

General Public Forum Comment Oct. 15, 2021  
The value of STAC/STEP

Thank you, Commissioners and Director Melcher,

My name is Anna Krug. I'm a resident of Brookings Oregon, an Oregon Anglers Alliance member, and long-time member of the Oregon South Coast Fishermen.

The Salmon Trout Enhancement Program, is a collaborative effort between the State and the volunteer public. It has resulted in not only improved fisheries through ongoing monitoring and enhancement programs, but at the same time, has accomplished a very special "pride of ownership" through community education and participation. The following are just a few of the ongoing projects that help to bring our community together.

We conduct annual "Reel Fishing Daze"- where every third-grade student in Curry Co. enjoys a habitat, riparian and fishing education field trip at Arizona pond.

The Eggs to Fry Program in our schools celebrates the science of hatching, rearing, and finally releasing salmon into the Chetco river.

And our Chetco River Steelhead Project; 100% of the broodstock are caught and donated by the angling public for our hatchery. The result is a community with a genuine "Pride of Ownership."

The Winchuck River Study; for the last 27 years, this ongoing multi-species monitoring provides valuable data that is manned almost exclusively by volunteers.

The Chetco River Fall Chinook Project has long been a favorite with the community. The OSCF conduct carcass counts, scale samples, smolt acclimation, and broodstock collection from the river with their locally famous annual "Salmon Rodeo and round-up." Hundreds from the community gather together to celebrate this event.

The Chetco river salmon smolt survey, the Memorial Day Trout Fishing for Tykes and more!

Our South Coast culture and economy are dependent on harvest fisheries. We don't go to the theater, we don't go to the orchestra, we don't go to major- league sporting events, we don't even go to Walmart, because we don't have them here. Hatchery and Harvest opportunity is what our communities

revolve around. It's what keeps our businesses in business. Our businesses are still reeling from Covid. They can't afford to lose more business.

I hope this has helped to demonstrate how critical the opportunities for hatcheries and harvest are to the health of our communities.

Anna Krug,

A Wild and Hatchery Fish Advocate