



Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon

April 2, 2025

Re: HB 5009, Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget

Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition – which includes Bird Alliance of Oregon, Cascadia Wildlands, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Voters Oregon, Humane World for Animals, Oregon Wild, Think Wild, and Western Environmental Law Center – we are writing to share our priority funding recommendations for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) 2025-2027 biennium budget, HB 5009.

While we fully understand the resource constraints the agency has to operate under - and will continue to advocate for long-term, dedicated funding for ODFW - we urge you to prioritize programs that focus on conservation and restoration of imperiled species, support habitat resiliency, and finally, foster coexistence between people and wildlife rather than exacerbate conflict. Given the growing threats from climate change, habitat loss, and the extinction crisis, it's imperative that Oregon proactively invests in combating the most harmful impacts to our state's vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitat.

Specifically, we urge you to fund:

- **POP 113, Wildlife Diversity Capacity:** This includes 3 FTEs and funding for the protection and restoration of our state's most imperiled species.
- **Private Forest Accord (PFA) Mitigation Funding:** We support full funding for the PFA Mitigation Fund as agreed through the PFA Process. While we recognize that this represents a significant allocation of financial resources, it is important to recognize the historic nature of the PFA and the decades of conflict that the agreements resolved. The funds benefit imperiled fish, stream-dwelling amphibians and beavers.
- **Allocate \$300,000 for 1 new ODFW FTE wolf coexistence biologist and \$1.3 million for ODFW and OSP's anti-poaching work, with \$500,000 dedicated to combating**

**wolf poaching.** Currently, ODFW’s entire wolf program general fund budget is just \$1.01 million. In the early days of the current budgeting process, ODFW had to cut a huge portion of its budget request, including the portion of its POP that included a 1 FTE wolf coexistence biologist who would have worked with livestock owners to reduce conflicts. Additionally, the entire ODFW portion of the Anti-Poaching Initiative at \$670,852 and \$679,880 from Oregon State Police’s anti-poaching budget was cut, for a total of \$1,279,084 cut from the Anti-Poaching Campaign. Restoring these funds will invest in conflict prevention.

We recommend removing from ODFW’s budget:

- **Predator Control: Wildlife Services:** Retain cuts made in the GRB to “Predator Control: Wildlife Services.” This funding goes to support operations in Oregon of the federal Wildlife Services program, a program run through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that overemphasizes the killing of wildlife – using cruel methods including leghold traps, neck snares, shooting from planes and gassing dens of pups – as a solution to human-wildlife conflict. (See 'That's a bloodbath': How a federal program kills wildlife for private interests, NPR investigation (2024); Exposed – USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife (short documentary film); The Rogue Agency, Harper’s Magazine (2016).) The GRB recommends cutting this program by \$429,688 – to approximately the minimum amount required by ORS 610.020.<sup>1</sup>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Danielle Moser [dm@oregonwild.org](mailto:dm@oregonwild.org) or Sristi Kamal at [kamal@westernlaw.org](mailto:kamal@westernlaw.org).

Sincerely,

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition

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*The Oregon Wildlife Coalition is a coalition of wildlife conservation groups working proactively and collaboratively to advocate for policies that are science-based and humane and reflect the state's conservation values.*

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<sup>1</sup> Wildlife Services also receives state funding through the Oregon Department of Agriculture. We recommend cutting that as well and funding non-lethal coexistence strategies instead.