



To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Date: 3/3/2023

RE: HB 5020, Please support full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA)

Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 5020. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's support of HB 5020, the Oregon Department of Forestry Budget Bill. We request that HB 5020 fully fund the Private Forest Accord Account.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). OCN is a coalition of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

We respectfully request full funding for the Private Forest Accord as described in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Agency Request Budget (ARB).

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was the result of months of negotiations brokered by the Governor's office between 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups to broadly reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Despite some hard compromises, the PFA provides significant new protections for fish and stream-dwelling frogs and salamanders, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands.

Aligned with the requirements of the PFA legislation passed in 2022 (SB 1501, 1502, and HB 4005), the Department is now tasked with developing the complete application for a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to submit to the federal services. We support funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) grant - Conservation Planning Assistance that will channel federal funding to support ODF and ODFW in the development of the HCP.

We thank the Governor for including full base/CSL funding for core PFA programs and staffing and for partial funding of POP 106 Private Forest Accord Development under ODF's budget and POP 105 Private Forest Accord Data Coordination under ODFW's budget. We respectfully request full funding for the following:

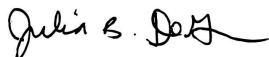
- **ODF POP 106 - Private Forest Accord Development:** This includes \$10M for the SFISH program to provide grants to small forestland owners to replace or upgrade culverts and stream crossings. It also includes \$6M to stand up the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) and the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST).

- **ODFW POP 105 - Private Forest Accord Data Coordination:** Although this POP is included in ODFW's budget request, funding for this POP has direct ramifications of ODF and its ability to develop an approvable HCP. We respectfully request full funding for ODFW POP 105 including \$20M to support the ODFW PFA Mitigation Grant Fund.

Full funding for core PFA programs and staffing in addition to base/CSL funding includes \$10M for ODF, SFISH, \$6M for ODF Adaptive Management and IRST, \$1.3M for ODF additional services and supplies. It also includes \$20M for ODFW Mitigation Grant Fund and \$354,000 for ODFW additional services and supplies. Some of these core programs funded through POPs are integral to finalizing a federally approvable HCP.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and our request for full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA).

Sincerely,



Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Pew Charitable Trusts, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition