



March 31, 2022

Quarterly Newsletter

Many thanks to all of you that have joined our united voice. Thank you for helping bring an improved sense of balance to Oregon's natural resource issues. The attacks against our freedoms are ongoing and we need to be diligent in our efforts to maintain and regain our privileges.

Special mention must be made of our core group of Board members and Officers. They have unselfishly donated their own time, energy, and money into this great organization. Welcome newest Board member Heath Hampel. He is the owner/operator of Chucks Seafood in Charleston and brings a unique dimension to our group. Heath has the trait of being a very focused and driven individual and is ever-diligent in assisting us with achieving our goals.

As you know, the last quarterly Newsletter left off with the OAA single-handedly spearheading a campaign to have 9 1/2 year, term-expired OF&W Commissioner Greg Wolley replaced by Dr. Leslie King. We enlisted an environmental law-firm and had them send a letter of intent to the Governor's office explaining the need to follow Oregon Statutes and proper protocol in regard to Commissioner appointments. With OAA's push, this immediately resulted in the appointment of Dr. Leslie King. A big win for Oregon's hunters, anglers, and trappers!

The following are but just a few more of the topics that the OAA has addressed this last quarter.

1. Petition to eliminate the North Umpqua Summer Steelhead hatchery program;

The Native Fish Society, Trout Unlimited, Steamboaters, and others, have teamed up once again in yet another attempt to eliminate one more hatchery harvest fishery from Oregon anglers. These same opposition groups have been bringing this same argument to the table for over 30 years and they have failed to win their argument for 30 years. The Oregon Anglers Alliance will be providing expert opinion and are confident that ODFW Staff will provide a recommendation that we will be in full support of. This is scheduled for a Commission hearing on April 22nd. To submit comment please use the link provided below. We can help to provide any information that you may need.

2. North Umpqua Rock Creek Hatchery Rebuild;

The Archie Creek fire was a wildfire of epic proportion. Sadly, it burned our Rock Creek Hatchery down. Now, with monies in place, and plans for a state of the art, climate resilient hatchery in the works, the same hatchery opposition groups are working hard behind the

scenes in an attempt to scuttle this important work and once again, continue to shred Oregon's fisheries and the angling opportunity that accompanies them. Please write to the ODFW Staff and Commission, and let them know that you support the Rock Creek Rebuild.

Written public comments for future Commission Topics can be submitted in writing prior to the meeting date at ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov or mailed to 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE Salem, OR 97302.

3. The Oregon Hatchery Research Center has always been, and still is still a contentious subject when it comes to its intent, and the value that many claim it has failed to provide to the public. At a cost of 1.2 million dollars a year, it is viewed by many as an improper use of anglers dollars. The Oregon Anglers Alliance has been discussing with the OHRC, ODFW, and our elected officials, whether its funding may be better spent elsewhere.

4. Cole Rivers Hatchery;

Cole Rivers Hatchery, located at the Lost Creek dam on the Rogue River was constructed in 1977 to provide fish mitigation for loss of salmonid habitat. At the time, it was a huge, state of the art hatchery that was intended to produce record numbers of fish. The hatchery has never been utilized to its capacity, and as the years have ticked by, it has had difficulty meeting the mitigation requirements set forth by our federal government. Due largely to the Army Corp of Engineers failure to follow their contractual obligations, combined with the nature our state government and the public, this epic hatchery is in such a state of disrepair that if work were to begin today, it would likely take at least 10 years to realize any benefits from the rebuild. In the meantime, our other hatcheries are being overburdened to the point of failing to meet production goals. We are currently exploring ways to maximize our salmonid production in the facilities that are still viable.

Light at the end of the raceway; Thanks to a united effort by ODFW, our state Representative's, our Senators, our County Commissioners, lobbyists, the Oregon Anglers Alliance, and others, it appears that monies will become available for the restoration of Cole Rivers. As of this writing, pertinent parties including the Tribes, are meeting today with Sen. Merkley's staff at Cole Rivers Hatchery, in an attempt to secure funding. Special thanks to Steve Beyerlin and Ray Bucheger for their dedication and diligence in this matter. They have spent years pushing this issue forward. We are moving the dial slowly, but it's moving!

There are many more issues to write about; the formation of new High School Angling clubs, studies to better define the dollar value of salmon to our economy, off-shore wind projects, and more.

On another positive note, we are entering into a time of decision making that is much more pragmatic in regard to using our ORS and policy language as it was intended.

You can rest assured that there have been some very positive changes in not only our F&W Commission, but also our ODFW Executive Staff. The most recent replacements include Mike Harrington Chief of Fisheries, and Debbie Colbert Deputy Director. We are beginning to see positive changes occurring. For those of you that are watching, you too will see these changes happening.

Special thanks to all of you that have helped to steer the course of this big ship that we call Fish and Wildlife management. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you are interested in joining our core group of organizers. There really is strength in numbers. Please help us to grow our "herd" and continue to "lean on the fence" for the greater good.

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided." – J.K. Rowling.

Leonard Krug, President (BM)
Josh Bettesworth, Vice President (BM)
Linda Pinkham, Chief financial Officer
John Ward, Executive Administrator (BM)

Board Members;
Doug Buck, Heath Hampel, Cliff Lance, Bob Main, Stan Steele.

Science Review Panelists;
Reese Bender, Lyle Curtis, Jim Pex, Reg Pullen, Tom Rumreich, Dr. Richard Stroud, Joe Watkins.

www.oregonanglersalliance.org