

## Testimony on HB 2977 (“1% for Wildlife”)

### House Committee on [Committee Name]

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

### Chairs Helm, Owens, Vice Chair Finger-McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

Under federal law, each state is required to produce and maintain a comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plan. These plans identify “species of greatest conservation need,” threats to their survival, and key strategies to conserve wildlife and habitat. Yet, since Oregon’s SWAP update in 2015, it has remained largely an **unfunded mandate**—constraining the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) from fully implementing the plan’s science-based recommendations. Meanwhile, **rate-payers** (i.e., hunters and anglers) continue to foot the majority of the wildlife management bill—a burden that cannot alone address the wide range of challenges Oregon’s wildlife face.

HB 2977 proposes a **1% increase in the transient lodging tax (TLT)**, specifically earmarked for SWAP-driven projects that recover Oregon’s imperiled wildlife. Based on the *eight required elements* for SWAPs, the plan addresses everything from **landscape-level habitat restoration** to **proactive disease monitoring**. The capacity to act on these priorities should not hinge on sporadic appropriations—particularly while we risk emerging diseases like **chronic wasting disease (CWD)** or the continued fragmentation of key wildlife corridors.

#### 1. Science-Based & Federally Aligned:

Implementing SWAPs is essential for leveraging federal matching grants. Dedicated TLT revenue empowers ODFW to plan long-term and prove the consistent funding partners at the federal level look for.

Healthy wildlife populations are integral to our robust **outdoor recreation economy**—contributing over \$15.6 billion annually, as we’ve heard from fellow supporters. By safeguarding iconic species and the habitats they depend on, we sustain a driving force behind our state’s tourism and lodging industries.

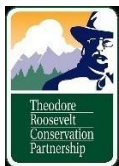
While sportsmen remain proud to “put our money where our mouths are,” their dollars alone cannot fully fund proactive wildlife conservation in an era of increasing threats. The TLT captures out-of-state visitors—who come here to enjoy our landscapes—and shares the responsibility more fairly.

With stable funding, we can:

- **Maintain Habitat Connectivity:** Unfragmented, intact habitats benefit everyone, from commercial ranchers to big game herds.
- **Address Looming Wildlife Diseases:** Early detection and response require sustained investment.
- **Invest in Collaborative Partnerships:** Our working lands—farms, ranches, and forests—are critical to wildlife migration. Building public–private partnerships fosters stewardship that honors these landowners’ roles.

Above all, as Oregonians, we have a **sacred obligation** to care for the wild landscapes we profess to love—be they farmland, forest, or backcountry canyons. That stewardship ethos must be backed by adequate, predictable resources.

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Oregon’s many hunters and anglers, I respectfully urge your support for **HB 2977**. By dedicating one additional percent to the TLT, Oregon takes a pragmatic step in securing the future of our wildlife—and by extension, our proud traditions of hunting, fishing, and a vibrant natural heritage.



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## Appendix: Key References

### 1. AFWA 2024 SWAP Fact Sheet – October 2024

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8217/3446/8268/SWAP\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_Oct2024-Final.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8217/3446/8268/SWAP_Fact_Sheet_-_Oct2024-Final.pdf)

### 2. AFWA: State Wildlife Action Plans

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/state-wildlife-action-plans>

### 3. SWAP Eight Required Elements

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5815/7125/4229/SWAP\\_Eight\\_Required\\_Elements.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5815/7125/4229/SWAP_Eight_Required_Elements.pdf)