



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on one topic that requires Commission review and action: the appointment of one Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Board member. This exhibit also includes informational program updates from the R&E Program and the Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The R&E Program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the State. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a Commission-appointed seven-member board made up of three ocean and inland fisheries representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry, and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets four times each biennium in various communities throughout the State to review applications for project funding, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public, and conduct other program business.

Recognizing that volunteers could play an important role in the restoration of native stocks of salmon and trout, the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) in 1981. Since that time thousands of volunteers have assisted Oregon's fisheries through their involvement in STEP. Volunteers have donated money, materials, equipment, and countless hours of time and labor to the program. The STEP program is overseen by a nine-member Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee (STAC). Members of STAC are appointed by the Governor to provide recommendations concerning the implementation of salmon and trout enhancement projects across Oregon.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: ODFW solicits R&E Board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to interested parties. The Commission meetings where R&E board members are appointed are also publicly noticed and provide for public comment.

ISSUE 1

Appointment of a Restoration and Enhancement Board representative.

ANALYSIS

A total of 3 candidates applied for the open R&E Board position and their interest forms can be found in Attachment 2.

To inform the recommendation, several ODFW staff reviewed the applications and ranked candidates based on their qualifications and the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Contribution to diversity of the board;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.); and
- General “fit” with current Board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

When appointed, an R&E Board member serves a four-year term that can be renewed for a total of eight years of representation on the R&E Board. As of January 1st, there will be one vacancy on the R&E Board for the Public Representative position.

Recommendation for Public Representative:

ODFW recommends that Winter Rhodes be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the Public. Mr. Rhodes is an Oregonian who has lived in the Portland Metro area for the last 25 years. Winter is an avid angler, he enjoys the outdoors, and he is passionate about giving back to his community as a teacher, a mentor, and a volunteer. Winter is a retired U.S. Navy Veteran, and he is currently employed as a research analyst for the Intel Corporation. Winter holds a bachelor’s degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology, a bachelor’s degree in history from Portland State University, and an MBA in finance from George Fox University. Winter currently serves on multiple boards that engage with at risk youth and families from underrepresented communities. Winter serves on the Board of Trustees for Northwest Academy, which is an alternative school located in downtown Portland that has a core focus on diversity, art, and open perspectives. Winter also serves on the Board of Trustees for the nonprofit organization, Soul River, which is a program that unites Veterans with at risk youth to help them understand the need for conservation in the outdoors. Winter also volunteers with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a certified Hunter Education instructor, and a certified Angler Education instructor.

As an alternate to Winter Rhodes, ODFW recommends that Jai Kim be appointed to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the public community. Mr. Kim lives in Lincoln City, is an avid surf perch angler, and is a volunteer instructor for Oregon Fish and Wildlife’s Angler Education program.

OPTIONS

- 1: Approve the staff recommendation for the R&E Board.
- 2: Reject the staff recommendation for the R&E Board and appoint one of the other applicants identified in Attachment 2.
- 3: Reject the staff recommendation for the R&E Board and direct ODFW to continue with an open recruitment to fill the vacant position on the R&E Board.

ISSUE 2

Informational program updates from the R&E Board chair and STAC Board chair will be provided. No action from the Commission is needed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ISSUE 1

Option 1: Staff recommend the appointment of Winter Rhodes as the Public Representative on the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to appoint Winter Rhodes to a four-year term as the Public Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025.