

## MCKENZIE RIVER GUIDES ASSN.-SEN. LEE BEYER MEETING

Thurs. May 7, 2015 @ 4:00 pm  
900 Court Street NE, S-419  
Salem OR 97301

### Representing MRGA:

Steve Mealey—President  
541-896-3817; stevemealey@msn.com

### ASK:

**That the recent appointment of Bruce Buckmaster as ODFW Commissioner not be voted out of the Senate Rules Committee for Senate confirmation.**

### BACKGROUND:

1. MRGA is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1931 and based in Leaburg, OR, to aid in the conservation, restoration and management of fish life in the McKenzie River, to encourage optimal game and fish management, and to promote public participation in guided McKenzie River trips.
2. MRGA has 127 members. Each year MRGA guides assist clients to enjoy more than 2,000 recreation service user days fishing for trout, salmon and steelhead on the McKenzie River.
3. On average each year, 10-15 MRGA guides serve about 500 anglers with guided fishing trips for spring Chinook salmon on the McKenzie River. For this service the guides earn on average a collective \$100,000 per year. This benefits not only our members but also businesses both local and statewide (33 jobs; \$1.12 million income; \$1.85 million to SGP: 2011-2013: Southwick Asocs.)
4. MRGA, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Assn. (NSIA) and the Northwest Steelheaders were Amicus partners supporting ODFW in its recent successful litigation with the McKenzie Flyfishers et al. concerning the operation of the McKenzie (salmon) Hatchery

4. Bruce Buckmaster (Bruce) as lobbyist and commercial gill-net advocate is steadfast in his support of Columbia River gillnetting which has negative impacts on the recovery of McKenzie River and Upper Willamette Basin spring Chinook.
5. During the Columbia River Harvest Reform Process, Bruce stated that guides were causing more problems to wild fish recovery than nets and netters (a claim not supported by ODFW or the National Marine Fisheries Service).
6. Bruce advocated substantially more (unnecessary) regulations imposed on guides for salmon protection.
7. MRGA believes it is in Oregon's best interest to have a Fish and Wildlife Commission comprised of a diverse group of qualified, open-minded individuals whose primary objective is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The appointment of a lobbyist with a decade-long reputation for a single issue focus does not serve statewide interests and may only polarize the Commission. We are also concerned about the effect this nomination will have on the balance of the Commission, which already includes one strong advocate for the commercial fishing industry. The Commission currently lacks anyone with strong expertise in the recreational fishing industry.
8. We strongly believe Bruce's appointment and confirmation will harm MRGA and the recreational fishing which we serve and support in Senate District 6 (Springfield) and urge you **not** to vote Bruce's appointment out of Committee for Senate confirmation.