



May 19, 2010

W. Daniel Edge
Department Head
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Oregon State University, 104 Nash
Corvallis, OR 97331-3803

Dear Dr. Edge:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) supports the establishment of a Regional Climate Science Center (RCSC) at Oregon State University (OSU). The purpose of the RCSC would be to provide sound scientific input to Department of Interior agencies, and other management entities, as they grapple with incorporating climate change into management decisions. Such input is essential for understanding and balancing the risk and opportunities of long-term management decisions. It could improve the conservation and sustainable use of fish and aquatic resources in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

OSU is an ideal home for the RCSC. Besides being centrally located within the Pacific Northwest, OSU has a long history of sensibly approaching and addressing complex management issues in collaborative fashion. Professors, researchers, and students from OSU consistently provide a large portion of the technical participation at ORAFS Annual Meetings, sharing substantial and valuable insights from their basic and applied research. Many also serve in leadership roles within the ORAFS, demonstrating a commitment to the profession, and to the effective transition of research findings into management and policy decisions.

Aquatic resources would benefit from an RCSC at OSU. In Oregon, 48 percent of our 94 native fish species are already listed by state or federal agencies as vulnerable to extinction. We have already lost several populations of other species, including some Pacific salmon. Among the many factors responsible for the dramatic decline in native fish populations, alteration of aquatic habitats and the introduction and spread of invasive species have had the greatest impact. Climate change is likely to exacerbate both of these threats. For example, the projected warming and altered flow regimes of our streams and rivers are predicted to shrink or completely eliminate the ranges of salmonids (depending on the population and model). In other words, what is already a dire situation for native fishes and their habitats will likely worsen unless we make solid commitment to better

understand climate change, the mechanisms of its impacts, and the opportunities for reducing those impacts.

The ORAFS is composed of over 500 fisheries and aquatic science professionals from academia, industry, government, tribal, and private sectors working objectively toward the advancement of fishery science, and its application toward conservation and sustainable use of Oregon fisheries and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Grost". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Groست" clearly legible.

Richard Grost
ORAFS President

enclosures:
selected references

cc:
AFS national (Hawkes, Jackson)
AFS Western Division (Roulson)
ORAFS (ExCom, Committees, and membership via website, listserve, and newsletter)

Selected References:

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