



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon  
821 SE 14th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100

fax 503 802-8199

[nature.org/oregon](http://nature.org/oregon)

February 4th, 2025

House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Testimony in support of HB 2984: Appropriates moneys to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife out of the General Fund for deposit into the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

Submitted by: Claire Ruffing, Oregon TNC Water Scientist

---

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and members of the committee:

The Nature Conservancy **supports House Bill 2984**, which allocates funds to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) to invest in research, science, and on-the-ground projects that help conserve Oregon's diverse species while also identifying, prioritizing, and restoring Oregon's ecosystems in ways that benefit wildlife and people.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a science-based, non-partisan organization committed to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Oregon, TNC has over 80,000 members in communities across the state. We manage lands and waters in varied ecosystems and partner with ranchers, farmers, fishers, foresters, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature.

As TNC Oregon's Water Scientist and current grantee of the OCRF, I am thrilled to support HB 2984. The OCRF is supporting [our project](#) to better understand drought resilience of key aquatic habitats throughout the state, which we hope will inform resource management and conservation in a changing climate. OCRF has also provided funding for us to do community outreach and educational field trips with local students in central Oregon. This project would not have been possible without the Fund which specifically benefited from legislatively directed drought resilience funds. OCRF's ability to utilize prior funding dedicated by the legislature to address key issues makes the program well-positioned to benefit from HB 2984.

OCRF serves an important role for issues that matter for Oregonians across the state, and the drought-related funds have been especially impactful. The Nature Conservancy was pleased to support the addition of drought funds during the 2022 legislative session, and we urge you to support House Bill 2984 which would add much-needed funds for projects related to water.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.