



Oregon Desert LAND TRUST

January 30, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Helm and Representative Owens, Vice Chair Representative Finger McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

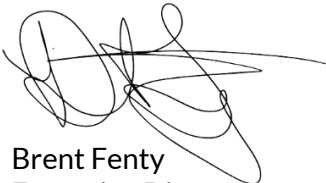
I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Desert Land Trust (ODLT) to express our support for House Bill 2984, which will allocate \$1.5 million to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF). The OCRF has been a critical source of funding for organizations such as ODLT to implement on-the-ground work to benefit Oregon's diverse landscapes and the people and wildlife that call these landscapes home.

ODLT owns and manages over 20,000 acres of private lands spread across five counties within Oregon's high desert. Thanks to OCRF support, ODLT has partnered with ranchers, Tribes, state and federal land managers, and others to implement innovative grazing practices, habitat restoration, and other stewardship practices on these lands. These lands and partnerships are critical to ecological, economic, and community health in the region.

In addition, these efforts conserve and restore critical habitat for several Oregon Conservation Strategy species, including the Greater sage-grouse, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Pygmy rabbit, Long-billed curlew, and Alvord chub. The properties also conserve a rich cultural history, examples of which include rock art from Northern Paiute people who have lived on these lands for millennia. Lastly, these lands support recreation such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and hiking.

ODLT is happy to voice our support for OCRF. We hope that this program will continue to provide critical funding to preserve our state's natural heritage for people across our great state. We thank you for your consideration of this bill and your work on behalf of fellow Oregonians.

For Wild and Working Lands,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Fenty".

Brent Fenty
Executive Director

FOR WILD & WORKING LANDS

2843 NW Lolo Dr. #200 Bend, OR 97703 971-350-9458 oregondesertlandtrust.org