



# Blue Mountain Wildlife

Rehabilitation ~ Research ~ Education

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March 21, 2023

Oregon Legislature Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: **SB 5509 Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package**

To the Members of the Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Blue Mountain Wildlife (BMW), a wildlife rehabilitation center located in Pendleton, serving over 30,000 square miles of eastern Oregon. The next closest wildlife rehabilitation centers are 115 miles away at Rowena Wildlife in The Dalles and 163 miles away at Think Wild in Bend. Wildlife rehabilitation centers are few and far between in rural Oregon.

I strongly encourage you to restore the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) 2023-2025 budget in SB 5509. The package was developed in 2022 by a task force that included ODFW staff and commissioners, conservation groups, animal welfare groups, wildlife rehabilitators and Oregon State Police. The package will add critically important capacity at ODFW to promote wildlife stewardship, humanely resolve human-wildlife conflicts, engage new audiences in wildlife conservation, and support wildlife rehabilitation programs like BMW's. These are issues that wildlife rehabilitation centers deal with daily.

As a nonprofit organization, BMW is primarily funded by the residents of the rural communities we serve. SB 5509 would represent the biggest investment ODFW has ever made in supporting BMW's mission to Preserve Local Native Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Research, and Education as well as the missions of other wildlife rehabilitation centers throughout the state. Both the human and wildlife residents of Oregon will benefit if the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package is restored to the ODFW 2023-2025 budget.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tompkins, Executive Director  
Blue Mountain Wildlife  
71046 Appaloosa Lane  
Pendleton, OR 9780