

Submitter: Ann Meissner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

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Dear Ann,

Rogue Riverkeeper and KS Wild have long been involved in the development and negotiation of the Private Forest Accord (PFA), which was a historic agreement between conservation groups and timber representatives to strengthen Oregon's notoriously weak logging laws and made significant changes to how private forestlands in Oregon are managed to protect fish, wildlife and, water quality. You've seen how logging is done on private industrial forests; let's make it better!

The Private Forest Accord is the result of hard negotiations that overhauled state law regarding logging on private industrial forestlands. This long overdue update of logging practices included significant improvements for clean water, forests, and fish, and broke decades of gridlock about how private industrial forestlands are managed. The PFA success hinges on funding for the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to complete its work which requires development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for private forestlands. The required HCP would seek federal approval to address potential impacts of timber harvest and forest practices on aquatic species. If the work can be funded and completed, Oregon has the chance to secure improved protections for clean water, forests, and fish.

Without full funding for the Private Forest Accord, critical protections for clean water and healthy forests could roll back.

This is because a key element of the PFA is the state needing to secure a federally-approved PFA Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by December 31, 2027. Otherwise, all of the new rule changes disappear. Without state funding for core programs, these hard-won protections for rivers and forests could all go away.

YOU CAN HELP. The co-chairs of the Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee need to hear from you that protecting cold, clean water for salmon, wildlife and people across more than 10 million acres of private industrial forests matters! Add your voice to ask Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy to support

HB 5009 to make sure that the Private Forest Accord is fully funded over the next two years. With your support, we can ensure that these landmark protections remain in place for generations.

Take action now to support full funding for the Private Forest Accord in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Budget (HB 5009):

Send comments in support of full funding for the PFA under HB 5009 in the "submit testimony" web form for the bill [HERE](#).

Make sure to enter your "position on the measure" as "support."

Then click on "text testimony" at the bottom of the form and add your written testimony in the text box provided.

Feel free to copy and paste the message below. Personalizing your message about your own experience and the value of healthy forests, aquatic species, and clean rivers makes your testimony even more effective.

[Click here to submit testimony](#)
in support of the Private Forest Accord
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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) is the result of hard negotiations, and a commitment on both sides to finding solutions to complex problems. It's the first major update to the Oregon Forest Practices Act in decades, negotiated by 13 conservation groups and 13 timber industry representatives. The PFA improves protections for fish and water quality, while also providing more certainty for forest landowners.

The funding in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009) for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program is essential to completing the work to implement the PFA. A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. Without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat

Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

Please support HB 5009 to fund ODFW for the Private For