

Submitter:	Dr. Leslie Hudson
On Behalf Of:	Private citizen
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1131

In 2013 and before moving to the Willamette Valley, I was privileged, with a group of committed neighbors, to form 'The friends of the Tumalo Wildlife Corridor' to provide public outreach and information. This grassroots organization provides on-site information to the public and has established a network of volunteers who are now working with Federal, State and private agencies to educate the public about the fundamental importance of migration corridors to plant and animal wildlife and how the public can interact with these areas for their support and the public's enjoyment. This organization (friendsoftheTWC.com) and attests to the importance of engaging the public in focussed enjoyment and support of Oregon's superb natural environment.

I write to support current request from 'The Chimtimini Wildlife Center and Wildlife Hospital' and wish to highlight the fact that it has already made a significant contribution to the quality of life in our State. Their message has great traction for future public support and is of increasing importance for the protection and succor of the rich wildlife of the Willamette Valley. With the Committee's and State's enlightened support and encouragement, CWC are positioned to develop its fundamentally important role in the education our residents and to lead an increased grassroots effort for the protection and rehabilitation of wildlife in their now large catchment area.

My family and I have personal experience of their expertise which includes the care and rehabilitation of falcons, eagles, hawks and owls. It is a great relief to hand over one of these majestic but injured birds and know that it will be cared for, rehabilitated and, if possible, returned to its natural habitat. If none of these outcomes are possible, then at least its pain and suffering will be alleviated.

The Wildlife Center has a rare expertise base, its small core of volunteers and staff are successful and the need for their services has never been more urgent. I sincerely hope the Committee will enthusiastically support this Bill for foundational support and funding.