



Summer 2025

CCA OREGON STATE SPONSORS



The Columbia River Endorsement and the 'Poison Pill'

By Jack Smith, CCA Oregon President

I am often asked this question: "Why are we still paying the Columbia River Endorsement when ODFW hasn't delivered on the promise to get gillnets completely out of the mainstem Columbia River?" It is an important question that we should all be able to answer!

First, we must consider where we were before the bi-state Columbia River reforms were adopted in 2012: gillnets anywhere, during any season in the lower Columbia River. Since 2018, the reforms have limited mainstem gillnetting to one season (fall) and one fishing area (Zones 4-5). So-called

tangle nets (I prefer the term small-mesh gillnets) have been almost entirely limited to the fall for coho. While CCA is determined to finish the job and get all gillnets out of the mainstem lower Columbia River, this is important progress!

What many people don't understand is that since 2019, WDFW and its Commission have been hell-bent on restoring year-round gillnetting in the lower Columbia River. In fact, their official policy (C-3630) calls for just that, as well as reduced recreational fishing opportunity to make it happen. And we know they are willing to do it!

In fact, over the past several years WDFW's policy — and the lack of concurrence with ODFW's rules — has cost the recreational spring chinook fishery dearly as fishing opportunity was arbitrarily withheld due to WDFW's demands. At the cost of thousands of angler trips and millions of dollars for our region's economy! Can you imagine if WDFW was able to achieve its scary vision for Columbia River fisheries?

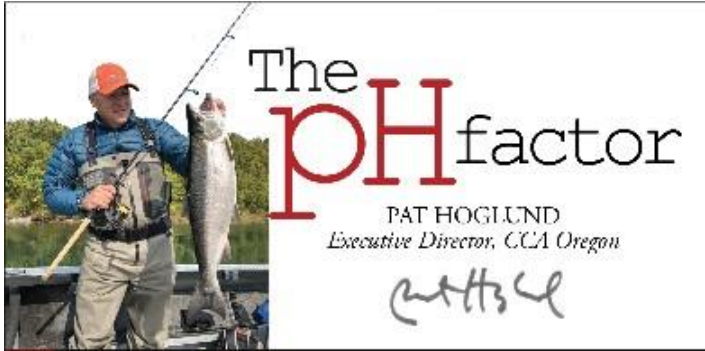
Fortunately, when Oregon's Endorsement last came before the Legislature for reauthorization in 2021, CCA Oregon amended the bill with a provision that would immediately do away with the Endorsement (and the funds ODFW receives) if ODFW joins WDFW in reversing the reforms. This provision was dubbed the "poison pill" by a certain former ODFW Director and the gillnet lobby. CCA believes it is a critical safeguard to ensure that anglers are getting what they're paying for: increased fishing opportunity and better conservation.

Without this provision, and the Endorsement itself, I am quite confident that we would have seen more gillnetting and less recreational fishing. Worse outcomes for wild fish and reductions in hatchery production funded through the Endorsement. A true lose-lose.

There's no doubt we have more to do on Columbia River fisheries — fully removing mainstem gillnets, increasing sea lion removals, and rethinking this nonsensical barbless hook requirement — to name just a few. With the Endorsement reauthorized for another six years we have time to do it while a critical safeguard remains in place.

The next time you get this very fair question, let them know what they are getting: More fishing opportunity, more fish, and far less mainstem gillnetting. Then urge them to tell all their friends and family in Washington to demand change at WDFW.





What Are We Doing? I'm Glad You Asked.

In 2007, CCA came to the Pacific Northwest at the urging of Gary Loomis and since then CCA Oregon has become one of the — if not the most — influential conservation groups in the state. Throughout its 18 year history CCA Oregon's accomplishments are impressive, which if you want to take the time you can read about on our website. But because we live in a world of 'what have you done for me lately?' we are constantly asked, "What is CCA doing?"

It's a fair question.

If you're looking to justify your \$40 membership, I'll point to two of our most recently accomplishments.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: I'll start by pointing to the past legislative session. Thanks to our paid lobbyist Shawn Miller, and our Pacific Northwest Regional Fisheries Director Heath Heikkila, CCA Oregon was able to help secure nearly \$50 million in funding for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. That may not sound like a lot, but in the scheme of things, it's substantial especially when it comes to the much-needed money the ODFW needed to maintain hatchery funding. In terms of how this shakes out, we will have hatchery fish to catch in the near future.

You can read more about how that came about when you read Heath's article in this edition of the newsletter. What should not be lost on you is that funding didn't just happen. It happened because CCA Oregon had a hand in it. And that goes back to our relationship with our director, Dr. Debbie Colbert and Dr. Shaun Clements, the department's deputy director. When Dr. Colbert was appointed director, CCA Oregon met with her to establish a working relationship. The department needs support from us, and we need support from the department. There are several people who had a hand in that, but none more important than our paid lobbyists. Without Shawn and Heath, we might be reading about a different story.

HABITAT: When I first came on board one of my goals was to start a habitat committee. It was much needed in my opinion. And to that end, an anonymous donor agreed to pledge \$50,000 in a one-to-one match program. We began our fundraising efforts at the state banquet last year and continued to

ask our banquet guests to raise their paddle to support the habitat committee. The response has been great. Thus far we've raised \$41,900. That puts our habitat fund at almost \$85,000 thanks to the match. We still have two more chapter banquets, and the statewide banquet in November, before we meet our yearly deadline. I have no doubt we'll reach our goal of raising \$100,000.

Our habitat committee, chaired by Jack Smith, has already identified two projects that we're helping fund. We have committed almost \$14,000 to help improve riparian habitat on the **Salmon River near Eddyville**. There, three creeks feed Big Creek where degradation. The scope of the project is to remove the blackberry bushes, repair existing border fencing, and add two culverts that will keep cattle from passing through the streams. The area will be fenced and connected to existing fences forcing the cattle to cross over the culverts rather than through the streams. In addition, 115 trees and shrubs along with 400 willow trees will be planted the three locations.

Whetstone Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River north of Medford, for years has been deteriorating due to agriculture ditching, livestock grazing and aggregate mining. The result is high stream temperatures, lack of physical cover for fish and a damaged riparian area where Whetstone Creek is overrun with blackberries and teasel. CCA Oregon has committed \$2,500 to help restore the habitat. In doing so, large wood structures will be added providing fish cover and overwinter habitat for juvenile steelhead. In working with the Rogue River Watershed Council and the ODFW, the invasive plants (blackberries and teasel) will be removed with pesticides and heavy equipment. Native vegetation will then be planted, which at the end of the day will mean more steelhead returning to the Rogue River.

These are just a couple examples that, in my opinion, help to justify a \$40 annual membership. Habitat projects aside, what we helped accomplish in the legislative session is reason enough to be a member.

Pat Hoglund
Executive Director CCA Oregon



Willamette Falls Chapter Picnic, Milo McIver State Park – July 26, 2025

It is not too late to sign-up. Children's Fun and games is the focus, although Parents and other adults will have a nice time too.

TO REGISTER [CLICK HERE](#)

Get your tickets now for the 4th Annual Summer fun for the Fish Picnic!

Register by midnight Friday, July 18th, to be eligible for door prizes!

Questions? Contact Julie Monroe-Falk at 503-680-7338
or jmonroefalk@gmail.com



FROM THE TRENCHES

CCA Oregon Advocacy Update

By Heath Heikkila

CCA Pacific NW Fisheries Director

Over the past six months, CCA Oregon was heavily engaged in the Oregon Legislature working to advance legislation and budgets critical to maintaining our hatcheries and fisheries. After countless hours of effort by CCA staff and members — including many of you who showed up to the Capitol wearing your red CCA hats — we are very pleased with the results! You can read more below or check out a detailed report [here](#).

Heading into the session, ODFW faced a major budget shortfall as its costs had increased, but revenues remained flat. Without additional funds the agency would have been forced to make deep cuts, including hatchery closures and fishing opportunities. ODFW's hatchery system is also threatened by a massive maintenance backlog estimated at more than \$200 million, a very real threat to multiple hatcheries that are already in the cross-hairs of anti-hatchery groups.

At the same time, Governor Tina Kotek and the Legislature were facing a challenging budget environment that made it incredibly difficult to secure any additional funding for ODFW. Natural resource agencies rarely get the support they deserve when competing with high profile issues like education, transportation, and homelessness – to name just a few.

Despite this very challenging environment, CCA Oregon worked with ODFW to advance a package of bills to protect our fisheries and hatcheries. This package includes over \$20 million in new state capital funding to start addressing the hatchery maintenance backlog. The package also includes legislation to redirect an existing license surcharge towards hatchery maintenance and monitoring.

The legislature also passed a bill to increase hunting and fishing license fees. While CCA Oregon is concerned about the ever-increasing cost of hunting and fishing licenses, the bill was essential to

avoid deep cuts to fisheries and convince skeptical legislators to invest \$20 million in hatchery funding and provide the funding needed to maintain hatchery operations in the Umpqua Basin.

We also made progress educating legislators about the need for the State of Oregon to step up its investment in ODFW, rather than continuing to balance its budget on the backs of hunters and anglers. Most important, perhaps, is the strong partnership we developed with ODFW under the refreshing new leadership of Dr. Debbie Colbert and her staff.

These are important victories, but we're not out of the woods yet with potential federal funding reductions looming for federal agencies and hatchery mitigation programs. CCA Oregon has been and will remain engaged with federal officials to ensure the federal government is meeting its mitigation obligations. We also have much more to do to educate state and federal officials about the need to continue reforming commercial harvest practices so we can get more of our salmon back to Oregon.

Kids Clipping Fins... **An inspiring scene of hope and lifelong lessons** **about the importance of volunteerism**

Fourteen-year-old Colin worked his first fin clip party three years ago. That experience left a lasting impression on him. But the experience that he will always remember was catching a marked chinook salmon ... a fish that was one of the returning adults from an earlier fin clip party that he participated in.

Children are not only learning the life cycle of anadromous fish, but more importantly, they work shoulder-to-shoulder with other kids and parents learning to give their time and have a blast doing it.

Between the Whiskey Creek and Rhoades Pond events, each year there are over 200,000 juveniles clipped and then released several weeks later. Turn-out at both fin clips ranges from 300 to 400 participants. Expected returns of adult fish from one cycle range from 3,500 to 5,000 after one to five years at sea. At fin clip time, the smolts weigh out at 12 per pound. Returning adults range from 10 to 30 pounds after miraculously avoiding predators of all shapes and sizes, commercial nets, degraded habitat, negative ocean conditions and a gauntlet of dams and man-made diversions.

Whiskey Creek and Rhoades Pond volunteers clip the adipose fins of young, hatchery-raised salmon to mark them as hatchery fish, allowing anglers to distinguish them from wild, protected salmon. This practice is crucial for managing and sustaining the local salmon populations and fisheries.

The Tillamook Anglers Association has owned and managed the Whiskey Creek Hatchery since the late 1980s. Memberships and donations keep the operation afloat while the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife supplies the fish.

Rhoades Pond is co-managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nestucca Anglers volunteer STEP program. The fin clipping event was started over 26 years ago and has been responsible for releasing over 2 million smolt over the course of those years.

The Nestucca Anglers have a continuing commitment to their goals of stream enhancement, education and angling opportunity. Encouraged by the success of their current programs, they continue to seek new ways to further these goals. NA makes the most of their financial support, which comes from grants and contributions from the public.

Fin clipping events teach both kids and adults that volunteering can be educational, rewarding and awfully fun. Add in great food, auctions, drawings and a ton of freebies and you get nothing short of a couple of Oregon's finest examples of community volunteerism.

— Don New, CCA Oregon Director of Communications



Habitat Committee and Matching Donations

In the Fall of 2024 CCA Oregon created a Habitat Committee. Executive Director Pat Hoglund secured an anonymous donor who pledged to match donations dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$50,000. The fundraising began at the November 2024 Statewide Banquet with a “Paddle-Raise” (raise your Bidder Card), and continued at each of our Chapter Banquets. To date the Habitat Committee Projects have raised over \$41,900, not counting the match. You can read Pat’s letter to learn more about the two projects underway.

Two Habitat Project have been identified, both proposals came through Oregon Heritage Foundation:

1. Creeks running into the Salmon River that were severely damaged by farming, a project in partnership with landowners to fix, which includes installing culverts.
2. Partnering with Oregon Heritage Foundation on a tributary of the Rogue River. This project gets us in the queue with ODFW’s Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program.

Organizing Principles of the Habitat Committee:

Purpose: The habitat committee will be a committee that disperses funds for ongoing habitat projects and when appropriate organizes boots on the ground volunteers where CCA Oregon members participate in projects themselves.

Cost: Our cost will depend on the project, available funding and the overall value a project has on the resource.

Project Types: Will be an open-ended topic because there are all different kinds of habitat projects we could be involved in. Culverts, stream restoration, pollution, coastal wetland restoration, etc.

Potential Partners: ODFW, USFWS, NOAA, or Non-Government Organizations (NGO’s).

Committee Members: Jack Smith, Chair; Jerry Massey; Pat Cimmiyotti; Dan Scott; Alex Brauer; Pat Hoglund



ZOOM Calls are Easy, Fun and Educational – Give it a try.

When CCA Oregon has a Zoom Call presentation, an advance email is sent to all Members with an email address. In that email there will be a hyperlink (begins with <http://> ..) that you ‘Click’ on to take you to the Zoom Call (TIP, if you hover your mouse over the hyperlink, it will instruct you press ‘Control + Click’). Once the Zoom screen comes up, Follow the directions on your screen (for example, Click on the “Join Meeting” button).

CCA Oregon conducts Quarterly Zoom Calls. Recent presenters include Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director of ODFW and Bruce Polley of the GRC (Government Relations Committee), and Fishing Guide Chris Vertopolous.

You do not have to be seen or heard on Zoom Calls ... you can just watch others and listen. In the lower left corner of the display screen are two icons; one a microphone, and the other a camera. Click the microphone icon and you will be muted, and click again to unmute so you can speak. The camera icon can be clicked on to hide your face, and click again so others can see your face (and background).

If you want to look at past Zoom Presentations, go here: <https://ccaoregon.org/monthly-zoom-presentations/>

CCA LIFE Membership Promotion

Pat Hoglund, Executive Director for Oregon, established a goal of ten new **LIFE Memberships** in his 2025 management plan. At each Oregon chapter banquet he asked who would like to become a LIFE Member. Through June, Pat obtained has obtained 11 new life members and we still have three more banquets to go!

Benefit to you, to CCA Oregon, and to National CCA. A Life Membership is \$1,000, but \$943.00 of that is tax-deductible; Very nice tax benefit if you Itemize. Life Members also receive a very nice jacket, nice metal art for their wall and other unique mementos.

Congratulations to our newest life members:

Nicole Crossley, Tillamook
David Chonjacki, Statewide
Tristen Huget, Willamette Falls
Cliff DeBlois, Willamette Falls
Wade Radke, Mount Hood
Bryan Edwards, Mount Hood
Jeff Martinez, South Willamette Valley
Kurt Knutson, South Willamette Valley
Katie Sexton, Columbia County
Alex Brauer, Tualatin Valley

If you would like to become a Life Member, contact Membership Chair Ken MacColman, email: ken.maccolman@gmail.com, or Pat Hoglund at phoglund@ccaoregon.org.

If you're interested in becoming a life member, keep in mind you can pay the \$1,000 fee in quarterly installments of \$250.

Upcoming Banquet Dates in 2025

Portland Chapter September 6 th at the Colwood Golf Course on Columbia Blvd.
And Yes, there is a fun Golf Tourney for those interested, 9 holes, par 3.
To Register: [CLICK HERE](#)

Columbia River Gorge Banquet in The Dalles on September 27 th .
Look for forthcoming registration information in your email, and on Facebook. For more info contact Chapter President Pat Cimmiyotti, Phone: (541) 993-5679.

Statewide Banquet and Awards Ceremony: Plan now for the Nov. 15 th event. We're expecting a sellout crowd this year so plan early.
Link: <https://ccaoregon.ejoinme.org/2025StatewideHome>

the State Board of Directors; the Secretary

Are you looking to help only four times a year, in a position that has a pulse on everything CCA Oregon is involved in. The Board Secretary might just be the perfect fit for you. Some of the matters discussed at a state board are confidential. Our current Secretary had to step back from his duties due family matters, and we need to select a replacement. The board meets four times a year, on a Sunday in March, June, September and December. At least two of the meeting are 15 miles north of Salem, just off I-5, at the Brooks Regional Training Center of Chemeketa Community College. The board meeting starts at 1:00 p.m., and are done between in 2-3 hours. The last board meeting was Zoom conference call and we may do that twice a year; still under evaluation but seemed popular. At the in-person meeting, a light lunch is provided for the board to enjoy before or during the meeting.

The duties of the State Board Secretary include:

1. Send out a meeting notice to all state board members.
2. Take minutes at each of the meetings (except for the GRC Report).
3. Type up draft minutes and send out to all state board members for review.

The actual minutes do not have be word-for-word, but they should contain the gist of who-said-what, and any decision that was made.

Please reach out to Mari Chambers, Cell; 503-881-2852; Email: Mari.Chambers2@gmail.com for answers to any questions. Mari has accomplished the Board Secretary duties many times, but she has so many other CCA Volunteer responsibilities, it is time to give someone else a chance. Mari is very friendly and approachable.

Thanks to our Statewide Donors!
Because of your generosity, our events are successful and fun.



Your CCA Membership ID # is %%IMIS||NAME||ID%%



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