

Exhibit (D)

**Supplemental #3
Public Correspondence
received
October 15, 2021**

Harry Piper Testimony to Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission Oct 15, 2021

Chair Wahl and Members of the Commission:

My name is Harry Piper. I am a resident of Ashland, Oregon. I've been a fly fisherman for most of my life, and that is one of the main reasons my wife and kids and I moved to Oregon in 2004. I'm 77 years old, and I hope to continue fishing for my beloved steelhead, with a realistic chance of catching some, for whatever time I have left. I hope our kids and grandkids will have that opportunity too.

I'm testifying today as a representative of the Rogue Fly Fishers, a club based in Medford. We have about 175 members, and our club was formed in 1971, so we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year. We meet once a month for dinner and a speaker, at least until these Covid times. We work on riparian habitat improvement projects and try to support policies we think will be good for fish and fishing.

Nobody is monitoring the number of adult wild fish returning to spawn in this area right now. We lost the fish counting station at Gold Ray Dam when the dam was removed. So we don't have hard numbers, and neither does the Commission, but we do have anecdotal evidence from the experience of our members who are out there fishing every year. Last year the return in the Rogue must have been really low, because the steelhead fishing was terrible. This year the return seems better, but the runs on other rivers up and down the whole west coast of North America have been at historic lows, resulting in complete closures of rivers in the Columbia basin, including the Deschutes and the John Day.

Oregon's response to all these danger signs has been slow. We are the only place left on the whole west coast that still allows the harvesting of wild steelhead. In this we differ from California, Washington, and British Columbia. The Commission's attitude until now must have been "Well, Oregon is the only place that still has healthy enough runs to allow such a harvest." But if someone asks "How do you know your runs are still healthy?" there can be no real answer, because there is an absence of data. We simply don't know what kind of returns we are still getting, including in the rivers closest to the hearts of the Rogue Fly Fishers, namely the upper and middle Rogue, the Illinois, and the Applegate.

We don't have a handle on all the factors causing the decline of steelhead runs, especially whatever is happening in the ocean. It seems to be related to climate change heating up the ocean water, thermal pollution. It's going to be difficult to figure out exactly what's going on out there, let alone do anything about it, but that should not prevent us from taking action on something that is within our control. Helping the survival of wild winter steelhead would allow their genetic diversity to cope with changing climate conditions.

A catch and release regulation would of course still allow people to fish for wild winter steelhead, and would still allow the harvest of hatchery steelhead. Fishermen are already used to looking for an adipose fin, because we have been releasing wild summer steelhead since the

early 1990's. Adding wild winter steelies to this regulation should not be much of a problem for most fishermen.

The Rogue Fly Fishers urge the Commission to include in its Rogue South Coast Management Plan a regulation for no harvest, catch and release only, of wild winter steelhead, at least until it is possible to monitor what is actually happening with these runs.

Thank you for listening.

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Dan Taylor <danmtaylor20@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:13 AM
To: ODFW RSP.Comments * ODFW
Subject: Adopt catch and release for wild stealhead

Please adopt catch and release for wild stealhead..... everywhere, but rogue valley for now.

I recently floated the rogue and hired two guide boats. We caught and released 5 wild fish, yet still kept two hatchery. It was worth it for the four of us. Although the wild fish were bigger, the feeling of releasing them was wonderful.

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Joe <j.rutt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:59 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Rogue south coast statement

My name is Joe Rutter, I live in Port Townsend, Washington and I love the Rogue River and the South Coast Watersheds. I've taken some very memorable fishing trips there and continue to keep coming back to this special place. After hearing of the current situation to continue allowing harvest of Wild Winter Steelhead on the Rogue and South Coast Watersheds, I felt that I should voice my opinion on the situation.

Steelhead face many obstacles as a species at this day in age. And they keep mounting up year after year as their habitat declines, Ocean conditions become worse, and over harvest continues to occur. Each year the return numbers are becoming less and less across board. Steelhead can't keep facing more troubling obstacles, especially if they are obstacles within our immediate control that we can change for the better. The October Draft of the Rogue and South Coast rivers plan is proposing wild steelhead harvest without sufficient population estimates, harvest rates, and overall population mortality. To put it simply-This draft does not sound accurate enough with sufficient data to allow the harvest out of these rivers and is putting way too much risk on Wild Steelhead populations in Southern Oregon.

As a solution to this situation, I request that the commission direct ODFW and the powers that be to adopt catch and release regulations to these watersheds. and that ODFW provide adequate management, data and monitoring with adult steelhead population estimates, escapement goals and expected fisheries mortality before allowing harvest.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity me speak on behalf of these species I'm so passionate about. I hope that the catch and release regulations will be implemented for Wild Winter Steelhead on the Rogue and South Coast watersheds and that ODFW will start collecting the proper, accurate data, so steps can be made to ensure a healthy abundance of Wild Steelhead in these special rivers for the future and that our future generations may enjoy fishing these rivers too, for years and years to come.

Sent from my iPhone

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Bryan Sohl <bsohlmfm@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:13 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Written comments on Rogue South Coast Multi-species Conservation Management Plan

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

Here is my written and oral testimony on the Rogue South Coast Multi-species Conservation Management Plan

My name is Bryan Sohl. I live in Ashland. I am a Native Fish Society River Steward for the Rogue River.

I served on the Oregon Health Services Commission for seven years and appreciate your commitment and your volunteerism.

I have fished the Rogue, and many South coastal rivers since 1988.

Annually, I bring six friends to the region to fish for Steelhead and Salmon. These anglers contribute out-of-state dollars to our local economies. They buy fishing gear in Ashland, stay in hotels and eat in restaurants in Shady Cove, Gold Beach, and Brookings, and buy lots of beer all over the region.

Catch rates by myself and my friends of steelhead and salmon have been dropping the past ten years, with a precipitous drop in the past five. These friends are now wondering if it still makes sense to fish in the region.

ODFW data shows that juvenile fish counts in this region over the past six years are at historic lows.

Native, wild anadromous fish in our region face unprecedented challenges. Climate change induced drought, and poor ocean conditions are here now, and these challenges will certainly worsen.

British Columbia, Washington, Northern Oregon and California have instituted catch and release policies for wild fish. The Umpqua in recent years has successfully gone to a no-kill policy for wild salmon and steelhead.

Given the uncertainties that climate change will bring, I do not believe that ODFW has data that supports a kill of wild fish for the future,

89% of the written comments during the open comment period on this issue were in support of catch and release for wild fish.

Your, and ODFW's, responsibility to our children and our grandchildren's future ability to catch a wild fish, outweighs that of **ours** to put a wild fish in the freezer next season.

ODFW should amend their recommendations to the plan to 1) mandate catch and release of wild fish, and 2) liberalize the take of clipped hatchery fish in the region.

Commissioners, please direct staff to provide a Catch and Release alternative for wild anadromous fish for the Rogue, South Coast multi-species Conservation Management Plan during your December meeting.

Thank you.

Bryan Sohl MD

283 Scenic Drive

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 890-3848



Stephen P. Maher
Director at Large | Oregon Council, Fly Fishers International, Inc.

Testimony to Commission 10/15/2021
Rogue South Coast Multi-Species Conservation Management Plan (RSP)

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Wolley, Commissioners, and Director Melcher,

My name is Stephen Maher. I live in Eugene, OR and I am an architect, an angler, and a Director at Large for the Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International (ORCFFI). We are a group of fly anglers who care deeply about our state's waters, and especially the native fish populations, such as the southwestern steelhead.

The FFI supports catch and release regulations using single barbless hooks and artificial flies or lures only in the RSP management area until adequate monitoring is in place and fisheries managers are confident that harvest can be implemented sustainably. There were not any adult spawning surveys conducted in the Rogue Basin this year, the Percent of Hatchery Fish on Spawning Grounds (pHOS) is unknown, and there are not any adult estimates for any of the south coast watersheds. Requiring the release of wild steelhead will increase angler opportunity to catch more fish. Fisheries managers throughout the pacific northwest have moved to catch and release regulations to help boost adult steelhead escapement. This has proven to be an effective management tool that still provides fishing opportunities for sport anglers. Adopting these regulations in the RSP management area are best practice in the pacific northwest.

We are seeing steelhead declines all along the coast. We must implement precautionary management until adequate data is collected and monitoring is in place. The proposed management in the October draft of the RSP is not a precautionary approach. It applies far too much risk for our wild steelhead populations. Hatchery steelhead can and should be harvested to fulfill that opportunity; 89% of wild harvest already occurs in the Rogue and Chetko rivers; these are streams with an abundance of hatchery fish. The Oregon Council encourages the commission to direct the department to implement rigorous monitoring, similar to what has been adopted successfully in Idaho and Washington, to better understand the state of our wild Oregon steelhead populations and make more informed decisions.

Considering this year's historic low return on steelhead across the state, we believe the current harvest regulations in this region only contributes to the undeniable decline of wild winter steelhead. We want to support ODFW and other stakeholders to prevent their further decline or extinction, therefore the ORCFFI asks the Commission to direct the department to provide and adopt catch and release angling regulations in the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species Conservation Management Plan in the December Commission meeting.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Maher

Testimony to OR FWC on Rogue South Coast – October 15, 2021

David Moskowitz, The Conservation Angler

david@theconservationangler.org

Good afternoon, Chair Wahl, Commissioners and Director Melcher

I am David Moskowitz with The Conservation Angler

We believe that staff has a lot more work to do in bringing this plan to the Commission for final action.

Mr. Gher's testimony brought forward several of the clearest problems that remain to be resolved.

Point 1

My first job out of law school in 1990 was as executive director of the Northwest Steelheaders – and one of the first things the NW Steelheaders accomplished was adoption of a statewide catch and release regulations.

There were three regions where harvest of wild steelhead was still allowed – The John Day, The Umpqua, and the South Coast.

Thirty Years Later – the south coast remains as the last place in Oregon – and indeed the only place within the range of wild steelhead – where wild harvest is allowed.

Where does this Commission want to end up on this issue without reliable data on population health and trends for this last remaining wild steelhead stronghold?

Point 2

I was dismayed by the angler survey reported in Appendix of the Draft Plan on p. 192

What staff describes as a statistically valid survey of anglers is indeed,

but only if you have an address within SW OR –

This completely ignores the interest in wild steelhead that exists throughout western states – and it ignores the stake that all Oregonians have in wild fish in SW OR – anglers or not.

Mr. Piper spoke to the key question at issue in the survey question

– “if the wild fish are healthy.” That question remains unanswered.

The survey should be disregarded until it is re-configured and re-done.

However, no matter how many surveys are taken, your votes are the only votes that matter in this case – and when you are asked to adopt a well-constructed management plan that properly accounts for the uncertainty arising from inadequate data and the impacts of accelerating climate change impacts – we ask that your votes incorporate the precautionary principle.

Point 3

Finally, we keep hearing the staff and some fishers who say ODFW must balance the interests of the anglers and the local economy with the needs of the fish. This is incorrect. The fish are the first order of business.

ORS 496.012 sets ODFW's overriding and predominant duty to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species. That is not my interpretation – these are the words of OR's Attorney General.

This same statute directs ODFW to provide optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits to present and future generations.

It is in the second part of this policy that requires finding a balancing – and it requires it in two places:

Providing “optimum recreational AND aesthetic benefits” – that places the interest of those who simply appreciate wild fish on the same plane as those who fish.

For present AND future generations – this places equal weight for your decisions for those before you today and those who have yet to see their first wild fish

ODFW and the Commission may not balance your predominant and overriding duty with the secondary duties -

In fact, your secondary statutory duty to provide use and enjoyment must be balanced between present and future generations.

That creates a double duty for conservation - and the OR Attorney General say so.

Public Correspondence

Received October 13-14, 2021

Subject: RSP Comments

**5 individuals submitted the attached letter
*(Letter & List Attached)***

**1 individuals submitted the attached letter
with additional comments
*(Letter & List Attached)***

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Phil Fitzgerald <castinghooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:30 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: RSP Comments

Dear Chair Wahl,

I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management direction for many ecologically important steelhead waters, such as the Sixes, Coquille, Elk, and Rogue Rivers. A plan that prioritizes the long-term health of wild steelhead is necessary when the future is more uncertain than ever due to the impacts of climate change. I encourage you to strongly consider the following comments and suggested changes, as they are provided with the goal of restoring and sustaining wild steelhead abundance in the future. Given the outpouring support for catch and release regulations during the public comment period, I am concerned the department has fallen short in their duty to consider public comments and has failed to adequately inform the commission of the discussion around the following alternatives and actions.

Angling Alternatives

In response to the public draft of the RSP published in July, over 2250 people asked the department to implement catch and release regulations until there is adequate adult monitoring. The Commission Draft, provided as Attachment 3 for Exhibit 3 of the October 15, 2021 Commission meeting, does not provide the commission with any alternatives for Angling opportunities and does not propose catch and release for wild steelhead. I am very concerned that the department did not listen to the public and did not take their comments into consideration. Without current adult harvest monitoring, adult mortality, or adequate adult escapement for multiple generations, ODFW does not know the total impact of harvest on wild winter steelhead as a result of directed harvest and catch and release angling. I request the commission direct the department to change regulations to "Catch and Release" for wild winter steelhead on the Rogue and south coast until a five-year review of adequate monitoring data is available to inform harvest management.

Management Triggers and Actions

The conservation status for all species has been indicated in the plan. The conservation status for Winter Steelhead on the south coast will be identified by juvenile occupancy. The Department did not provide examples of a management agency that successfully utilizes juveniles as a health indicator to evaluate overall population health or as a mechanism to take action to reverse species in decline. I ask that the department utilize adult spawner escapement from newly instated south coast spawning surveys after five years of plan implementation.

The conservation triggers in the draft RSP don't respond quickly enough to fish population decline. The Commission Draft RSP states action will be taken when a two year average is below conservation status, which is not adequate. When identified populations dip below conservation status in a single year, action needs to take place. Second, the plan must commit the Department to take action when populations reach an identified trigger similar to the Rogue Fall Chinook SMU Conservation Management plan, e.g. angling regulation changes, hatchery program changes, and habitat action changes.

Lastly, I request ODFW provide the following fundamental data on population health to manage species indicated in the plan:

- Adult spawner escapement in each watershed
- Juvenile measurements correlated to adult escapement in each watershed
- Effects of harvest (mandatory reporting of all harvest and catch and release)
- Effects of hatcheries (pHOS)

Hatchery Actions

The current RSP provides a suite of actions that increase hatchery expansion throughout the Rogue and south coast.








I request that the department does not include any hatchery expansion in the RSP by making the following changes to the draft plan:

- Eliminate the newly proposed Euchre Creek and Winchuck River Mixed Emphasis Areas
- Eliminate offsite hatchery releases in the Rogue River
- Eliminate increased ESA listed Coho releases in the Rogue River
- Decrease smolt outputs to reach mitigation goals in the Rogue basin

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the October draft of the RSP. I urge you to take a cautious management approach in a time when climate change makes it extremely difficult to predict trends in abundance and productivity. For wild steelhead to persist in numbers that can support fisheries in the future, a management approach that is informed by accurate and timely data needs to be taken. This type of management will sustain the long-term health of wild steelhead. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil Fitzgerald
3263 Pleasant View Ln
Jamul, CA 91935
castinghooks@gmail.com

    	From	Subject	Received 	Size	Categories	Mention	
Last Week							
David Entzmin... RSP Comments Fri 10/15/2021 1:... 50 KB Dear Chair Wahl, I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management							
Peter Murray RSP Comments Fri 10/15/2021 12:... 52 KB Dear Chair Wahl, I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management							
Doug Foust RSP Comments Fri 10/15/2021 11:... 51 KB Dear Chair Wahl, I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management							
Duane Wittman RSP Comments Fri 10/15/2021 8:... 53 KB Dear Chair Wahl, I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management							
Phil Fitzgerald RSP Comments Fri 10/15/2021 7:... 52 KB Dear Chair Wahl, I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management							

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Grant Hosford, III <ghosford3@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 10:15 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: RSP Comments

Dear Chair Wahl,

To continue taking wild steelhead makes no sense! This arcane practice needs to stop. Wild steelhead are too important for this out-of-step practice to continue. We can live without harvesting wild steelhead, they cannot live with our continued assault on their existence.

I am writing to comment on the October draft of the Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (RSP). The RSP will dictate the management direction for many ecologically important steelhead waters, such as the Sixes, Coquille, Elk, and Rogue Rivers. A plan that prioritizes the long-term health of wild steelhead is necessary when the future is more uncertain than ever due to the impacts of climate change. I encourage you to strongly consider the following comments and suggested changes, as they are provided with the goal of restoring and sustaining wild steelhead abundance in the future. Given the outpouring support for catch and release regulations during the public comment period, I am concerned the department has fallen short in their duty to consider public comments and has failed to adequately inform the commission of the discussion around the following alternatives and actions.

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Management Triggers and Actions

The conservation status for all species has been indicated in the plan. The conservation status for Winter Steelhead on the south coast will be identified by juvenile occupancy. The Department did not provide examples of a management agency that successfully utilizes juveniles as a health indicator to evaluate overall population health or as a mechanism to take action to reverse species in decline. I ask that the department utilize adult spawner escapement from newly instated south coast spawning surveys after five years of plan implementation.

The conservation triggers in the draft RSP don't respond quickly enough to fish population decline. The Commission Draft RSP states action will be taken when a two year average is below conservation status, which is not adequate. When identified populations dip below conservation status in a single year, action needs to take place. Second, the plan must commit the Department to take action when populations reach an identified trigger similar to the Rogue Fall Chinook SMU Conservation Management plan, e.g. angling regulation changes, hatchery program changes, and habitat action changes.

Lastly, I request ODFW provide the following fundamental data on population health to manage species indicated in the plan:

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Hatchery Actions

The current RSP provides a suite of actions that increase hatchery expansion throughout the Rogue and south coast.

I request that the department does not include any hatchery expansion in the RSP by making the following changes to the draft plan:

- Eliminate the newly proposed Euchre Creek and Winchuck River Mixed Emphasis Areas
- Eliminate offsite hatchery releases in the Rogue River
- Eliminate increased ESA listed Coho releases in the Rogue River
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I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the October draft of the RSP. I urge you to take a cautious management approach in a time when climate change makes it extremely difficult to predict trends in abundance and productivity. For wild steelhead to persist in numbers that can support fisheries in the future, a management approach that is informed by accurate and timely data needs to be taken. This type of management will sustain the long-term health of wild steelhead. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Grant Hosford
2318 Dogwood St NE
Tacoma, WA 98422
ghosford3@mac.com

Public Correspondence

Received October 15, 2021

**Subject: Please require Catch and Release
for Wild Steelhead**

**6 individuals submitted the attached letter
*(Letter & List Attached)***

KINGSLEY Lisa M * ODFW

From: Christian Boudreau <christianboudreau2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:53 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead

Dear Chair Wahl and ODFW Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the October draft of the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species Conservation Management Plan (RSP). A plan centered around conservation and the long term health of identified species is critical to the future of these fish, the rivers, and the communities of southern Oregon. The following comments, concerns, and suggested changes are provided to ensure the conservation and future health of the identified species. I am deeply concerned the department did not consider public comments during the public comment period and has failed to provide the commission with the same suite of alternatives for discussion and consideration.

Angling Alternatives

In response to the public draft of the RSP published in July, over 2,260 people asked the department to implement catch and release regulations until there is adequate adult monitoring. The Commission Draft, provided as Attachment 3 for Exhibit 3 of the October 15, 2021 Commission meeting, does not provide the commission with any alternatives for Angling opportunities and does not propose catch and release for wild steelhead. I am very concerned that the department did not listen to the public and did not take their comments into consideration. Without current adult harvest monitoring, adult mortality, or adequate adult escapement for multiple generations, ODFW does not know the total impact of harvest on wild winter steelhead as a result of directed harvest and catch and release angling. I request the commission direct the department to change regulations to "Catch and Release" for wild winter steelhead on the Rogue and south coast until a five-year review of adequate monitoring data is available to inform harvest management.

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- Eliminate increased ESA listed Coho releases in the Rogue River
- Decrease smolt outputs to reach mitigation goals in the Rogue basin

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Commission Draft of the RSP. Critical data and monitoring will be necessary to inform management of wild winter steelhead harvest on the Rogue and South Coast. Until that monitoring is in place and data available, I ask the Department to continue to provide the opportunity for catch and release angling for wild winter steelhead on the Rogue and south coast watersheds and harvest in the interim on hatchery origin stocks. These changes will provide the precautionary conservation management necessary to help restore and sustain wild abundance.

Sincerely,

Christian Boudreau

christianboudreau2@gmail.com 97411

    	From	Subject	Received	Size	Categories	Mention	
Last Week							
	Curtis White	Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead	Fri 10/15/2021 4:...	49 KB			
	Dear Chair Wahl and ODFW Commission, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the October draft of the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species						
	Diane Kuzma	Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead	Fri 10/15/2021 3:...	49 KB			
	Dear Chair Wahl and ODFW Commission, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the October draft of the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species						
	brian kraz	Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead	Fri 10/15/2021 1:...	50 KB			
	Dear Chair Wahl and ODFW Commission, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the October draft of the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species						
	Benjamin Remis	Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead	Fri 10/15/2021 9:...	49 KB			
	Dear Chair Wahl and ODFW Commission, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the October draft of the Rogue South Coast Multi-Species						
	Chad Kennedy	Please require Catch and Release for Wild Steelhead	Fri 10/15/2021 8:...	49 KB			
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