

Exhibit B

Public Correspondence

Reinstate the Warmwater Fish Bag Limits

The warmwater community requests this Commission to readdress an issue. The warmwater species bag limits on the Columbia, Umpqua, and John Day Rivers were removed for "policy" reasons, rather than adherence to Agency Principles (provide proactive and solution-based fish and wildlife management based on sound science). It has always been our understanding that science and public opinion drive the actions of ODFW. Even the Oregon Legislative Task Force's 2016 "Oregon Resident's Opinions and Values Related to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife" survey indicates low/declining fish populations are of great importance to your constituents. The removal of warmwater bag limits has exacerbated this issue.

Since the removal of the bag limits on the three rivers mentioned, there have been countless anecdotal observations and publications in the media and on social blogs of huge bags of these highly prized fish being taken. At the time of the regulation change, the standard answer when questioned was, "Most bass anglers catch and release, so there won't be any *real* impact". Now daily bags of up to 85 walleye, and smallmouth bass bags of 25-30, most of which were undersized, are not uncommon. Smallmouth bass take several years to grow to the size found in these waters. Those years of growth have been eradicated in just this one fishing season. I have copies of e-mails from reputable coldwater anglers, representing a very large constituency, questioning the wisdom of this unparalleled action by the Department.

The warmwater community requests that reasonable bag limits be reinstated on the Columbia, Umpqua, and John Day Rivers. Those bag limits are important to the health of the fishery, will provide proactive and solution-based fish and wildlife management based on sound science, and will reinstate the value of warmwater species in our rivers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lonnie Johnson

OR BASS Nation Conservation Director

Chair, Warmwater Champions