

Submitter: Yancy Lind

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2342

My name is Yancy Lind, I live in rural Deschutes County between Redmond and Bend. I am a member of Central Oregon Flyfishers where I have served on the board for most of the past 20 years. COF is the largest fishing club in Oregon east of the Cascades with about 250 members. I am also a longtime volunteer for ODFW including participating in their External Budget Advisory Committee during three budget cycles. I believe this background gives me an understanding of ODFW's budget issues as well as angler perceptions.

ODFW's request for a modest fee increase is more than reasonable. As you know, license fees are an important element of ODFW's revenues. These fees have not increased since 2020. Since then, ODFW costs have increased and at least some federal funding is now at risk.

Even looking out five years to 2030, \$12 more for an annual angler license is fair. Be aware that most anglers in Oregon buy this license as they are targeting trout, not salmon or steelhead. I spent 8 years on ODFW's Restoration & Enhancement Board, including a stint as chair. I was constantly dumbfounded by the deference given to salmon and steelhead projects and groups. I am trout angler but also a fanatical steelhead angler and the additional increase for that license on top of the basic angler license is a tiny fraction of what I spend on steelhead fishing. It really is inconsequential.

Most anglers in Oregon will see a fee increase of \$12 spread over multiple years. This is less than the cost to drive to a favorite fishing spot, an activity we do many times a year. Fishing and hunting have many other costs that are also going up. These include rods, reels, tackle, bait, boats, guns, bows, ammo, and much more. Fishing and hunting cost money. In the big picture, the modest proposed fee increases are not significant to license holders but are meaningful to ODFW.

Some anglers and hunters complain about not getting enough from ODFW for the fees they already pay. Of course, that discontent will increase if budget constraints require services to be reduced from current levels.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.