



February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*RE: Support for HB 2978 & Funding for wildlife crossings*

To the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resource & Water;

On behalf of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and our 10,000 supporters across the state of Oregon, we support HB 2978-1 and its provisions to improve wildlife crossings and to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on Oregon's roadways. This bill builds off recent legislation in 2019 (HB 2834), which was passed to help reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife.

We would like to see the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife update its guidance materials, standards, and highway specifications to better incorporate wildlife crossing design components. Training programs designed to educate ODOT staff and other stakeholders could help improve the efficacy of transportation solutions for wildlife and human safety.

We recognize that there needs to be a permanent funding source and allocations for this type of work to be successful, and KS Wild will also be supporting other measures in this legislative session that may help bring certainty for the state to make such investments of time and resources to benefit wildlife overcrossings (and planning for them).

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center was founded in 1997 and is located in southern Oregon's Rogue Valley, where the vast majority of our supporters reside in Jackson and Josephine County. As advocates for public lands, clean water, and wildlife, our supporter network extends to all corners of the state and to more than 30 states nationwide. This area of southern Oregon is high in biodiversity, and we have been a champion for wildlife crossings and funding for local projects through the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition these last couple of years. We were part of a recent grant effort to secure \$33 million for ODOT to build the Mariposa Preserve Overcrossing on Interstate 5 within the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and we would like to continue supporting Oregon's transportation and wildlife agencies in working together to bring more projects like the Mariposa Overcrossing to fruition.

For the Wild,

Michael Dotson  
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