

April 5, 2013

Senator Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

We the undersigned organizations represent a broad coalition of diverse interests – sportsmen’s groups, farmers, commercial fishermen, conservation groups, and businesses - urging your help and leadership through your role on the Appropriations Committee (and Commerce Justice Science Subcommittee) to support the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) for Oregon.

Salmon are an integral part of our state and tribal heritage: they support our economy, culture, recreation – even our diets. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund is a critical federal program addressing major threats to Pacific salmon so that these fish can continue to sustain cultures, economies, recreation and ecosystem health. PCSRF represents a critical investment that supports not only salmon, but also the many jobs that rely on salmon in Oregon. In 2008, the state of Oregon valued angling in Oregon at \$782 million, and the Oregon Department of Revenue notes that the 2011 value of commercial salmon landed in Oregon in 2011 was \$6.7 million. And according research by University of Oregon economists, every \$1 million dollars spent on clean water and habitat restoration work that PCSRF exemplifies generates 15-24 local jobs.

PCSRF funds assist in cooperative public and private efforts to conserve, restore and recover listed or at-risk Pacific salmon populations and their habitats. Funding for the PCSRF supports local stream restoration work that boosts salmon populations by providing more habitat where salmon can spawn, forage, and escape predators, and PCSRF has successfully leveraged more than \$540 million in additional matching funds to date.

In these financially challenging times, we understand the need for Congress to focus on essential work. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, however, provides an essential federal investment for the vital work of salmon restoration. Pacific salmon are balancing on the brink, and if numbers continue to decline, it will take a toll on Oregon’s economy, way of life, and future generations. We hope you will fully support PCSRF this year and in the future.

Sincerely,

Organizations

American Rivers  
Association of NW Steelheaders  
Central Coast Land Conservancy

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts  
Deschutes Land Trust  
Deschutes River Conservancy  
Greenbelt Land Trust  
Molalla River Alliance  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Oregon Habitat Joint Venture  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), Oregon Office  
Portland General Electric  
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wetlands Conservancy  
Trout Unlimited, Oregon Council  
Water Watch  
Wild River Heritage Land Trust  
Wild Salmon Center  
Willamette Partnership

#### Individuals

Douglas Hunt - Association of Northwest Steelheaders  
Lee Klingler - Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Board Member & Treasurer  
Tom Lindley - Attorney  
Michael McMahan - Nurseryman, Fisherman, and outdoor enthusiast  
Michael Moody - Executive Director, Native Fish Society  
April Olbrich, Conservationist  
Jan Rose - Board Member, Molalla River Watch Watershed Council  
Leon Miller Trice III, Architect