



June 15, 2026

Brandon Self
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301-1271

Received by OWRD

JUN 15 2026

Salem, OR

Subject: Addendum to Application G-19534
Cascade Fish Hatchery – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Mr. Self:

On behalf of the applicant, ODFW, please find enclosed an additional letter of support for the project associated with Application G-19534, which was provided by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources. Please add this letter to the other letters of support provided in Attachment 5 of the application.

If you have any questions regarding this application, you can reach me at 503-701-4535.

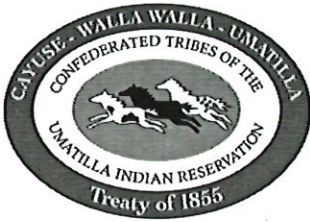
Respectfully submitted,

Theodore R. Ressler, RG, CWRE
Summit Water Resources LLC

Cc: Alex Clark – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charles Matteson – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Perry Baker – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Enclosures:

Letter from CTUIR dated 6/5/2026



Received by OWRD
JUN 15 2026
Salem, OR

(541)-429-7229
EricQuaempts@ctuir.org
ctuir.org
46411 Timline Way
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

June 5, 2026

Mr. Charles R. Matteson
Facilities Engineer, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr
Salem, OR 97302

**RE: CTUIR DNR Letter of Support for the Cascade Fish Hatchery on Eagle Creek
Application for a Groundwater Water Right.**

Dear Mr. Matteson,

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources would like to offer our support for the Cascade Fish Hatchery. The Cascade Fish Hatchery, operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is vital to the CTUIR's Coho Reintroduction Program. Each year, Cascade staff rear 500,000 Umatilla Basin coho smolts for release in the Umatilla River. The location of the facility, on Eagle Creek in the Columbia River Gorge, is challenging in that the facility faces freezing water temperatures in the winter, and warm temperatures in the summer. In addition, the Eagle Creek fire in 2017 destabilized the surrounding canyon, adding high debris flows to winter concerns, jeopardizing their only water source.

Currently, the hatchery has a single water source, the intake on Eagle Creek. The intake is old and slated for replacement, but in the meantime, is vulnerable to damage from the winter storms, and is at times unreachable for cleaning. If there were to be a catastrophic failure to the intake, the hatchery has no back up source of water to maintain fish on station. Depending on the time of year, this could result in the loss of two brood years of fish, causing ripples throughout the following years for coho returns. The coho lifecycle is particularly vulnerable to brood year loss as they are not long lived (generally spawn as 3-year-olds), and multiple age classes do not return to spawn each year.

The CTUIR fully supports the Cascade Hatchery's application for a groundwater water right. This would provide a critical backup to their water intake during winter storms, could be used to warm the creek water when the ponds would normally be expected to

freeze, and could provide some cooler water in the warm summer months. Groundwater tends to have a lower pathogen load, improving fish health during rearing, which can reduce the costs of rearing the fish, and produce a better smolt for release into the Umatilla River.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at the number or email above, or Jerimiah Bonifer, CTUIR DNR Fisheries Program Manager at JerimiahBonifer@ctuir.org or 541-429-7200.

Respectfully,



Eric J. Quaempts, Director,
Department of Natural Resources Director
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

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