

Submitter: Nancy Orr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Please support full funding in the ODF 25-27 budget for two critical components of the Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan - the SFISH grant program for small forestland owners (\$10million) and the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) which would evaluate the effectiveness of the new Plan rules (\$6million).

The Private Forest Accord, agreed to by the timber industry and environmental and fishing groups, broke years of gridlock about how private industrial forestlands are managed. It not only provides protection for fish, amphibians and wildlife. The Accord also protects the water supply for many Oregonians.

In the 2023-2025 biennium, the Adaptive Management Program was funded at \$4M, which was less than the \$6M requested by ODF. This program should be funded at \$6M in the 2025-2027 biennium. Continuing to underfund this program makes it challenging to conduct the research necessary to assess the effectiveness of the rules and meet the standards for approval by the Federal government. Ongoing budget shortfalls for this program also make it difficult to recruit and retain qualified expert stakeholders to participate in both the AMP committee and the Independent Research and Science Team.

ODF faces a hard deadline to complete the Accord by December 1, 2027 - or the new rules roll back to standards that do not protect our water resources on private timber lands. Underfunding these programs in the next biennium puts successful completion of the Accord - and the clean, cold water it protects - at risk.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Nancy Orr  
Portland OR