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December 30, 1993

WATER RESOURCES DEPT  
SALEM, OREGON



DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND  
WILDLIFE

Water Rights Section  
Water Resources Department  
3850 Portland Rd., NE  
Salem, OR 97310

RE: Water Right Application #73002, 73011 and 73073;  
Reports of Technical Review

The Umpqua River and its major tributaries support native populations of fall and spring chinook and coho salmon, summer and winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Hatchery stocks of some of these are also present. The mainstem Umpqua River, at various times of the year, supports juvenile rearing and adult migration and spawning for all of these species.

In its 1993 assessment of Umpqua River fishery resources, ODFW evaluated the status of basin fish stocks (see attached table). This assessment consistently listed water quantity and quality during summer low-flow periods as factors limiting fish distribution, habitat and production. With summer rearing conditions already critical, recovery of depressed stocks will be difficult. Lower flows due to continued appropriations will make the task even more onerous.

As indicated in WRD's Report of Technical Review for instream water right application # 73350, mainstem Umpqua River flows are currently inadequate to meet ODFW's recommended flows for fish in October. Continued appropriations, such as those requested in the subject application(s), will exacerbate low-flow problems in this reach of river. Therefore, as a matter of public interest in maintaining and improving fishery resources of this basin, ODFW objects to the subject applications(s) as currently conditioned and recommends that no additional appropriations be granted for uses other than domestic and livestock during October.

In the event these applications move forward in processing, ODFW will require fish screening and by-pass facilities as needed to protect indigenous fish populations as per ORS 498.248. To this end, ODFW requests the following condition be added to those being proposed:



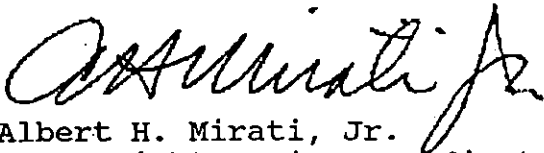
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The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices as required by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion. The required screens and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional prior to diversion of any water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Albert H. Mirati, Jr.  
Water Right Review Coordinator

c. WaterWatch of Oregon (public information request)  
Loomis, Roseburg

FILE: 73002.TEC