



Support for HB 2977

The Conservation Angler supports long-term, dedicated funding to prevent the decline of Oregon's most imperiled wild fish, wildlife, and the plants and habitats they rely upon.

HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife" - secures dedicated, sustainable funding to implement Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – our Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy.

"1% for Wildlife" proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% (an increase of 1%), to combat Oregon's biodiversity crisis by investing in the conservation and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitat an investment that will pay dividends.

Oregon is fortunate to have a diverse and bountiful array of flora and fauna, and habitats that support them. Oregon developed its SWAP in 2005 to assess the health of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitat and create a roadmap of conservation actions needed to sustain them.

In 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) identified at least 294 species of greatest conservation need and 11 native habitats needing proactive restoration actions.

Current SWAP implementation funds are insufficient to recover our state's most at-risk fish and wildlife. For instance, state general and lottery funds combined comprise only 10-13% of ODFW's total budget, with direct investments in the SWAP at only 2.75%.

In Oregon, natural and human-made impacts contribute to growing pressures on Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitat. At the same time, all Oregonians maintain a strong interest in healthy populations of native flora and fauna and the habitats that sustain them.

The species and habitat decline pose a threat to Oregon's vibrant outdoor economy and the thousands of Oregonians whose livelihoods depend on it. Hunters, anglers, birders, hikers, campers, outdoor recreationists, Coastal beach walkers and urban wildlife watchers have created and also benefit from the robust outdoor recreation economy that depends on healthy fish and wildlife populations, and landscapes – it is not just Oregon's exceptional view – but the creatures who are supported by that view and in some cases, have helped create Oregon's landscapes.

A 2023 analysis revealed that Oregon's outdoor recreation industry accounted for 2.6% of the state's GDP, higher than the national average. 2019 data shows that Oregon's outdoor economy contributes to \$15.6 billion in consumer spending, of which hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching account for \$1.2 billion.

"1% for Wildlife," is a modest yet proactive solution that will directly help at-risk species. The increase to Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide a steady, sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity - all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Contact:

David A. Moskowitz * Government Affairs Director * The Conservation Angler
PO Box 13121 * Portland, OR 97213 * david@theconservationangler.org * 971-235-8953