



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
OREGON

**House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Testimony of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers In Support of HB 2342**

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

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 2342**, which proposes necessary adjustments to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) license and tag fees.

As an organization dedicated to the conservation of and access to Oregon's public lands, waters, and wildlife, we understand that sustainable, science-based wildlife management requires reliable funding. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation—which has successfully guided the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources across the continent—is predicated on the principle that wildlife belongs to the public and should be managed through science, law, and user contributions.

**The Critical Role of Hunters and Anglers in Conservation**

Hunters and anglers have long been at the forefront of funding fish and wildlife conservation. According to ODFW biennium revenue reports, a significant portion of ODFW's budget is directly derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and tags. These funds are essential to maintaining healthy wildlife populations, habitat conservation, and public access to the lands and waters we cherish.

**Addressing Today's Conservation Challenges**



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Oregon's fish and wildlife face growing and complex threats, including habitat loss, chronic wasting disease (CWD), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and the impacts of climate change on migration corridors and water availability. ODFW's ability to monitor and respond to these challenges depends on a stable and predictable revenue stream.

This modest and necessary fee adjustment will help ensure that ODFW can continue:

- **Scientific wildlife management** to sustain healthy fish and game populations.
- **Critical disease monitoring and response** to protect Oregon's deer, elk, and bird populations.
- **Habitat restoration efforts** that benefit all species, game and non-game alike.
- **Public access programs** that keep Oregon's outdoor heritage strong.

## **A Responsible and Forward-Thinking Investment**

We recognize that increasing fees is never an easy decision, but as conservationists, the sportsmen and women of this state also understand that investing in our natural resources is a responsibility we willingly bear. As hunters and anglers, we have always put our money where our values are, and we remain committed to ensuring that Oregon's wildlife remains abundant and accessible for future generations.

We also acknowledge that license and tag fees alone cannot meet the full breadth of ODFW's responsibilities. We encourage the Committee to explore additional funding mechanisms that equitably share the costs of conservation across all Oregonians who benefit from our state's fish, wildlife, and public lands.

## **Conclusion**

For over a century, the user-pay model has been the foundation of successful wildlife conservation in Oregon and across North America. By supporting HB 2342, the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to this proven approach, ensuring that ODFW has the resources necessary to carry out its mission.



On behalf of Oregon BHA's members, we urge you to **support HB 2342** and the continued strength of our state's conservation legacy.

Sincerely,



Ian Isaacson | [Co-Chair, Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers](#)



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