiloquin in the direction of the Modoc Point Road bridge with considerable "stealth" in order to have the best chance of success. To allow motorized trolling up and down the river in this same water could potentially ruin their chances and, we believe, would inevitably lead to direct conflict. In addition, if the quality of anglers' experience on guided trips and for the general public were to start suffering because of motorized trolling in the same water, this could directly harm an important part of Southern Oregon economy. Moreover, the apparent decline in size and numbers of fish in recent years further strengthens the rationale for this regulation. Finally, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it.

In summary, B and C are regulations that have been in place for many decades, that have successfully withstood the test of time, and that are in place for very good reasons that have not changed. They are simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. To the best of our knowledge, there is no opposition to keeping both B and C in place. While we support simplifying the regulations wherever it makes sense to do so, we believe that eliminating either B or C would do more harm than good.

Finally, please note that A, B, and C together would represent a considerable simplification of the existing Williamson River regulations – and so we offer this proposal within the spirit of that simplification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom and Beth Keelin

Thomas and Elizabeth Keelin  
Hexagenia Ranch  
32935 Hwy 97 N  
Chiloquin, OR 97624  
541 783 2408 (home)  
650 465 4800 (cell)  
415 363 0881 (fax)  
[www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com)  
[www.flyfishingresearch.net](http://www.flyfishingresearch.net)

**From:** [Jon Bauer](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Comment on Williamson River regulation changes.  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 3:48:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [QDFW Letter 815.pdf](#)

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Please find attached letter regarding the proposed regulation changes on the Williamson River.

Thank you.

Jon Bauer

Jon and Barbara Bauer  
182 Scenic Drive  
Ashland, OR 97520  
tel 541-488-8246

August 2, 2015

Dear ODFW Commissioners.

re: Proposed Williamson River fishing regulation simplification.

We have a house on the Williamson River at 41403 Royal Coachman Dr. Chiloquin, OR. I have been fishing the river for the past 15 years, primarily between Spring Creek and the town of Chiloquin. I have two fishing partners who introduced me to the river who have been fishing the river for 20 years and 30 years respectively. We have witnessed the decline in the fishery, especially in the last three years. We feel that the fish population between Chiloquin and Spring Creek is down 70% from the levels of 15 years ago. Of course this is due to several factors, some of which we can have an influence on. I would like to pass on a few comments regarding the proposed simplification of the fishing regulations for the Williamson River in the Klamath basin.

I want to endorse the proposed catch and release regulation. This would help reduce the kill rate, at least until the fishery recovers. I don't believe this would reduce the number of license sales, in fact it may increase sales to people who are interested in native wild fisheries which there are few remaining.

Also I want to endorse the continued regulation of no fishing from a floating device above the Chiloquin bridge. This is really important to this fishery. These wild native fish are very wary and are easily disrupted by activity. They are lake fish that need to move up the cold drainages to hold and spawn. If they are disrupted from their traditional holding holes it will effect their spawning and the health of the fishery. The water flow is too slow and clear above town to have boats parking on top of the fish.

To realize the benefit of catch and release I am concerned that there is no mention of using "only artificial flies and lures with a barbless hook". If bait and barbed treble hooks are allowed there will be a increase in fish kill. The catch and release of dying fish won't benefit anyone, especially the fish. I hope this issue is not overlooked.

I know there is a need to simplify regulations but attempting to make the regulations into "one size fits all" will not serve the stated mission of ODFW of "enhancing the fish and wildlife resources" of Oregon. These resources are very crucial to the continued sustainable growth of the state. Because Oregon has clean healthy rivers with wild fish we moved our lives and business (which supports over 35 living wage jobs in Oregon) to Oregon over a decade ago. This kind of interest and support is what will generate revenue for the state to continue enhancing its precious fish and wildlife resources into the future.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and interest in the Klamath basin fishery.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Bauer

**From:** [Tom Keelin](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** "[Michael Harrington](#)"; [william.r.finniswood@state.or.us](mailto:william.r.finniswood@state.or.us); "[Michael Gauvin](#)"  
**Subject:** Williamson River fishing regulations  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 5:17:48 PM

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Dear ODFW Commissioners,

With respect to the proposed simplification of fishing regulations, we respectfully request that you adopt the following three regulations to govern the Williamson River:

A. Catch and release everywhere.

This regulation is included in the staff proposal. We strongly endorse it. Historically, the Williamson River has been one of the finest fisheries in the world for wild native (redband) rainbow trout. This resource has apparently been declining in recent years both in size and number of fish. This may be in part due to environmental changes such as the drought and, in particular, the lack of water feeding the river from Klamath Marsh. Is likely due in part to the many fish being taken out of the river rather than released. While no one knows the exact causes of the apparent decline, we believe that additional conservation is needed in order to protect this outstanding and unique fishery, which is important not only to local anglers but also to the economy of Southern Oregon.

B. No fishing from a floating device above Chiloquin bridge.

The staff is proposing that this existing regulation be retained. We strongly agree. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between waders and boaters. In the cold, gin-clear, small, and quiet water between Collier Park and Chiloquin, there's simply not enough room (and not enough remaining places that reliably hold fish) for both boaters and waders to coexist without conflict. Without this regulation, fishing pressure would likely increase in these sensitive waters, and even with catch and release, the disturbance of the fish and increased mortality of injured-but-released fish would likely be detrimental. In addition, there are certain places where we believe that boat anglers slowly backing down on the fish could do significant damage to the fish near their spawning grounds. For these reasons, we strongly agree with staff that this existing regulation should be retained. Moreover, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it for one or more of these reasons.

C. No angling from a motor-propelled craft while motor is operating above Modoc Point Road bridge.

Though this existing regulation was not included in the staff proposal, we strongly believe that it should be retained. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between trollers and other anglers. Since then, to our knowledge, nothing has changed to suggest that this regulation should be eliminated. The water from Chiloquin down to Modoc Point Road bridge is generally too small to reasonably support motorized trolling. On a daily basis,

numerous anglers (including many professionally-guided anglers) work their way down from Chiloquin in the direction of the Modoc Point Road bridge with considerable "stealth" in order to have the best chance of success. To allow motorized trolling up and down the river in this same water could potentially ruin their chances and, we believe, would inevitably lead to direct conflict. In addition, if the quality of anglers' experience on guided trips and for the general public were to start suffering because of motorized trolling in the same water, this could directly harm an important part of Southern Oregon economy. Moreover, the apparent decline in size and numbers of fish in recent years further strengthens the rationale for this regulation. Finally, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it.

In summary, B and C are regulations that have been in place for many decades, that have successfully withstood the test of time, and that are in place for very good reasons that have not changed. They are simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. To the best of our knowledge, there is no opposition to keeping both B and C in place. While we support simplifying the regulations wherever it makes sense to do so, we believe that eliminating either B or C would do more harm than good.

Finally, please note that A, B, and C together would represent a considerable simplification of the existing Williamson River regulations – and so we offer this proposal within the spirit of that simplification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom and Beth Keelin

Thomas and Elizabeth Keelin  
Hexagenia Ranch  
32935 Hwy 97 N  
Chiloquin, OR 97624  
541 783 2408 (home)  
650 465 4800 (cell)  
415 363 0881 (fax)  
[www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com)  
[www.flyfishingresearch.net](http://www.flyfishingresearch.net)

**From:** [Bill Suzanne](mailto:Bill_Suzanne)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed State Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 12:35:58 PM

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Dear ODFW Commissioners,

With respect to the proposed simplification of fishing regulations, we respectfully request you adopt the following (and only the following) three regulations to govern the Williamson River:

A. Catch and release everywhere.

This regulation is included in the staff proposal. We strongly endorse it. Historically, the Williamson River has been one of the finest fisheries in the world for wild native (redband) rainbow trout. This resource has apparently been declining in recent years both in size and number of fish. This may be in part due to environmental changes such as the drought and, in particular, the lack of water feeding the river from Klamath Marsh. Is likely due in part to the many fish being taken out of the river rather than released. While no one knows the exact causes of the apparent decline, we believe that additional conservation is needed in order to protect this outstanding and unique fishery, which is important not only to local anglers but also to the economy of Southern Oregon.

B. No fishing from a floating device above Chiloquin bridge.

The staff is proposing that this existing regulation be retained. We strongly agree. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between waders and boaters. In the cold, gin-clear, quiet water between Collier Park and Chiloquin, there's simply not enough room (and not enough remaining places that reliably hold fish) for both boaters and waders to coexist without conflict. In addition, there are certain places where we believe that boat anglers slowly backing down on the fish could do significant damage to the fish near their spawning grounds. For both these reasons, we strongly agree with staff that this is existing regulation should be retained. Moreover, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it for one or both of these reasons.

C. No angling from a motor-propelled craft while motor is operating above Modoc Point Road bridge.

Though this existing regulation was not included in the staff proposal, we

strongly believe that it should be retained. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between trollers and other anglers. Since then, to our knowledge, nothing has changed to suggest that this regulation should be eliminated. Daily, numerous anglers (including many professionally-guided anglers) work their way down from Chiloquin in the direction of the Modoc Point Road bridge with considerable "stealth" in order to have the best chance of success. To allow motorized trolling up and down the river in the same water could potentially ruin their chances and, we believe, would lead to direct conflict. In addition, if the quality of anglers' experience on guided trips were to start suffering because of motorized trolling in the same water, this could directly harm an important part of Southern Oregon economy. In addition, the apparent decline in size and numbers of fish in recent years further strengthens the rationale for this regulation. Finally, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it.

In summary, B and C are regulations that have been in place for many decades and for very good reasons. They are simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. To the best of our knowledge, there is no opposition to keeping them in place. While we support simplifying the regulations wherever it makes sense to do so, we believe that eliminating either B or C would likely do much more harm than good.

Finally, we note that A, B, and C together would represent a considerable simplification of the existing Williamson River regulations – and so we offer this proposal within the spirit of simplification as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Dragon

Bend OR

**From:** [Jon Knapp](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** ["William Tinniswood"](#)  
**Subject:** Williamson River Proposals 2016-2017  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 10:59:30 AM

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I am writing this as a comment to the 2016-2017 draft proposals for fishing on the Williamson River. I have been fishing the Williamson River since 1978. I built a home on the river 3 miles north of Chiloquin in 1999. I have seen the fishery go downhill dramatically over the past 10-12 years and I am very concerned that without immediate changes to the regulations, I may well live to see the last of the Redband Rainbow. I sincerely hope that I am wrong, however after our annual river cleanup last Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, I saw the fewest Redbands ever on a float in my driftboat from my house 3 miles downstream to just below the Chiloquin Bridge. We only counted 100 Redbands in that stretch, where historically over the last 18 years that I have been volunteering for this cleanup we have counted as many as 1000 Redbands and many years at least 600-700 Redbands.

It is my belief that the major reason for the decline in Redband population is the continuing drought conditions in the West. Also there is little to no water coming out of the marsh and some irrigators have been taking more than their share of water. With the decline in Redbands it is imperative to change the regulations to a zero limit for the entire season for the entire length of the river, from the mouth upstream to Kirk Springs. I also support the continued restriction of no fishing out of a floating device upstream from the Chiloquin Bridge. Further, it is my opinion that spin fishermen using a treble hook will seriously injure a high percentage of fish and if released most will die. I therefore urge you to put into effect a restriction to read "Catch and Release all Redband Rainbow trout; single barbless hooks only; no fishing from a floating device upstream of the Chiloquin Bridge; no bait fishing allowed."

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Knapp

**From:** [Steve Hilbert](mailto:Steve.Hilbert@odfw.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed State Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 9:14:11 AM

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Dear ODFW Commissioners,

With respect to the proposed simplification of fishing regulations, we respectfully request you adopt the following (and only the following) three regulations to govern the Williamson River:

A. Catch and release everywhere.

This regulation is included in the staff proposal. We strongly endorse it. Historically, the Williamson River has been one of the finest fisheries in the world for wild native (redband) rainbow trout. This resource has apparently been declining in recent years both in size and number of fish. This may be in part due to environmental changes such as the drought and, in particular, the lack of water feeding the river from Klamath Marsh. Is likely due in part to the many fish being taken out of the river rather than released. While no one knows the exact causes of the apparent decline, we believe that additional conservation is needed in order to protect this outstanding and unique fishery, which is important not only to local anglers but also to the economy of Southern Oregon.

B. No fishing from a floating device above Chiloquin bridge.

The staff is proposing that this existing regulation be retained. We strongly agree. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between waders and boaters. In the cold, gin-clear, quiet water between Collier Park and Chiloquin, there's simply not enough room (and not enough remaining places that reliably hold fish) for both boaters and waders to coexist without conflict. In addition, there are certain places where we believe that boat anglers slowly backing down on the fish could do significant damage to the fish near their spawning grounds. For both these reasons, we strongly agree with staff that this is existing regulation should be retained. Moreover, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it for one or both of these reasons.

C. No angling from a motor-propelled craft while motor is operating above Modoc Point Road bridge.

Though this existing regulation was not included in the staff proposal, we strongly believe that it should be retained. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between trollers and other anglers. Since then, to our knowledge, nothing has changed to suggest that this regulation should be eliminated. Daily, numerous anglers (including many professionally-guided anglers) work their way down from Chiloquin in the direction of the Modoc Point Road bridge with considerable "stealth" in order to have the best chance of success. To allow motorized trolling up and down the river in the same water could

potentially ruin their chances and, we believe, would lead to direct conflict. In addition, if the quality of anglers' experience on guided trips were to start suffering because of motorized trolling in the same water, this could directly harm an important part of Southern Oregon economy. In addition, the apparent decline in size and numbers of fish in recent years further strengthens the rationale for this regulation. Finally, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it.

In summary, B and C are regulations that have been in place for many decades and for very good reasons. They are simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. To the best of our knowledge, there is no opposition to keeping them in place. While we support simplifying the regulations wherever it makes sense to do so, we believe that eliminating either B or C would likely do much more harm than good.

Finally, we note that A, B, and C together would represent a considerable simplification of the existing Williamson River regulations – and so we offer this proposal within the spirit of simplification as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen & Debbie Hilbert

**From:** Gregory Bulkley  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed regulation changes for Lower Williamson River  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 1:27:06 PM

---

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

With respect to the proposed simplification of fishing regulations, we respectfully request you adopt the following (and only the following) three regulations to govern the Williamson River:

A. Catch and release everywhere.

This regulation is included in the staff proposal. We strongly endorse it. Historically, the Williamson River has been one of the finest fisheries in the world for wild native (redband) rainbow trout. This resource has apparently been declining in recent years both in size and number of fish. This may be in part due to environmental changes such as the drought and, in particular, the lack of water feeding the river from Klamath Marsh. Is likely due in part to the many fish being taken out of the river rather than released. While no one knows the exact causes of the apparent decline, we believe that additional conservation is needed in order to protect this outstanding and unique fishery, which is important not only to local anglers but also to the economy of Southern Oregon.

B. No fishing from a floating device above Chiloquin bridge.

The staff is proposing that this existing regulation be retained. We strongly agree. It was put into effect decades ago because of conflict between waders and boaters. In the cold, gin-clear, quiet water between Collier Park and Chiloquin, there's simply not enough room (and not enough remaining places that reliably hold fish) for both boaters and waders to coexist without conflict. In addition, there are certain places where we believe that boat anglers slowly backing down on the fish could do significant damage to the fish near their spawning grounds. For both these reasons, we strongly agree with staff that this existing regulation should be retained. Moreover, this regulation is simple, clear, and widely respected on the river. Everyone we know supports retaining it for one or both of these reasons.

C. No angling from a motor-propelled craft while motor is operating above Modoc Point Road bridge.

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Finally, we note that A, B, and C together would represent a considerable simplification of the existing Williamson River regulations – and so we offer this proposal within the spirit of simplification as well.

Greg Bulkley  
Executive Committee and Conservation Chair. Oregon Council, International  
Federation of Fly Fishers  
Past President and Past Conservation Chair, Klamath Country Fly Casters

Black Drake Ranch  
28850 Ivory Pine Road  
Bly, OR 97622-0046  
541-880-8017 (H)  
541-810-1884 (C)  
[gregbulkley@gmail.com](mailto:gregbulkley@gmail.com)

TO: Oregon Department of Fish and  
Wildlife Fish Division - Angling Regulations  
Coordinator

Suggestions: Adopt tag regulations for  
Trout fishing. [The same style & type used  
for Steelhead, Salmon & Sturgeon]  
Tag all trout that are caught in  
rivers streams and lakes. To better  
manage the Resource. Plant more  
trout where more Trout are caught  
Or change the catch limits in over  
fished areas. When fishing in lakes  
for trout change the catch limits to  
five fish 8" to 16" Add two more fish  
17" to 24" and add one more fish  
over 24" per day. With a 35 fish  
limit per week. Most people work  
and just fish on the weekends. This  
won't change the actual number of  
catchable fish per day for most people.  
Yet it looks Great for Sport Angling,  
for food.

Suggest: Make it not legal to keep  
steelhead and Salmon Smolts, In  
any and all rivers and creeks.  
There is a difference between  
Smolts and Trout, You can tell  
just by looking at them.

Allen V. Morris

ODFW

AUG 7

Director's Office

ODFW Headquarters Salem  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive Se  
Salem Oregon 97302-1142  
503-947-6044

To the Director of the ODFW  
Headquarters in Salem and the Oregon  
Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Suggestions: Related to over heating  
water temperatures in hatchery's,  
and Rivers Killing Cold water fish.

- ① Set up an Air-condition unit  
that pumps cold air. Through pipe  
perforated with small holes. Put in the  
bottom of fish rearing ponds, or in the  
bottom of a mouth of a river, or  
in the Columbia. Originates the  
water and cools the water for fish  
survival. In Dammed up River Lakes.
- ② Set up an ice cube machine that  
puts ice cubes into the water. Based  
on the temperature of the water.  
To cool down fish survival zones.
- ③ Set up a Columbia river barge  
system. Make portable, moveable,  
relocatable fish hatchery Barges,  
with wind mill electric generator  
and with solar power. To power  
water pumps, self, feeders, and  
water cooling heat pumps.

Suggestions for Salmon, Steelhead, Sturgeon  
Survival

Allan V. Martin

To Oregon Department of fish and  
wild life.

Suggestion: Charge money for your  
fishing Regulations book 3x what  
it costs the state of Oregon.  
But include one regulations book  
with the price of the purchase  
of a fishing licence. Require the  
Regs book be carried at all times  
when fishing for regulations  
reference, while fishing, know the  
rules. This way the regs book has  
value and becomes valuable. This  
way if the regs book is damaged  
or lost. Someone won't just go  
grab another or several Free Regs  
books. saving money for the ODFW,  
is a good Idea. Making money is also  
good, to produce more fish.

Allen V. Minor

Matching rules regs and Format, layout  
of the Sport Fishing Regulations. With  
Oregon Washington Idaho and California  
is a good Idea. Especially for the  
Columbia River System and all of its  
tributaries.

## Amanda Mckenzie

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**From:** Michael Gauvin  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 2:29 PM  
**To:** Amanda Mckenzie  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: Williamson River, Oregon Southeast Zone

**Categories:** Commission

See below for commission packet.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Elizabeth A OsierMoats <[Elizabeth.A.OsierMoats@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:Elizabeth.A.OsierMoats@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>  
**Date:** August 3, 2015 at 10:59:19 AM PDT  
**To:** Michael Gauvin <[Michael.W.Gauvin@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:Michael.W.Gauvin@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>  
**Subject:** **FW: Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: Williamson River, Oregon Southeast Zone**

Hi Mike,

We received a few comments over the weekend. Just wanted to pass them along in advance of the Commission meeting.

Bill sent this one to me. He must have been Bcc'ed on it.

I will be at the Commission meeting on Friday and look forward to seeing you.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth A. O. Moats  
Acting Fish District Biologist  
Klamath Watershed District  
1850 Miller Island Road  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603  
(O) 541-883-5732  
(C) 541-805-4559

-----Original Message-----

**From:** William Tinniswood [<mailto:william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 03, 2015 7:32 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth A OsierMoats <[elizabeth.a.osiermoats@state.or.us](mailto:elizabeth.a.osiermoats@state.or.us)>  
([elizabeth.a.osiermoats@state.or.us](mailto:elizabeth.a.osiermoats@state.or.us))  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: Williamson River, Oregon Southeast Zone

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Marshal Moser [<mailto:marshalmoser@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, August 02, 2015 6:17 PM

To: [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)

Cc: Marshal Moser

Subject: Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: Williamson River, Oregon Southeast Zone

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept the comments below re the Proposed Regulations Changes for the Williamson River in Oregon's Southeast Zone.

As I understand what ODFW is doing, they are going through a process to simplify the present rather voluminous regulations. Some of the purposes to do so are:

To make the regs simpler, easier to understand, and uniform.

To make them more enforceable by being less complicated for the average person and law enforcement, for the public's use and enjoyment, as well as gain more convictions of violations.

To save money publishing the regs (smaller, more consistent, and able to go two years between revisions and republication).

Lesser objective (which I thought was voiced by ODFW at the hearing) - keep and recruit more fishermen since regs will not be as cumbersome and bewildering. Can enough be said for working to preserve the future of fishing for the average person?

Main thoughts:

1. (ODFW did give a couple of examples of other streams which need to retain special regs.) Do not simplify the regs too much on places with special fish populations or needs, like for the very unique Redbands of the Wood and Lower Williamson Rivers. The regs are an important management tool that needs to stay viable for future needs as well as current. Be careful of oversimplification.
2. Keep the current regs of no fishing from a floating device above the Chiloquin Bridge. This is to continue to provide some extra much needed protection for the Redbands in the smaller waters there; provide a less crowded, better fishing experience, including reducing angler to angler and angler to landowner conflicts.
3. I do not plan to protest the Catch and Release (C&R) proposal for the Williamson (for the Redbands only), unless requested by other friends and fishermen. However, I am not totally comfortable with it. Much more quantified data is needed on the fish populations and habitat to strongly support various positions and ideas re both harvest and C&R. Related thoughts, some perhaps philosophical, but still may be important:
  - a. I prefer the present highly controlled take of a few Redbands during a reduced season (many, if not most, fishermen already practice C&R anyway).
  - b. I prefer to leave the door open a little for the large numbers of average fishermen who sometimes would like to keep a fish. Do not turn fishing into an elitist sport for a minority of fishermen.
  - c. I believe, in the long term, allowing a small harvest is good for educating people to natural resource health and management, and recruiting some additional fisherman.
  - d. Likewise, I believe C&R cuts another connection to understanding how our environment works and what really supplies our food, its origin is not the grocery store and plastic the wrapped meat there.

e. Similarly, harvest and eating the fish provides an additional incentive to keep the waters, as well as the fish, healthy and clean.

f. I believe harvesting occasional fish for food is more defensible against some extreme animal protection groups were C&R is perceived by them to be "sport" only, with the fish vainly suffering.

g. The C&R proposal was mostly accepted by the people attending the Klamath Falls public hearing. The meeting and proposals were not well advertised in advance of the meeting. Most of the people were fly fishermen, adjacent property owners, and those with financial interests in the fish, such as myself and guides. Related to b. above, we represent a small part of the fishing public and are often perceived to be elitist and controlling by the general fishing public. This may not be good for fishermen relations or ODFW public relations.

h. For the sake of uniformity with the rest of the state and benefits to the average fisherman, the "upper" Williamson could be kept the same as the remainder of the Southeast Zone, i.e. the two trout limit except unlimited for Brook Trout. (And, a fish over a campfire there is a special experience that is getting harder to find in Oregon.) The fish there are a different genetic strain of Rainbow and not under significant pressure compared to the fish in the lower Williamson.

i. I do expect some resistance from the general public to the C&R proposal, both political and otherwise. I would probably sign a petition against C&R on the Williamson if asked, but I will not initiate one. (Again, I would like to see more hard data on what is happening with the fish populations).

4. I hope ODFW does not go too far in simplifying the regs, now or in the future, because they do provide a very good management tool in special places around Oregon, like the Williamson and the Wood Rivers. The following do not go along with the idea of simplifying the regs, but here are some other ideas:

a. Go to a "slot length" that requires any fish above a certain length to be returned alive and healthy to the water. That length could allow one or two fish up to a nice pan size for cooking, say 15 or 17 inches to be kept for eating. This would save more trophy fish in the system and provide some genetic selection for the large breeders.

b. If ODFW does believe C&R is warranted on the Williamson River to protect the unique Redbands on the lower river, go further, i.e., require barbless hooks and no treble hooks. This would increase survival rates for released fish.

c. Outlaw gasoline motors above the 97 bridge (except for enforcement or research boats).

And, also again, I cannot stress enough how much more research is needed on the Williamson River - Upper Klamath Lake Redband Trout (as per Behnke), especially population health and dynamics for the native and non-native species. ODFW and a few others are doing some good work here but there are just not enough people out there to gather and analyze what is needed. Then better decisions could be made for regulations, etc.

I hope you will find some value in the above additional comments beyond what the specific objective was for the proposed fishing regulation changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the process.

Most sincerely,  
Marshal

\*\*\*\*\*

Marshal A. Moser, Jr., C.W.B.  
Certified Wildlife Biologist  
Manager-Naturalist, Lonesome Duck Ranch

EcoServices Biological Consulting  
32965 Highway 97 N  
Chiloquin, Oregon 97624-9725  
Personal Cell Phone: 541/880-4629  
Personal E-mail: [MarshalMoser@gmail.com](mailto:MarshalMoser@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com)  
Lonesome Duck Reservations & Info: 541-783-2783  
Blog: [www.lonesomeduckblog.blogspot.com](http://www.lonesomeduckblog.blogspot.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Don Miller  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Letter to the ODFW  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 11:28:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [Fish and Wildlife letter.docx](#)

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Please print the attached letter for the commission to read.

Thank you,  
Don Miller



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

August 2, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97302

To: The honorable Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission members.

I recently received your news release concerning a Commission meeting agenda to address 2016 regulations (Fish and Wildlife). As an avid sportsman and angler, I commend you on the effort to simplify regulations. However, one item that caught my attention was a reference to lift all regulations on warmwater species in the Columbia, John Day and Umqua Rivers to further protect endangered salmon and steelhead from predation.

While I can maybe see the logic in lifting warmwater regs. in the Umqua and perhaps the Columbia, your including the John Day causes me great concern.

I have floated and fished the John Day since the late 1970's following the smallmouth bass program started by ODFW sometime in the early 1970's. This includes spending considerable time with my friends and local guides on the river.

What we have observed is that in the John Day River specifically, Smallmouth Bass have rendered the Northern Squawfish (Pike Minnow) near non-existent in the lower North Fork and from Kimberly downstream on the mainstem, a distance of over 200 miles. Prior to the smallmouth, you could catch upwards of 50 to 150 Northern Squawfish on any given day. Now it is nearly impossible to even catch a squawfish even using favored gear to target them.

It appears therefore, that what your trying to accomplish in the river is already being done for you by the bass. So your proposal may likely be counter productive in the John Day River.

It is my understanding that management and research have, without a doubt, confirmed that smallmouth are not a significant predator on juvenile salmon and steelhead in the John Day. Primarily because it is a highly fluctuating, free flowing river system and there are very definite breaks that affect flow, and water temperatures. Migrants are not in the major smallmouth habitats when bass might be prone to feed on them. In the upper reaches where salmon and steelhead are produced, habitat limitations, higher gradient, and cold water restrict smallmouth production. This has been brought up many times over the years.

It is my understanding, the adult salmon and steelhead populations in the river have improved dramatically in recent years. Our 2014-15 steelhead fishery was the best we've experienced. This is probably due to many factors, including habitat restoration, but it also certainly indicates that reducing the Northern Squawfish population was also a factor. This seems consistent with studies in the Columbia River which showed the Northern Squawfish a major predator and resulted in the Corp of Engineers squawfish reward program.

In addition, this proposal could also jeopardize a regionally renowned trophy smallmouth fishery, resulting in significant loss of revenue to the state, including a loss of license dollars to ODFW, because anglers will no longer come to the John Day for trophy smallmouth angling.

In summary, I felt compelled to write this letter because the John Day is a highly unique free flowing river.

It supports the only natural wild salmon and steelhead population in the middle Columbia without hatchery input.

I'm asking that you consider the John Day for it's uniqueness and manage the river accordingly and request that you delete the John Day from your proposal.

You may also want to consider whether this same relationship between squawfish and bass applies to the Comumbia River as well.

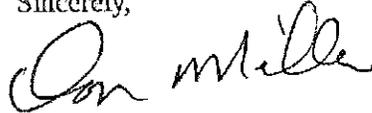
I'm aware that Columbia River studies document that the primary salmon and steelhead predator was Northern Squawfish and not Smallmouth Bass.

Certainly this regulation is not an inert proposal for the John Day and I trust you'll give my letter utmost consideration.

The John Day is truly one of Oregon's and the regions great free flowing rivers.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "M".

Don Miller

P.O. Box 403

Mt. Vernon, Oregon 97865

**From:** [ronajm28@aol.com](mailto:ronajm28@aol.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** New Williamson River fishing regulations  
**Date:** Sunday, August 02, 2015 4:27:59 PM

---

I am writing to express my approval for the new proposed fishing regulations on the Williamson River. As a fishing guide for 25 years, I think the move to total catch and release is needed along with no fishing from floating devices above Chiloquin. This will help save and protect our native redband trout as well as their spawning grounds.

Thank you,  
Ed Miranda, Jr.  
Owner, Miranda's Guide Service  
President Klamath Co. Guide Assn.

**From:** [Marshal Moser](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [Marshal Moser](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: Williamson River, Oregon Southeast Zone  
**Date:** Sunday, August 02, 2015 6:17:05 PM

---

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept the comments below re the Proposed Regulations Changes for the Williamson River in Oregon's Southeast Zone.

As I understand what ODFW is doing, they are going through a process to simplify the present rather voluminous regulations. Some of the purposes to do so are:

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Main thoughts:

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some additional fisherman.

d. Likewise, I believe C&R cuts another connection to understanding how our environment works and what really supplies our food, its origin is not the grocery store and plastic the wrapped meat there.

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I hope you will find some value in the above additional comments beyond what the specific objective was for the proposed fishing regulation changes. Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the process.

Most sincerely,  
Marshal

\*\*\*\*\*

Marshal A. Moser, Jr., C.W.B.  
Certified Wildlife Biologist  
Manager-Naturalist, Lonesome Duck Ranch  
EcoServices Biological Consulting  
32965 Highway 97 N  
Chiloquin, Oregon 97624-9725  
Personal Cell Phone: 541/880-4629  
Personal E-mail: [MarshalMoser@gmail.com](mailto:MarshalMoser@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com)  
Lonesome Duck Reservations & Info: 541-783-2783  
Blog: [www.lonesomeduckblog.blogspot.com](http://www.lonesomeduckblog.blogspot.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Amanda Mckenzie

---

**From:** Michael Gauvin  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 02, 2015 6:19 PM  
**To:** Amanda Mckenzie  
**Subject:** Fwd: New Williamson River fishing regulations

For packet

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[ronajm28@aol.com](mailto:ronajm28@aol.com)>  
**Date:** August 2, 2015 at 4:36:48 PM PDT  
**To:** <[michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us](mailto:michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: New Williamson River fishing regulations

-----Original Message-----

From: ronajm28 <[ronajm28@aol.com](mailto:ronajm28@aol.com)>  
To: odfw.commission <[odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)>  
Sent: Sun, Aug 2, 2015 4:27 pm  
Subject: New Williamson River fishing regulations

I am writing to express my approval for the new proposed fishing regulations on the Williamson River. As a fishing guide for 25 years, I think the move to total catch and release is needed along with no fishing from floating devices above Chiloquin. This will help save and protect our native redband trout as well as their spawning grounds.

Thank you,  
Ed Miranda, Jr.  
Owner, Miranda's Guide Service  
President Klamath Co. Guide Assn.

**From:** [scabrock](mailto:scabrock@odfw.commission.state.or.us)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Simplify Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Sunday, August 02, 2015 4:40:55 PM

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To: ODFW Commission Aug. 2, 2015  
From: Steve Goeller  
Subject: Simplify Fishing Regulations

I have been following the local controversy of making the Williamson River system "catch and release". Like 90% of the average people that go fishing I do not belong to a special interest group. Public input is usually poorly advertised and attended only by organized fishing groups pushing their club agenda.

I have been fishing Klamath Lake and all of its tributaries every year since 1950. If there has been any change, fishing for red band trout is now better than ever. Even four years of drought doesn't seem to bother them. We release most of them. We occasionally keep an early spring bright fish before they get bad flavor or one that is too stressed to survive. You would be surprised how a fresh cut sprig of sagebrush baked with a red band fillet will turn it into salmon. The decision is ours to make based on good judgment, not a poorly thought out rule. In my experience most people do not know how to release a large powerful fish. Many of those who think they do are kidding themselves. Just because a fish swims off does not mean it will survive. Watch the eagles!

If the goal is to simplify the fishing rules...then do it! The current fishing synopsis is 109 pages compared to the IRS 1040 instructions at 104 pages! The reality of the situation is 90% of the fishing public is too busy working or raising a family to get involved with public input. They are relying on public paid officials to have enough common sense to do what is right based on science for the fish, fishing enjoyment for the majority of the public and survival of the ODFW.

It all comes down to the fact that if the general public is not going to have an enjoyable experience with their chosen sport, the ship will sink and the ODFW will go down with it. Raising license fees is just another hole in the hull. When 90% of the public, especially young people, want to go fishing they want to do just that! They want the freedom to use flies, bait, lures, floating devices, simple rules that apply equally to most waters and to keep at least one of what they catch. The fish need to be protected by season lengths and limits...not methods.

It appears to me that the ODFW is headed down the same slippery slope where the only people happy will be the "purist" fishing clubs rather than the other 90% that pay the bills. At the current rate of evolution, the ODFW has about one last chance to "WAKE UP", "LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES" and "GET IT RIGHT"! Rest assured, the red band will out survive all of us!

**From:** [John hyde](mailto:John.hyde@odfw.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Williamson river  
**Date:** Saturday, August 01, 2015 8:28:38 AM

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Dear ODFW,

I would like to comment on the proposed May opener, We have operated a Flyfishing lodge at Yamsi Ranch , headwaters of the Williamson , for the last 25 years, we have several groups booked starting in April that come every year, changing the opener to May would put us in quite a bind, also the fish are done spawning and are in good shape, I see no reason to move the opener.

Thank you  
John Hyde  
541-783-3008

Sent from my iPad  
John and Jerri Hyde  
541-783-3008

**From:** [Brown, Melissa](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [Brawley-Chesworth, Alice](#); [Lovell, Kaitlin](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Bag Limits on Non-native Fish  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2015 8:28:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [ODFW Bag Limits July 2015.pdf](#)

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Good Morning, Commission:

Please accept comments (attached) from the City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services regarding the recent proposal to increase bag limits on bass and panfish in the Columbia Basin.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Brown

**Melissa Brown**  
Environmental Specialist | Fish and Wildlife  
City of Portland Environmental Services  
1120 SW 5th Avenue, 10th Floor  
Portland, OR 97204  
**503/823-5482 office | 503/823-6995 fax**  
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/fish>



# CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

July 30, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chair Finley and fellow Commissioners:

We would like to extend our support of your proposal to lift bag limits on warmwater fish on the John Day, Columbia and Umpqua Rivers, and write to you today to urge you to consider including the Willamette River in this management action.

The Willamette River is critical habitat to four species of native salmon and trout that have been listed for ESA protections because their populations are critically low. It is also home to the Oregon chub, which became the first fish in the history of the ESA to become delisted. We know from genetic analysis that juvenile salmon and trout from elsewhere in the Columbia Basin migrate through the lower Willamette River and take up part-time residency in its tributary streams as well.

Conversely, the results from the last four years of our randomized fish sampling in the Willamette River mainstem and Columbia Slough describe the presence of 50% and 60% alien fish species, respectively. Of all non-native fish sampled, bass and panfish (B & P) species comprise more than 60% in both watersheds. In the slough, yellow perch yield the highest B & P catch per unit effort (CPUE) with 30.1; in the lower Willamette mainstem, smallmouth bass have the highest CPUE (4.1) for B & P species. On a good note, the highest CPUE's produced in either watershed are by native species: in the lower Willamette mainstem, it's largescale sucker (5.6), and in the slough, it's three-spine stickleback (56.8).

As outlined in every state and federal salmon and trout recovery plan<sup>1</sup> that sets forth mandates for action to improve productivity in the Willamette River, the threat of non-native, invasive fish is of primary concern. The removal and control of species that prey on native fish (bass, panfish, brook trout), destroy their habitat (common carp, goldfish, mosquitofish), or compete for limited resources (all of the above and more) is consistently listed as one of the most important management actions that should be implemented.

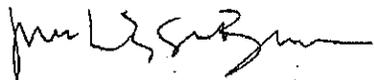
While there are many threats facing salmon, easing the pressure of any one of these threats would improve survival and productivity of our native fish that are trying and failing to adapt to compromised conditions. By allowing an increase in harvest of bass and panfish in the Willamette River, your agency demonstrates its commitment to endangered species recovery. Considering that

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these B & P are not species that are stocked as game by your agency and that their numbers are robust enough to withstand increased harvest, we feel that this action is an adequate attempt to address objectives of your mission to provide both recreational fishing opportunities and an attempt at wild fish recovery. It sends a message to your constituents that the agency is equally committed to managing habitat for native fish and wildlife, and not solely in favor of species that came from and thrive in warmwater environments. We applaud this effort to curb the impacts of non-native, invasive fish on the state's native fish resources. Our salmon and trout will appreciate the gesture, as will all of our other native fish that suffer competition and predation by these alien species.

Sincerely,



Melissa Brown  
Sr. Fish Biologist  
Bureau of Environmental Services  
City of Portland, Oregon

- 1
- NWPCC. 2004. Draft Willamette Subbasin Plan.
  - ODFW, NMFS. 2010. Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan for Oregon Salmon and Steelhead.
  - NMFS. 2011. Columbia River Estuary ESA Recovery Plan Module for Salmon and Steelhead.
  - ODFW, NMFS. 2011. Upper Willamette River Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead.
  - USFWS. 2015. Draft Recovery Plan for the Coterminous U.S. Population of Bull Trout.

**From:** [forlabs@juno.com](mailto:forlabs@juno.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Fw: moderation in fishing regulations  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2015 4:58:08 PM

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To those who would exclude us from our own local fisheries in favor of a few;

As a dedicated, lifelong angler, I fish with many fine folks throughout the year. They unanimously oppose the exclusive "catch and release" proposal so favored by a few dedicated guides who do this for money. Of course the professionals love what they are doing, and have the motivation to be loud in their opinions, but they do not represent the general public, even though they seem to have the ears of decision-makers of the state of Oregon.

We only keep an occasional fish, and not when poor water quality makes them undesirable.

"Simplifying" the regulations, in this case means taking MORE away from the general public for a select few. We have enough restrictions, many of which are unnecessary.

There is no biological reason to take more away from our kids, and others, for the favored "elite". In this area, a fish a month is a welcome addition to our lives, and the folks here in Klamath county cannot afford to spend hundreds of dollars a day to go with a guide, but a fish for dinner should be their right, not more money to the special interests.

We have given enough to the greedy guides, with the Wood River, and other places, virtually off-limits to most of the public, thanks to poor laws.

Don't make things even worse,

Kevin Conway and friends.

**From:** Erik Jensen  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** fishing regulation simplification  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2015 11:38:25 AM

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Director-ODFW,

I am writing in support of the proposed regulation for making the **Williamson River a "Catch and Release"** river which I believe is under consideration for your August 7th meeting.

I am a catch and release sport fly fisherman living in Bend who has fished throughout Oregon for much of my life. In the last 5 years i have made at least 2 trips a year to the Williamson to fish for its gorgeous, large trout. I look forward to these fishing trips and in my estimation the river would be further enhanced for fishing by making the river catch and release. I have invited friends from Alaska, Seattle, Bend, Portland and Eugene to go with me on these trips and they have all enjoyed the trips and we all have contributed to the local and state economies. If catch and release is adopted and with the expectation that the river would be even more productive for fishing, I would expect our use\enjoyment\investment in the river and the local area to continue. The catch and release management direction is one I agree with. I very much want my grandkids to have a chance to fish for trout like these Williamson River fish and this seems like the best chance to help that happen.

I appreciate your attention,

erik jensen

61450 Skene Trail  
Bend, Or 97702

**From:** [Hammett, RyanX A](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [Hammett, RyanX A](#)  
**Subject:** Removing Bag Limits on Warm Water Species  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 1:29:50 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a license purchasing resident of Oregon, I was astonished to hear that there are talks of removing limits on warm water species. It amazes me that idea is even being floated.

Does anyone on the ODFW commission understand that walleye and bass feed heavily on pike minnow, which you pay residents in this state to kill?

How are the salmon runs on the Siletz, or Wilson? Amazing? No, they are suffering, on rivers that have ZERO warm water fish presence.

Does anyone at ODFW think the low, warm water this year may have something to do with the lack of a salmon return?

What happened a few years back when we had an EPIC fall salmon season? Did all of the warm water species magically disappear as that year class of salmon were living in the rivers, as it seems bass have been around longer than seven years.

The Columbia, John Day and Umpqua are WORLD CLASS smallmouth fisheries. All three rivers are nationally known as destination fisheries. How would it look for ODFW to deregulate fishing in these rivers to the rest of the nation.

From an avid warm water fisherman, who spends \$1000s of dollars every year locally traveling the state and fishing, please DO NOT consider removing these bag limits.

Warm water species are NOT the problem with the salmon runs. Stop using someone else's preferred fishery as a scapegoat to poor resource management.

I will see you all in person August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ryan Hammett  
D1D BB Senior Estimator  
**Faithful+Gould**  
12725 SW Millikan Way  
Suite 230  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
Ph: +1 971.214.1195  
Fax: +1 503.747.2263  
[ryanx.a.hammett@intel.com](mailto:ryanx.a.hammett@intel.com)  
[ryan.hammett@fgould.com](mailto:ryan.hammett@fgould.com)  
[www.fgould.com](http://www.fgould.com)

**From:** [Michael R. Tripp](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed regulation changes on Williamson River  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 7:43:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [Willaimson comments.ODFW Commission letter.docx](#)

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Enclosed are comments on the proposed regulation changes on the Williamson River. Please distribute to the commissioners. Thanks.



July 27, 2015

To: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

I would like to comment on the proposed regulation changes for the Williamson River.

Changing the regulations to allow only catch and release fishing for native redband trout would be a clearly beneficial change. I have fished the Williamson for over 15 years. Its native redband trout justify the reputation and popularity of the fishery. That said, it goes without debate in my opinion that optimizing the health of this fishery should be a priority. Changing to catch and release fishing would be a strong move in the right direction. Popular fisheries such as this are threatened by harvest policies. I am confident that the large majority of Williamson fisher folk want to sustain this resource.

The proposal to allow fishing from floating watercraft between the headwaters and the Chiloquin bridge is also a common sense change. Relieving pressure on some of the lower river by dispersal of fishing pressure is to be supported. Seasons of course should be shaped around spawning to avoid pressure on spawning fish. It is hard to see any counter arguments to this; the idea that private landowners have a right to restrict watercraft traffic on a public waterway bordering their property should not be supported by ODFW, and I suspect has no legal foundation.

Thanks you for your work in the Klamath basin.

Sincerely,

Michael Tripp  
President, Deschutes Chapter 552, Trout Unlimited

541-312-2193  
mtripp@bendcable.com

**From:** [KFALLS@aol.com](mailto:KFALLS@aol.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Comment on Williamson River Changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2015 12:45:49 PM

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I object to the plan to change the Williamson River to "catch and release" only. I also object to the fact that no one was notified about the meetings with the ODF&W. There may have been a notice but it was so obscure that no one noticed. According to ODF&W biologist Mike Harrington there is no biological reason for the change so it must be political!

I feel sorry for the landowners along the Williamson because they will no longer be allowed to eat fish for dinner. In my view that fact is the value of their property.

It appears that a small elite group of people can cause such a drastic change. It also appears that the tail is wagging the dog.

Thank you for your consideration from a 79 year old Klamath County citizen.

Cliff Ambers  
7120 Wocus Road  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

541-281-3615

**From:** Terry  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Warm Water Species  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 5:58:26 PM

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I am writing in support of the lifting of harvest limits on warm water fish such as bass, walleye, and others. These are largely illegally introduced and invasive in our rivers.

I would further by adding language to include prohibit the introduction or reintroduction of said fish into Oregon waterways. Effectively banning catch and release of these fish.

I live in Echo Oregon and fish the Columbia, John Day, and Grande Rhonde, I also own a house on the North Umpqua and have fished there for 50+ years.

Thank you,

Terry Rudolf  
Echo Oregon  
503-931-7107

**From:** [dbauhofer32@gmail.com](mailto:dbauhofer32@gmail.com) on behalf of [Don Bauhofer](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Williamson River Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 9:14:52 PM

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I am a property owner in Chiloquin. Our property is on the Williamson River. I and my family believe the Williamson provides one of the great trout fisheries in the United States. It's unique combination of direct connection to Upper Klamath Lake, water clarity and abundant food sources allow redband trout to thrive in an otherwise suspect environment.

Like others who care about the fishery and its value to the community, we have concerns about the potential changes to the boating regulations. The Williamson is a premier spawning stream, into which healthy redband escape from the warmer waters of the lake. The concentration of spawning fish is vulnerable to overfishing and other disturbance. The limitation on boat activity and boat fishing in the spawning areas provide valuable protection to the resident and migratory populations at their most vulnerable.

Also, like others, we strongly support the imposition of catch and release regulation on the river. Most of us, of course, practice that voluntarily. However, others elect not to. Were I less of a skeptic, I would say that all of the killed fish got to a worthy cause. However, the evidence does not support that. Trout up out of the lake are not a delicacy. Fish seem to be caught, killed and discarded.

The Williamson's trophy fishing status brings folks to the area who would not make the trip and spend the money in the local economy except for the quality of the fishery and, frankly, the opportunity to catch larger and stronger fish than in most any other river in the lower 48 states. If we don't continue to protect the fishery, and the fish, that revenue will dwindle, or even disappear. Years ago we were attracted to Chiloquin because, primarily, of the river. We have learned to love the area and its community. But without the extraordinary resource the Williamson provides, we would not have purchased our property nor invested in the community. If we do not protect the river, there will be fewer who come after us.

Thank you for your time.

Don Bauhofer

**From:** [roticomontgomery@gmail.com](mailto:roticomontgomery@gmail.com)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Warmwater bag limits comment from Robert Montgomery, Activist Angler and B.A.S.S.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 7:11:19 AM

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Please don't remove warmwater bag limits on the Columbia, John Day, and Umpqua Rivers. Doing so will accomplish nothing, except alienate thousands of warmwater anglers who buy licenses and expect their fisheries managers to make decisions based on science and not politics. Warmwater species thrive in these waters for the same reason that salmon stocks are in decline, they've been altered by dams, development, and agriculture to make them slower and warmer. If you want to bring back the salmon, bring back their habitat instead doing what's politically expedient to appease special interests.

Robert Montgomery  
Activist Angler;  
Senior Writer, B.A.S.S.;  
Why We Fish [www.whywefish.info](http://www.whywefish.info)  
Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies [www.fishfrogsfireflies.info](http://www.fishfrogsfireflies.info)

**From:** Earl Carter  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** catch and release proposal on the Williamson River  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2015 8:16:52 AM

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I fish the Williamson and use a kayak to travel the river. I have noticed the carcass of trout lying on the bottom probably due to someone releasing fish too injured to survive. With a one trout limit, that fish could be kept and that angler would stop fishing and the possibility of another fish being injured alleviated. I also like to eat what I catch, the very reason I bought property near the Williamson River. There doesn't seem to be a good reason to make this river catch and release I see numerous fish that don't seem to be diminishing

**From:** [Eileen Bucklin](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Proposals for the Williamson River  
**Date:** Sunday, July 26, 2015 5:13:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to the Commissioners.pdf](#)

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Attached are my comments. I hope you find them useful. Mike Bucklin

## Letter to the OFWC

Dear Commissioners: I have been told that Mike Harrington is no longer taking comments for the proposed changes to the Williamson River regulations and that they now should be sent to you. I should have preferred to wait, for reasons that will become apparent. But though I have requested the date after which you will no longer take comments I have as of yet not received that information. I also requested a copy of the proposals as sent to you, but have not received that information either. I have a rough idea what they are. Mike wants to simplify the regulations, meaning the same regulations hold for the whole river. But he made an exception. I think Mike is beginning to see just how unrepresentative his meetings were. And one wonders whether the proposals would allow a possible compromise, catch and release for one part of the river for example and being able to keep a fish in the other.

One reason why I should like a later cut off date for comments is that on the 22 July when I first talked to Mike, he said an extraordinary thing, namely that there is no biological reason to institute catch and release on the Williamson. He also said I could quote him on that. This statement was extraordinary because it was the first I had heard it. And it changes the whole nature of the catch and release proposal, putting it on far shakier grounds. People who would be for the proposal if the fish needed it might not be for it if was only to please a certain subset of the angling community; the guides and others who would rather make unlimited catches and put the fish back than one catch which could be kept. This being the case one would expect these anglers preferring mandatory catch and release to let the natural assumption ride that this was all for the fish. One partizan reporter (for the Herald and News) for example said that (A) we have no idea what the harvest is and implied that (A) the fish might, for all we know, be in trouble. Hence we should (B) proactively support catch and release. This, says Mike, who if anybody, should know is (A) not true an (B) unnecessary. A recently published estimate of the current catch rate (one red band per seven hours of boat fishing) shows that we do have a fairly good idea of the harvest.

Another reason why I would like an extended cut off date for comments is that I am trying to get out the word that this proposal is not justified by biological fact, and hence is rather a matter of preference. For example yesterday I wrote a letter to the editor of the Klamath Falls paper with this information. But I have no idea when or even whether it will be published. As well, for the last week I have been trying to contact as many of my neighbors as I could, (I live just upstream of the Modoc Point Rd Bridge) that fish, informing them of what is going on and giving them your email address.

With one exception they were up to then, oblivious to the proposals, angry that they had not been informed about the meetings, angry that the meetings therefore were packed with catch and releasers, a fly fishing club in Klamath falls having gotten out the word to its members. And this was before I could inform them of Mike's statement that there was no biological reason to institute catch and release. They were particularly angry that catch and releasers, mainly from outside the immediate community, should try to force their preferences on those who did not share them. And even those who did not fish were angry. The owner of a local Williamson River resort was angry because he would lose business since almost all of his customers wanted to keep a fish. The owner of a local hardware store also thinks he might lose some business. And there is the real question of whether mandatory catch and release would effect property values. Just about every day we find another person who hadn't known what was afoot, and on

learning agreed to email you and contact their fishings friends to do the same. All this of course takes time.

Let me add here that I do not fault Mike for his limited advertising of the meetings. I suspect these proposals were initiated by fly fishing clubs contacting him and which would then be in the know. I do not think Mike realized that they would only spread the word to those who would be for catch and release and hence how unrepresentative his meetings would be. Putting posters up in the state and county parks on the river and the commercial boat launches might have helped. But that is water under the bridge. What is important now is to recognize how unrepresentative these meetings were. I have no idea whether Mike was bound in any way by the consensus of his meetings as to what he could propose, but if so he should be unbound. I do think he is interested in pleasing everyone, as well as having simpler regulations. I do not think it is confusing to have some stretches catch and release and others with a keep limit of one. And I think most people would be best served by this. To claim the whole river for catch and release is simply being greedy.

One of the things you should understand is how different the different stretches of the Williamson are. I live on the river just upstream from the last bridge downstream. The river around that bridge is deep all the way to the banks. Fishing is almost entirely from boats or private docks. It is not what I would call classic fly fishing. And I would estimate that 75% or more of the anglers it attracts use spinning tackle. Maybe half of those seen with a fly rod look like they really would be more comfortable with a spinning rod. Exactly why this is so is difficult to say, but spin fishermen are not really interested in catch and release. If you lived where I do you could see this. Beginning August first the river upstream of the bridge is open only to catch and release, while downstream of the bridge is open to keeping a fish until October. Beginning August first one sees very few anglers fishing upstream of the bridge. Almost all fish downstream of it. On a stretch upstream, the Chiloquin county park on the other hand the water is low enough to be waded. There are rapids and holes. Some do fish from boats, but I can remember seeing only one person spinning. Further up the river you can not fish from boats and must wade. I mention this to show that different stretches attract different kinds of anglers with different interests. And I would hope that another exception to Mike's quest for simpler regulations would allow for this, that is the keeping of a fish near the last bridge down stream, say from the 97 bridge down to the lake.

Two final comments: The aversion to mandatory catch and release runs deep in many cases. One could buy ones fish. But the prospect of a good fish supper of a fish you caught yourself adds focus to the fishing and the catching makes the forthcoming meal memorable. For what is the focus of catch and release? To catch and release again, and yet again? And secondly there is the matter of waste. Anyone who catches enough fish will injure one. And anyone who watches a fish, bleeding from the gills, swim off to die is torn: to keep the fish and risk a fine, or let it go thus wasting it. One thing a limit of keeping just one would accomplish is that except for undersize fish (which I have never seen on the Williamson) never again would a fish have to be wasted. If you injure a fish you would be required to keep it. That would mean you could not continue fishing (for the same kind of fish) and hence not be able to injure another. How many Redbands are wasted I do not know. But I feel better about my fishing knowing that I would not be put in that torn state

Mike Bucklin  
Chiloquin

**From:** [John Holing](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [michael.w.gauvin](#)  
**Subject:** new fishing regulations on the Williamson River  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2015 2:23:54 PM

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TO: ODFW  
FROM: John Holing  
Johnump@centurylink.net

I'm pleased with the catch and release of Red Band trout on the Williamson River. I do have several concerns with the proposed regulations (1) allowing fishing from a floating devise on the section above the Chiloquin Bridge. These trout need more protection and since that section is mostly private land it limits the number of people fishing. (2) allowing trolling in the section below the hwy 97 bridge to the Modoc bridge, this section has been for anglers who fish with a floating device that is anchored. If you allow trolling this will end up with many conflicts between anglers since the section is not wide enough to accommodate both please keep the same regulation of no trolling in that area. (3) In order to keep the survival rate high for released fish you should add only single barb-less hook no treble or multiple hooks. Please consider the above changes to increase the likely hood that this very unique trout will survive.

Best Regards,  
John Holing

**From:** [Randy Rigdon](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Williamson River Regulation change  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:06:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [Klamath County Guide Association Letter 2015.pdf](#)

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Randy Rigdon. I am a 25 year long resident on the Williamson River and a founding member of the Klamath Guide Association.

The association has drafted a letter for your consideration regarding the Williamson River and Klamath Basin. This letter has unanimous support among our members.

I have attached the letter as a pdf and also printed it below for your convenience.

Best regards, Randy

Randy Rigdon  
Po Box 259  
Chiloquin, OR 97624  
(541) 891-5939  
[www.oregontrophytrout.com](http://www.oregontrophytrout.com)

Klamath County Guide Association

Response to the Williamson River 2015 Fishing Regulation Change Proposal stated as "The simplification of our angling regulations".

The goal of "simplification of regulations" is a worthy goal, yet should not come at the expense of managing a truly unique, wild fishery. The Williamson River is a complex system of tributaries and because of the adfluvial nature of these fish this system and the states management would also have to include both Agency and Klamath Lakes. Within the "Williamson River" there are two distinct fisheries. One fishery above the Klamath Marsh and one below that feeds Lower Klamath Lake. Proper management of the entire Williamson River and the Klamath Basin as a whole is not possible without special consideration of this complicated network of rivers and lakes. Clearly, the Williamson River and the Klamath Basin fishery is not a candidate for a broad swipe of the pen that would, "simplify the regulations". The opportunity to simplify the regulations can be achieved in a variety of other ways and in other places. Generalized simplification of the regulations for the Klamath Basin would be simply irresponsible. It is the consensus within the Klamath County Guide Association that the Williamson River and Klamath Basin as a whole be properly managed and regulated as a trophy trout fishery. The management and preservation of this fishery should be based on the best information available from all resources, public and private, and the state management of this fishery should be reflected as clearly as possible in our angling regulations.

Part 1. Proposed catch and release only fishing for red band trout in the entire Williamson

River.

Catch and release for the entire Williamson River, Wood River and Klamath basin as a whole is not a new concept for the guide association. Fellow senior guides have been practicing voluntary catch and release for the last 25 plus years, well before the guide association was formed and well before the state fisheries biologists saw the need to address the multitude of strains on the fishery that we are currently experiencing in the basin. To the best of my knowledge, all local guides voluntarily practice, promote and support catch and release in the entire Klamath basin. Should the local fisheries biologists have the wisdom to move forward with the proposal to include catch and release in the Williamson River, or anywhere else in the Klamath Basin, the guide association and members would unanimously support their efforts.

Catch and release for the Williamson River would meet the state wide goal of simplification to the existing regulations and offer the local state fisheries biologist an opportunity to manage the wild fishery. Because the basin is still considered as a trophy fishing destination, the visitors generate significant economic benefit for not only the state with resident and nonresident license sales, but most importantly for the local community.

As guides we are seeing more and more pressures put on this unique resource. There are more angling pressures from not only local and visiting anglers, but also from what appears to be a fast going number of tribal fisherman who are taking an increasing number of fish from the river near Chiloquin. Environmental concerns are also pressuring the resource. Current drought conditions have affected water levels, spawning habitat, and riparian habitat. Water clarity in the upper river has hindered escapement for the juvenile red band trout. These factors have been taking their toll on the fishery in a much more silent way and are not ones that we can easily evaluate, or control. As guides we are seeing daily catches that are declining in both size and number which jeopardizes our trophy, or "Blue ribbon" status in the fishing world where there are many other quality angling options. Catch and release on the Williamson River would help the wild fish to stabilize their populations and allow them to grow back to true trophy size. Catch and release on the Williamson River alone is not a cure for the fishery as a whole. It is just a single piece of a complicated puzzle. True management of the Klamath Basin fishery would have to include the Lower Klamath and Agency Lakes for reason stated prior and should be seriously considered should the population of red band continue to be challenged.

Part 2. Proposed elimination of current boating restrictions on the entire Williamson River.

The Williamson River is a complicated system that has a multitude of recreational uses. Most simply put, the current and long time boating restrictions are in place for very good reason. The boating regulations were originally designed to reduce angler conflicts and most importantly to protect sensitive pre and post spawning red band trout. The need for boating restrictions is real and an essential tool for protecting the red band trout and their spawning

habitat. We do understand the need to provide opportunity to fisherman in the state, yet directing pressure to sensitive spawning areas is misguided.

The current boating regulations are simple, logical, and easy to interpret. The landmarks are clear and well placed. These rules have been enforced by not only local law enforcement, but mostly by fellow anglers who are using the water. To simply eliminate these well established and respected rules would be a huge step back for the river, anglers and most importantly the spawning fish and their critical habitat. The guide association members are in favor of keeping these regulations in place as currently stated.

In summary, complex systems such as the one we have here in the Klamath Basin must require a reasonable level of regulation and management. We are all in favor of state wide fishing and hunting regulation simplification, yet we are also obviously aware that not all fisheries are good candidates for this task. The Williamson River with all of her beautiful complexities has a true and real need to be regulated. Most anglers want to do the right thing, honor existing regulations and do their best to respect local traditions. As local fishing and hunting guides, we act as daily representatives for this fantastic and unique fishery. We gladly assist in respectful angler education, promoting the area and at times enforcement of the state laws and regulations. As responsible members of this community and with a deep love and respect for this resource we "simply" want to support clear and logical goals that will benefit the fishery for future generations to enjoy.

Best regards, Klamath Guide Association Members and Supports



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**From:** [Gene Greer](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Don't eliminate limits on bass  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 2:24:59 PM

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from: Eugene Greer - Beaverton, OR

As a sport fisherman, I implore you NOT to eliminate the bag limits on bass and other warm-water fish in the John Day, Umpqua and Columbia Rivers.

I realize that ODFW is salmonid-centered and focused. But as a long-time Northwest fisherman, I can attest that many people value the fishery provided by warmwater species, especially smallmouth bass. To simply raise the bag limit a bit on the lower John Day might make sense; to eliminate it there, and elsewhere, is playing with fire. I've seen more than my share of gluttonous fishermen who like to fill ice chests with fish. I believe that allowing an unlimited take will damage the populations of these popular game fish. ODFW doesn't, but what studied research and science is behind that belief?

It's true that the smallmouth bass is not a native fishery; the same can be said for some species of Northwest trout. But that's not the point. The point is that they're here now, they're very popular, and they should not be treated as something that can be disregarded or thrown away.

Please reject ODFW's proposal to eliminate bag limits on these species.

Regards,

Gene Greer  
[gene@blugenc.com](mailto:gene@blugenc.com)  
503-702-1867

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

**From:** [Jim Myron](#)  
**To:** [ODFW Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [curt.melcher@state.or.us](mailto:curt.melcher@state.or.us); [Brett Brownscombe](#); [ed.bowles@state.or.us](mailto:ed.bowles@state.or.us); [AUNAN Lauri \\* GOV](#); [Richard Whitman](#)  
**Subject:** Native Fish Society Comments on Exhibit I (Sport Fishing Regulation Simplification Update)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 2015 11:24:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [080415 NFS Ltr on NIS mgt changes by ODFW Final.pdf](#)

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8.4.2015

To: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Members

Attached are comments from the Native Fish Society on Exhibit I for the August 7th commission meeting. Also included is some background material on the issue of introduced exotic fish and their effect on native fish populations.

Between now and the October commission, NFS will also prepare and submit additional comments on a number of the other proposed changes to the angling regulations for 2016.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our viewpoint to the commission on this important matter.

Jim Myron, Lobbyist  
The Native Fish Society



## NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

*Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters*

August 3, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chair Finley and fellow Commissioners:

The Native Fish Society would like to provide support for the proposed removal of bag and size limits on warmwater, non-native fish species in Columbia, John Day, and Umpqua Rivers. The highest concentrations of non-native fish species occur along the Columbia River corridor and in the Willamette River basin (Sanderson et al. 2009). Willamette spring Chinook and winter steelhead are protected species through the Endangered Species Act and Oregon chub have recently been recovered. These populations are exposed to predation by the highest concentration of non-native fishes in any Oregon tributary to the Columbia, and additionally, the Willamette is experiencing ecological impacts from climate change that favor non-native species rather than salmonids.

Consequently, the Native Fish Society supports the recommendation by the City of Portland to include the Willamette and tributaries in the proposal to remove bag limits on non-native fisheries.

Scientific studies and evaluations have been conducted to determine the impact of non-native species on salmonids. We are providing a few quotes from these studies and have attached a few studies for your review.

“The ISAB found that the potential impacts and risks to native salmonids and other native fishes from non-native species are significant, with most subbasins in the Columbia River Basin already dominated by non-native fish species. Because of these impacts, the ISAB recommends that the Council and the Fish and Wildlife agencies in the Basin elevate the issue of non-native species effects to a priority equivalent to that of habitat loss and degradation, climate change, and human population growth and development.”

“The impact of nonindigenous species on salmon is equal to or greater than commonly addressed impacts (habitat, harvest, hatcheries and hydro-system) and suggest that managing non-indigenous species impacts may be imperative for the recovery of these fish” (Sanderson et al 2009).

### **Channel Catfish**

“Channel catfish require spawning water temperatures of 21 to 27 degrees Celsius. Consequently, only the Snake (Idaho), Yakima (Washington), Walla Walla (Washington), Tucannon (Washington), and Columbia rivers currently have naturally reproducing populations.

In Columbia River reservoirs, large channel catfish (> 67 centimeters, 26inches) consume thousands of juvenile salmon, which comprise 50% to 100% of their diets (Vigg et al. 1991).

### **Bass and Walleye**

“At locations in the Columbia River, smallmouth bass and walleye consumed between 18,000 to 2,000,000 and 170,000 to 300,000 juvenile salmonids per year, respectively. In addition, smallmouth bass have changed the size-based predation dynamics in some areas where they have largely displaced the native predator, northern pikeminnow. Unlike the case with pikeminnow, in which larger individuals have higher predation rates, smallmouth bass become piscivorous by two years of age (Fritts and Pearsons 2006).

“Walleye are known to prey on juvenile Pacific salmon, consuming an estimated 250,000 to 2,000,000 smolts annually in the Columbia River (Rieman et al. 1991, Tinus and Beamesderfer 1994).

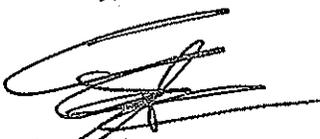
“Of those studies reporting the number of juvenile salmon eaten by individual non-indigenous species (NIS) predators, we found values that ranged from zero to \$10.4 million (median value = \$5.2 million), with many studies reporting hundreds of thousands of juveniles consumed by a single NIS predator species at a specific study site in the Columbia River basin. (Sanderson et al. 2009)

Of the \$385 million distributed by BPA over a three year period, just \$1.1 million went to determine impacts of non-native species on salmonids. Funding to control predators on salmon were primarily focused on native species (pikeminnow, terns and cormorants) and noxious weeds at \$20 million by BPA. During this same time period, \$560,000 was spent on introducing and maintaining populations of non-native species. (Sanderson 2009)

We are deeply concerned about the investment by agencies toward the continued stocking of non-native species and the possibility of maintaining limits on catch in rivers and watersheds that provide habitat to threatened salmonids. The research clearly demonstrates the negative impact of these management practices on threatened native fish. While we understand fishing for non-native species generates revenues for the agency, the mission and mandate of the agency is to conserve native species for the public good. Continuing management practices that produce these outcomes could suggest the agency is prioritizing protecting these revenues over controlling non-native species impacts on threatened salmonids.

Adopting sport-fishing regulations that remove limits on non-native species represents a major opportunity for the agency to realign the management of its fisheries with its mission. Native Fish Society welcomes this change and believes it furthers Oregon’s commitment to the conservation of native salmonids. Since channel catfish, brook trout and shad also impact conservation and recovery of native salmonids, we recommend that these species also be included in the Commission’s decision to control non-native species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Stock", written over a horizontal line.

Erica Stock  
Executive Director

## References:

Bureau of Environmental Services City of Portland, Oregon. July 30 2015. Letter to Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife recommending lifting bag limit on non-native fish in the Willamette basin.

Fritts and Pearsons 2006. Effects of predation by nonnative smallmouth bass on native salmonid prey: The role of predator and prey size. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 135: 853–860.

Independent Scientific Advisory Board. 2008. Non-native species impacts on native salmonids in the Columbia River basin. ISAB 2008-4

Rieman BE, Beamesderfer RC, Vigg S, Poe TP. 1991. Estimated loss of juvenile salmonids to predation by northern squawfish, walleyes, and smallmouth bass in John Day Reservoir, Columbia River. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 120: 448–458.

Sanderson, Beth, Michelle Wargo Rub, Katie A. Barnas. 2009. Nonindigenous Species of the Pacific Northwest: An Overlooked Risk to Endangered Salmon? *Bioscience*, Vol. 59 No. 3.

Tinus ES, Beamesderfer RC. 1994. An Update on the Distribution, Fisheries, and Biology of Walleye in the Lower Columbia River. Portland (OR): Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Information Report 94-3.

Vigg S, Poe TP, Prendergast LA, Hansel HC. 1991. Rates of consumption of juvenile salmonids and alternative prey fish by northern squawfish, walleyes, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish in the John Day Reservoir, Columbia River. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 120:421–438.