

Submitter: Michelle E Rice

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

It's time to secure the wins of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) to ensure that the state has a clear path to securing a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027. Together, we can make sure these improved protections are sustained for generations.

Please fully fund the Private Forest Accord Grant Program at \$20M in the 2025-2027 state budget. This reflects the state's commitment of \$10M annually to this grant program under the PFA authorizing legislation from 2022 (SB 1501). This contribution is in addition to a \$2.5M annual contribution from the timber industry that increases to \$5M annually after federal approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This long-term investment is a core part of the negotiated agreements and to securing a federally approvable HCP by December 2027.

Without a solid commitment to fund core conservation programs, Oregon's path to a federally approved PFA HCP is uncertain. With your leadership and prioritization of this process, Oregon has its best chance to secure a federally approved HCP.