

DATE: April 2, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair Frederick	Representative Breese-Iverson
Co-Chair Emerson Levy	Representative Hartman
Senator Anderson	Representative Lively
Senator Gorsek	

FROM: Oregon Water Partnership

RE: **Support for HB 5009**, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Budget 2025-2027

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

**Oregon Water Partnership urges investments that support ODFW’s Water Quality & Quantity Program (“Water Program”).**

Oregon Water Partnership is a diverse partnership of statewide conservation groups with a common goal: to advocate for balanced water policies that ensure cold clean water to sustain healthy communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Our priorities are to build resilience for Oregon’s water future, bring water data into the 21st century, support smart water management, and protect and restore our waters. We collectively have tens of thousands of members in Oregon communities across the state, and our organizations work collaboratively with cities, counties, Tribes, farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to restore habitat and improve watershed function.

During previous sessions, our coalition members have successfully advocated for investments critical to rebuilding ODFW’s long-underfunded Water Program and enhancing the agency’s capacity to engage myriad water issues affecting fish and wildlife.

**Oregon Water Partnership strongly supports continued funding that helps the agency maintain its momentum on addressing instream flow needs and builds on recent investments.**

ODFW’s Water Program is pivotal to advancing Oregon’s instream protection and restoration goals outlined in the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy—the state’s interagency blueprint for meeting Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream needs. To that end, we urge the Committee to maintain the Water Program’s current service levels to enable the agency to continue its critical work to restore and protect aquatic habitat for Oregon’s fish and wildlife, cultures, communities and economies.



While each of our organizations has its own priorities and perspectives on other elements of ODFW's 2025-27 budget, **we are united in supporting the following requests:**

- **Maintain current service levels for ODFW Water Program (NO CUTS)**
- **POP 101, Instream Water Rights & Land Use Resolution (\$300,000 GF, fully funded in GRB)**
- **POP 106, Klamath Reintroduction Monitoring (\$305,883 OF - PCSRF, fully funded in GRB)**
- **POP 122, Fish & Wildlife Passage Infrastructure (\$13,250,000 Lottery Bonds, fully funded in GRB)**

This funding will leverage and build upon prior investments and will help ODFW achieve its mission "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

Thank you for considering our request to fund these critical needs, and please contact us if you have any questions.

**Oregon Water Partnership contacts:**

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