



**COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS**

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January 23, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

**RE: Support for HB 2527: Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program**

Chair Helm and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), we would like to provide testimony in support of HB 2527 and the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts represents 32 member organizations, including land trusts and soil and water conservation districts, that work to protect clean water, fish, and wildlife habitat across our state. Our mission is to serve and strengthen the land trust community in Oregon, and together, our members have worked to conserve over 370,00 acres of land.

Our land trust members work with willing landowners across the state to improve conservation and ecological outcomes and support public benefits on private land. HB 2527 would improve and revive this important voluntary tool for increasing habitat and wildlife protection on private lands, and allow SWCDs to provide capacity and technical assistance to improve habitat outcomes.



**24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust  
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust  
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust  
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust  
Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon  
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Willowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust  
**8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water  
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association  
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

Managing habitat for wildlife can be costly, and the tax deferral incentive provided through this program is essential to reach the envisioned program goals.

We encourage Chair Helm and the committee members to support this bill and look forward to being partners in improving ecological outcomes on private land.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Beamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelley Beamer  
Executive Director  
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

