



**To: Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Re. Support of HB 5009**

March 31, 2025

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

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center based in Ashland Oregon represents approximately 10,000 members and supporters across Oregon and beyond. We support HB 5009 to fund the critical work of the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to complete tasks for the Private Forest Accord.

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. It is vital that the task of developing a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands be completed. If the state of Oregon does not get a Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan approved by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards and all of that work of negotiating the updated rules is lost.

The PFA Grant Program should be fully funded at \$20M. This reflects the state's commitment of \$10M annually to this grant program under the PFA authorizing legislation from 2022 (SB 1501). Importantly, this commitment is matched by a \$2.5M annual contribution from the timber industry, which increases to \$5M annually after federal approval of a HCP. The investment into this program from multiple sources will result in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect aquatic habitat and water quality in many critical habitats in the Rogue basin and other watersheds. The work of the PFA can guide forestry on private land for generations. Let's secure these

improved protections for clean water, forests, and fish now and into the future by fully funding these programs. Please support HB 5009 to fund ODFW for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Frances Oyung
Program Manager
Rogue Riverkeeper