

**REP. CEDRIC HAYDEN PRIORITY BILL TO CONVERT LEABURG HATCHERY TO STATE
PARK FIRST READ TODAY**

*House Bill 3451 co-sponsored by Sen. Prozanski, Rep. Holvey would allow hatchery to be funded by
Lottery dollars*

SALEM, OR. – Today, [House Bill 3451](#) was first read into the record, a bill that would convert the Leaburg Fish Hatchery into an Oregon state park. With just 19 days until the end of session, Representative Cedric Hayden (R-Fall Creek) introduced the measure as an alternative way to address the funding and management issue of Leaburg Hatchery, which is set to run out of funds on June 30th unless the Legislature acts before the end of session.

“Constituents all over the state have written about the need to keep the hatchery open and about what an important piece of infrastructure the hatchery is to Oregon’s natural resources community,” stated Rep. Hayden. “The fact is, the Legislature has it in its authority to creatively solve the matter of keeping the hatchery open if we think outside the box and look for a long-term solution. House Bill 3451 can get us there.”

As drafted, House Bill 3451 would move Leaburg Fish Hatchery out of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and move it to an asset to be managed by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OSPR). In doing so, ‘Leaburg Hatchery State Park’ as it would become known, would be eligible to be funded using voter-approved Measure 76 dollars.

“Nearly 70% of Oregonians approved 15% of Lottery funds for the purpose of protecting parks and natural habitats. The hatchery’s goal to have a robust fish population ties in nicely with the values of voters who prioritized constitutionally protected funding for parks and wildlife restoration. Redeveloping Leaburg Hatchery as a state park is the right solution to what will otherwise be a travesty of closing this important piece of natural resource infrastructure in Oregon,” Hayden stated.

Hayden noted that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle have been working diligently to find a way to direct \$1.7 million in general funds to keep the hatchery open, and that he’s appreciated the efforts of Senator Floyd Prozanski and Representative Paul Holvey, who have both co-sponsored House Bill 3451. He noted that even if House Bill 3451 was to pass before the close of session, the hatchery would need interim funding of a one-time General Fund infusion until the transference and inter-agency agreements between ODFW and OSPR could be established.

“If the Legislature makes the one-time, \$1.7 million-dollar investment of General Fund dollars during this transition, then ODFW and OSPR would have two years to work out the issues of park management by the state parks agency with biological management support from ODFW for the hatchery itself. Then in subsequent legislative sessions, with the annual growth in Lottery funds, the funding for Leaburg Hatchery State Park could be rolled up in the increase of Measure 76 dollars,” Hayden explained.

While he recognizes it could be difficult to pass a bill within the last two weeks of session, Hayden points to one-day special sessions the Legislature has accomplished to pass much more complex policies.

“The Legislature has undertaken big policies in single-day sessions, so with 19 days until the end of session, I believe we have the time to both find \$1.7 million in one-time general funds and convert the hatchery to a state park so we never have to impact the General Fund again in order to protect this important piece of our natural resource history. Protecting Leaburg Hatchery from closure is a win for all Oregonians, and the environment.”