



Access for All, LLC



February 6, 2025

Co Chairs Rep Helm and Rep Owens, Vice Chair: Rep Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you regarding [HB 2984](#). I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. The bill will provide continued support of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF). It is one of the few dedicated programs that focuses on the implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy – our state’s Wildlife Action Plan. OCRF is also one of the few funding sources for local and grassroots organizations to promote conservation of our rich and diverse wildlife and habitats, and to make outdoors accessible to more Oregonians.

OCRF aligns with the values and mission of Access for All, LLC and our sister organization: Access Recreation. Much of our work is focused on access to outdoor natural areas for people of all abilities. OCRF does much to ensure Oregon’s natural environments and wildlife remain healthy for us all to enjoy for decades to come.

Through its history OCRF has funded multiple low-tech process-based restoration projects on Oregon’s rivers and streams. This cost-effective method restores riparian areas and historic hydrology in a way that maximizes fish and wildlife habitat at the same time. Especially on the water nexus, OCRF has funded multiple low-tech process-based restoration projects on Oregon’s rivers and streams. This cost-effective method restores riparian areas and historic hydrology in a way that maximizes fish and wildlife habitat while at the same time improving ground water recharge, raising water tables, and normalizing stream flows. Similarly, several beaver related projects have been funded and implemented, in recognition of the vital role these mammals play in restoring and maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems and optimizing hydrologic conditions.

In the short time that OCRF has been around, it has awarded \$7.6 million to 167 projects across all eight of Oregon’s ecoregions. OCRF has received over \$1.4 million dollars in private donations from over 20,000 individual Oregonians, businesses, and foundation so far, reflecting the widespread support among Oregonians for the program. OCRF has a history of receiving dedicated funds. For instance, OCRF had received \$5 million in dedicated funds from the legislature in the past to build water and drought resilience in the state. OCRF is therefore well positioned to put HB 2984 to good use

Thank you for continuing the great work of OCRF through the passage of HB 2984.

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