



CITY OF MYRTLE POINT

In the Heart of the Myrtlewoods

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November 2, 2021

RE: Coquille River Fall Chinook Salmon

Mayor:
Samantha Clayburn

Councilors:
Michael Hogan
Stephanie Martell
Daniel Martin
Leif Schrader
Gary Sullivan
Mike Wood

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of Myrtle Point's residents, businesses and tourists, we urge you to help save the Coquille River's fall Chinook salmon. These mighty fish have been a prized resource for our area since long before our community existed. We would be heartbroken to see them go extinct on our watch.

In just the past decade, what previously was a lively sport fishery has dwindled to almost no fish at all. Where tens of thousands of spawning adults once were counted, the annual run has shrunk to just a few hundred.

The reasons are many: predation by invasive bass and hungry sea lions, decrepit hatchery facilities, degraded water quality, and inadequate habitat. Each of these issues must be addressed. For the moment, the most urgent need is to produce an adequate supply of smolts in this year's breeding cycle.

We understand that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife faces many challenges, including limited staffing. Therefore, we support the Coquille Indian Tribe's co-management proposal. The tribe can offer its resources, its long history on this river, and its intense motivation to save the fish that have sustained its people for countless generations.

The Myrtle Point City Council urges you to support the emerging partnership between the tribe and ODFW. A cooperative effort may be the only opportunity to preserve our fall Chinook salmon for future generations.

Sincerely,


Samantha Clayburn
Mayor