

Submitter: M.A. Kruse  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Wild  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Oregon is home to incredible wildlife—from wild salmon in our streams to gray whales migrating along our coast. But nearly 300 species are at risk of extinction due to climate change and habitat loss.

While the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategy are the most effective tools for recovering Oregon's vulnerable species, unfortunately, these programs have been underfunded.

We have a chance to change that. HB 2977 ("1% for Wildlife") would provide critical funding for wildlife conservation by increasing the state tourism tax—from 1.5% to 2.5%—ensuring visitors help protect the very landscapes and wildlife that make Oregon special.

This small change makes a big difference. For example, a \$400 weekend trip to the coast would contribute just \$4 toward protecting fish, birds, pollinators, and their habitats—while Oregon would still have one of the lowest tourism taxes in the country.