



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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February 10, 2021
Re: HB 2171

Chair Witt and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, for the record, I am Tyler Dungannon, representing the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). OHA is pleased to partner with the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) to benefit the state's wildlife, habitat and recreation opportunity. OHA supports several aspects of HB 2171, but not entirely as written.

From the onset, OHA has been actively engaged with OCRF, and has encouraged all hunters to support the fund because we believe it will benefit all wildlife, and recreational opportunities in our state.

While we recognize there are many recreational opportunities in Oregon, OHA believes that it is important that in the future, OCRF recognizes hunting as recreation, because it is the primary form of recreation that has funded wildlife management to date. Similarly, hunters are perhaps Oregon's premier conservationists and have shown long-standing support for conservation of our wildlife and natural resources. That trend continues as more than half of the OCRF funds raised to date were funded by hunters and anglers when buying licenses and tags or other means. OHA encourages OCRF to fund projects without traditional funding sources, while also funding projects that reflect the conservation and recreational interests of their donors.

OHA supports restoring the \$1 million General Fund match commitment made in 2019. However, we do not necessarily support requirements for the OCRF committee to consult with the Office of Outdoor Recreation on expenditures from the OCRF. Simply put, this requirement is not necessary, and perhaps contradictory with recent actions that the OCRF has undertaken to streamline project approval processes. OHA supports extending the sunset, so the OCRF has additional time to obtain necessary donations for the General Fund match, and there is continued legislative oversight of this new program while it is growing.

That concludes my testimony I will be glad to answer any questions.