



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish Screening Task Force

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June 10, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4907



Representative Obey,

The Oregon Fish Screening Task Force would like to address the importance of allocating funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the implementation of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA). FRIMA was originally authorized in 2000 to create a voluntary program that focuses on screening and passage improvements at water diversions where both fish and irrigated agriculture are important economic and social resources. FRIMA was recently reauthorized as part of H.R. 146 but no funds have yet been appropriated to allow the benefits of this program to be realized.

Fish screens and fishways provide an immediate benefit to fishery resources while maintaining the supply of water valued by agricultural and other users. Fish screens effectively prevent the loss of millions of salmonids annually in the four states (OR, WA, ID, and MT) considered by FRIMA. Providing fish passage at diversion dams instantly opens up additional habitat for spawning and rearing by local fish populations. Projects implemented through the FRIMA program continue to help support sustainable fisheries and agricultural practices. Many projects that seek FRIMA assistance are large expensive projects that impact great numbers of fish.

Funding for this program began in 2002 and since that time, 106 projects have been completed with a total FRIMA contribution of over 9 million dollars and a non-federal partner match of over 11 million dollars. FRIMA legislation required a local partner cost-share of at least 35%. In the 7 years since originally implemented, the partner cost share has averaged over 56% of the costs for all projects approved. This large investment by applicants and other partners has allowed the limited funding available to be spread over additional projects and has increased the project ownership by local water users.

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The Oregon Fish Screening Task Force appreciates the reauthorization of this valuable program and looks forward to the fish screening and passage improvements, many of which are already planned and waiting to be funded, that will be realized through this opportunity once funds are appropriated. Please consider this request to fully fund FRIMA at your earliest opportunity so that the four states can continue project development.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Benton, Chair  
Oregon Fish Screening Task Force

- cc: The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Rodney Alexander, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Marion Berry, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop Jr., U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Jo Bonner, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Allen Boyd, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Ken Calvert, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable John R. Carter, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Tom Cole, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Ander Crenshaw, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable John Abney Culberson, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Peter DeFazio, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Norman D Dicks, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Chet Edwards, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Sam Farr, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Chaka Fattah, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Kay Granger, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Michael Honda, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Steve Israel, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, U.S. House of Representatives

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The Honorable Zach Wamp, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable David Wu, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, U.S. House of Representatives  
Alan Ritchey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Anita Winkler, Oregon Water Resources Congress