



**Testimony of Oregon Wildlife Coalition on House Bill 3187
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
March 25th, 2021**

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Hudson and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members:

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) is a coalition of wildlife conservation groups working proactively and collaboratively to advocate for policies that are science-based, humane and reflect the state's conservation values.¹

OWC opposes HB 3187.

HB 3187 would create a new “Wildlife Council” limited to people connected to hunting and fishing (plus someone from agriculture) to use state money to promote hunting, fishing, and a particular point of view about the current and historic role of hunting and fishing in wildlife management.

The state currently has an institutionalized fish and wildlife agency with its own Commission, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), this council would duplicate the role of the Governor- appointed ODFW Commission. The task of providing hunting and fishing education and promoting hunting and fishing opportunities is also within the scope of ODFW. Further, ODFW already prioritizes hunting and fishing interests over non-consumptive users who enjoy fish and wildlife for their intrinsic value. ODFW does this even though, “[t]oday, only 12% [of Oregon’s population] fish and 7% hunt.”²

Instead of creating a new council to further emphasize hunting and fishing as a use of Oregon’s wildlife resources, the state should be shifting its focus to serve the other 80-plus percent of Oregonians. We recognize the connections between hunting, fishing and conservation but believe that, today, Oregonians who do not hunt or fish also care deeply about protecting and restoring the state’s fish and wildlife.

Further, with a Subsequent Referral to Ways and Means, this bill would have a fiscal impact, which would effectively double down on dollars already given to ODFW to promote hunting and fishing within the state. Should additional wildlife dollars be considered, we would urge the Committee to advocate for funds on critical wildlife legislation, such as SB 841, which appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Justice for purposes of funding Environmental Crimes (including poaching) and the Cultural Resources Enforcement

¹ For member organizations and additional information go to www.oregonwildlifecoalition.com.

² [ODFW 2021-23 Presentation to External Budget Advisory Committee](#), p. 69.

Unit of department, and the bills to continue and fund the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (HB 2171, which the committee recently referred with a “do pass” recommendation, and HB 2600 and 2913, which have work sessions next week).

Thank you for your continued public service and advocacy.

Sincerely,

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition

Contacts: Brian Posewitz, humanevotersoregon.org, (503) 946-1534; Samantha Bruegger
WildEarth Guardians, wildearthguardians.org, (970) 531-6720