

MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ
3RD DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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March 4, 2026

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

Dear Director Susewind:

I write regarding the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) October 2025 decision to close the Skamania Hatchery located in Washougal. I strongly urge your support in reopening the hatchery and ensuring its continued operation alongside the North Toutle Hatchery.

In Southwest Washington, hatcheries are foundational to our cultural heritage and economic prosperity. The decision to shutter the Skamania Hatchery has reduced steelhead and cutthroat trout production in the Columbia River and nearby tributaries and lakes, disrupting recreational fishing in the area and costing the region a key source of economic and cultural vitality. Not to mention, this is at a time when we're spending roughly \$38,000 to remove one sea lion to protect these fish from predation.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee in Congress, I understand the important role of federal funding and partnership in maintaining our state's hatcheries. That's why I fought to bring home increased funding for the operation and maintenance of Mitchell Act hatcheries, including the Skamania Hatchery, for Fiscal Year 2026. I am disappointed to see the state's funding decisions fail to prioritize these critical facilities in their own budgeting.

It is my hope that WDFW appropriates Mitchell Act funds towards the Skamania Hatchery to restart operations and continue serving the communities that depend on its output.

I appreciate your leadership in helping steward our state's wildlife and ecosystems. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MGP', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress

CC:

Governor Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Southwest Region Director Rian Sallee
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