



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

Sue Marshall, Chair
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March 18, 2026

Director Kelly Susewind
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Director Susewind,

The Clark County Council is writing to you today regarding the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) October 2025 decision to close the Skamania Hatchery located in Washougal. We strongly urge your support in reopening the hatchery and ensuring its continued operation alongside the North Toutle Hatchery.

Hatcheries are foundational to southwest Washington's cultural and economic vitality. Closing Skamania Hatchery reduces the number of steelhead and cutthroat trout in the Columbia River and our other tributaries and lakes, disrupting recreational fishing and negatively impacting our economy and our residents who fish for food and recreation.

The council understands that the federal government has provided increased funding of \$2.2 million for Mitchell Act hatcheries in Washington in FY26, and believes the Skamania Hatchery should be prioritized for continued operational funding moving forward. We ask the state to utilize these Mitchell Act funds to restart operations at Skamania Hatchery in order to continue serving our community and those who rely on its output. Given that it will cost the state money regardless of whether the decision is to close or open the hatchery, the council believes the additional \$449,000 to keep the hatchery open is well worth it, especially in light of the fact that fully closing down the hatchery would cost an additional \$8 million.

Thank you for your consideration of Council's request and the work you do every day stewarding our state's wildlife and ecosystems. We look forward to engaging further to help find solutions for restoration of funding for Skamania Hatchery.

Sincerely,

[Council Signatures]