



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 7, 2022**

**FISH DERBY BANQUET EVENT TO BE RESCHEDULED;  
OTHER EVENTS TO CONTINUE AS PLANNED**

Roseburg, OR. —Today the Executive Committee of the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby (UFED) announced that it will reschedule the upcoming Fish Derby Banquet which normally would have occurred February 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee’s decision was based on lower reservations for the event at this time, and with the unanimous concurrence of major sponsors, participants, and volunteers. Reduced number of Derby attendees at the dinner/auction would likely result in revenue losses, rather than raising funds for much-needed fish projects within the Umpqua Basin.

However, the other activities associated with the Derby Event will continue as planned:

- **February 4-5:** the fishing portion of the Derby will proceed as planned with forty-three teams and guides are scheduled to fish for steelhead on the North, South and Mainstem Umpqua Rivers.
- **February 2:** “Student Day” will provide an opportunity for high school students from around the county to participate in and learn about fish habitat restoration work in Rock Creek, which was badly damaged by the Archie Creek Fire.
- **February 3:** “Kids Day” includes elementary school students fishing with professional guides at Cooper Creek Reservoir and enjoy an exhilarating jet boat ride in locally made North River boats.

“The Derby Banquet is one of the largest, most exciting events each year in Douglas County. Based on the numbers we’re seeing, rescheduling the banquet in the Spring will generate greater participation from the public,” said Cam Lawler, co-chair of the UFED Committee.

The annual Derby and banquet typically generate over \$100,000 that has leveraged millions of dollars for watershed enhancement work, fish-rearing projects, and outdoor education activities in the Umpqua River Basin, including the following projects funded in 2020:

- Fish passage improvement in tidal wetlands
- Angler cash rewards to support local fisheries research
- Hatchery broodstock collection equipment for volunteers
- Winter steelhead acclimation sites and student education activities
- Instream fish habitat enhancement
- Streamside vegetation restoration in wildfire-damaged watersheds

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