

**Southern Oregon FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and Representative Val Hoyle for their steadfast support in securing funding for the new Community Resource Center and Little Loggers Daycare in Glide, Oregon. As we move forward from the 2020 Archie Creek Fire, this center will provide essential childcare, programs, and resources, paving the way for our community's enduring growth and resilience," **said Jeana Beam Executive Director Glide Revitalization.**

"This is exciting news. The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership is an all volunteer Nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing the Umpqua River basin ecosystems and the communities it surrounds. We focus on using local workforce skills and equipment to implement our projects. The support of Senators Merkley and Wyden will go a long way to recharge our economically depressed low demographic area and bring healing to our waterways for wild fish and man alike," **said Stanley Petrowski, President/Director of South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership.**

"The City of Talent is thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to replace the large amount of aging asbestos-cement (AC) pipe in our water distribution system to provide safe and secure water service for our residents for decades to come," **said Mayor Darby Ayers Flood.** "We have been experiencing an increasing number of pipe failures, causing disruptions in the distribution system and creating water loss."

"Senators Merkley and Wyden understand small cities such as Talent have limited financial resources to repair and replace failing infrastructure. Their support of our financial assistance request to help replace much of our water distribution system, some of which is more than 60 years old, is particularly important to provide reliable fire protection in an era when wildfires are more prevalent." **said Mayor Ayers Flood.**

"The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife deeply appreciates the longstanding commitment of Senator Merkley, along with Senator Wyden, to addressing critical needs at Cole Rivers Hatchery. Their efforts to secure this funding will enable much-needed upgrades, ensuring the facility can continue supporting local and regional fisheries that provide social, cultural, and economic benefits to the region," **said Shaun Clements, Deputy Director, ODFW.**