

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Fish and Wildlife Disaster Peak Ranch Property Acquisition

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Anderson

On April 5th, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$2,750,000 for the acquisition of the Disaster Peak Ranch property.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides financial assistance grants to eligible State agencies like ODFW through Section 6(c) of the Endangered Species Act. If awarded, these funds would be used by ODFW to purchase the Disaster Peak Ranch property in southeastern Oregon that is currently owned by Western Rivers Conservancy, a non-profit organization. This property has been identified by US Fish and Wildlife Service as a priority area of conservation.

Section 6 grants have a match requirement, which ODFW can meet with \$800,000 in remaining Ruby Pipeline Funds, which are funds stipulated to be used for the purchase of property to restore priority wildlife and fish habitats. While ODFW is the eligible agency to apply for the funds from USFWS, the plan is for land ownership to be transferred to the Department of State Lands for ongoing management of the property.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.