



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6044

FAX: (503) 947-6042

[odfw.com](http://odfw.com)

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Senator Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair  
Representative Khanh Pham, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife, Fish and Administrative Divisions as well as our relationship with the Oregon State Police's Fish and Wildlife Division and the Key Performance Measures during Day 2 of our budget hearing. Below is our response to the questions about funding for USDA Wildlife Services from Representative Owens and Representative Levy, the question about costs for funding Aquatic Invasive Species check stations from Representative Holvey, and the impact on ODFW's Policy Option Package 121 – Minam Phase II Acquisition from USDA Forest Legacy Program not being included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for Department of Forestry (ODF).

### **Funding for USDA Wildlife Services**

The total funding portfolio of USDA Wildlife Services includes General Fund allocation, additional Other Funds from ODFW, funds from participating counties, various federal funds, and project dollars from private landowners.

ODFW is statutorily required to provide \$60,000 annually for the Predatory Animal, Rabbit, and Rodent Control Fund for USDA Wildlife Services. USDA Wildlife Services uses this funding to assist with damage to agriculture caused by predatory animals, which are defined in ORS 610.002. The definition of predatory animals includes coyotes, rabbits, rodents, and birds that are or may be destructive to agriculture. The 2023-25 Governor's Recommended Budget includes \$120,000 in General Fund for ODFW to meet that statutory obligation (Table 1).

USDA Wildlife Services also conducts activities for other wildlife conflict including carnivore predators besides coyotes (e.g., black bears and cougars). ORS 498.012 provides the ability for landowners and their agents to address wildlife damage, and USDA Wildlife Services is often employed as an agent for various landowners. Additionally, ODFW uses an Intergovernmental Agreement with Other Funds, from License revenue, to have USDA Wildlife Services as an agent of the state when requested to assist with wildlife conflict involving black bear, cougar, furbearers, and wolves.

Table 1. Summary of funding for contracting with USDA Wildlife Services.

Summary of ODFW Funding to USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services				
	LAB 2017-2019	LAB 2019-2021	LAB 2021-2023	GRB 2023-25
<b>Predatory Animal Control Fund<sup>1</sup> (General Fund)</b>	<b>470,140</b>	<b>484,792</b>	<b>506,269</b>	<b>120,000</b>
<b>End of Session Bill Additions (General Fund)</b>		<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	
<b>Mid-biennium Reduction (General Fund)</b>		<b>-200,000</b>		
<b>Bear, Cougar, Furbearer &amp; Wolf Contract (Other Funds - License)</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>
<b>Agency Total</b>	<b>578,140</b>	<b>592,792</b>	<b>814,269</b>	

<sup>1</sup>ORS 610.020 Predatory Animal, Rabbit and Rodent Control Fund

### Aquatic Invasive Species Check Stations

The estimated cost of operating a basic seasonal invasive species inspection check station for five-months with a two-person team is about \$55,000. This would include operations for approximately 64 hours per week (includes safety signage and vehicle cost; maintenance of the decontamination unit). The estimated annual cost of operating a permanent station is around \$290,000 (includes two full-time staff, one eight-month seasonal, one five-month seasonal).

### Policy Option Package 121 - ODFW Minam Property Acquisition

ODFW consulted with ODF on whether the USDA Forest Legacy Program not being included in their Governor's Recommended Budget would impact ODFW's Policy Option Package 121 - ODFW Minam Property Acquisition. Based on this consultation, ODFW confirmed that there will not be an impact to ODFW's Policy Option Package 121 - Minam Property Acquisition.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's questions. Please contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Curtis E. Melcher  
 Director  
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife