



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

TIM FREEMAN CHRIS BOICE TOM KRESS

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 ↗ Roseburg, Oregon 97470

February 10, 2022

To: Curt Melcher, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

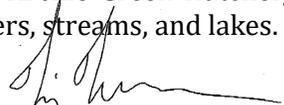
Before the devastating Archie Creek Fire, when Rock Creek Hatchery was in full production, nearly one million Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout were released annually into many local Umpqua basin rivers and lakes. Its fish production has provided tens of thousands of catchable and harvestable Salmon Steelhead and Trout every year for the past century. Thus, greatly enhancing overall fishing opportunities for local, regional, and statewide recreational and commercial anglers.

Prior to the Archie Creek Fire, which destroyed Rock Creek Hatchery, ODFW had adopted a management plan after critical scientific review and public stakeholder’s comments to maintain current number of coastal hatcheries. The plan included Rock Creek Hatchery and was set to be for the next several years. In addition, the maintaining of Rock Creek Hatchery fish production was approved in ODFW’s coastal multi-species management plan, hatchery managements plans, as well as Douglas County’s mitigation agreement.

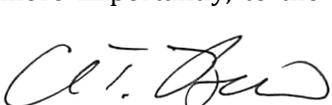
Rock Creek and the lower North Umpqua are the home waters of juvenile fish releases and unneeded pausing of the rebuild efforts will cause further harm and impacts to returning numbers of adult salmon and steelhead that are needed more than ever in the next few years, while at the same time gives local fishing opportunities that are successfully balanced with wild fish conservation goals in the Umpqua basin.

It is most certain that unwarranted delays called for by anti-hatchery groups during these challenging times are not in the best interest to rebuilding the facilities, to reforming a science-based fish production operation, to restoring the hatchery connection to the watershed, and to restarting the educational programs for landowners, public, teachers, and students.

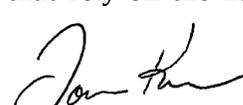
In conclusion, during these challenging times after the Archie Creek - fire devastation of the hatchery facilities, private homes, and our precious watersheds; local partnerships have already brought together the best of people that care for each other, our communities, the hatchery, and the environment we live and work and enjoy. Please consider these thoughts when deciding the fate of the Archie Creek Hatchery, and more importantly, to the wildlife that rely on the hatchery, our rivers, streams, and lakes.



Tim Freeman, Chair
Douglas County Commissioner



Chris Boice
Douglas County Commissioner



Tom Kress
Douglas County Commissioner