



March 21, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Senator Dembrow and Representative Pham,

Ducks Unlimited, representing over 7,000 members in Oregon and having completed more than 126,000 acres of conservation projects in Oregon including those on ODFW lands, submits the following comments to support the overall budget for ODFW contained in SB 5509.

In particular, Ducks Unlimited would like to express support for the following items:

- Pkg 120 – OCS Farm Bill Biologist: Conservation provisions of the federal Farm Bill are critical to Ducks Unlimited’s mission to provide habitat for waterfowl and other species and this added capacity will be helpful to effective implementation of Farm Bill programs in Oregon.
- Pkg 132 – Procurement and Contract specialist: This function is integral to implementing timely and effective projects on important wildlife areas and we fully support this funding request.
- Pkg 130 – Fish Passage Restoration-Culverts: Ducks Unlimited engineers and biologists have experience with implementing fish passage improvement work. We support proposed funding for this work and look to partner with ODFW on this important multi-species habitat initiative.
- Pkg 137 – Stop Poaching General Fund Transfer: Poaching is an issue that can have lasting impacts on Oregon’s fish and wildlife resources and the Oregon TIP program is an effective program that should be supported.

In the future, we would like more funding prioritized to include:

- Pkg 102 – Habitat Division Policy & Operations: These positions are critical to maintaining adequate personnel to fully assess, implement and maintain habitat projects.
- OAHP – While the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program is not listed in this budget, it is a voluntary program that works with landowners to provide habitat for fish and wildlife species, as well as maintain working lands. OAHP provides important matching funds for federal grants like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Along with other partners, we are advocating for full funding and growth to this small but critical habitat program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these fish and wildlife programs. We are thankful for the strong partnership we have with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and for your work supporting their efforts.

Sincerely,

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