



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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April 2, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means - Subcommittee on Natural Resources
RE: SB 5009 - Department of Fish & Wildlife

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

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

As such, our organization works directly with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) on items such as policy issues, wildlife management topics, hunter education, and the national R3 movement of recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters. OHA values the work of ODFW and the ability to engage with the agency on multiple levels.

OHA is generally supportive of the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) however we recommend the restoration of the following items:

Anti-Poaching and Oregon State Police Funding

The reduction of \$1.3 million in Anti-Poaching Program funds, which effectively wipes out the program, is of grave concern to OHA. The impact of the reduction on enforcement personnel within Oregon State Police (OSP) is of particular concern as it equates to a 1.5 FTE loss of personnel. With the number of poaching cases on the rise, prioritizing the restoration of this funding to OSP is of paramount concern.

In addition to these GRB reductions to OSP, we are equally concerned regarding the \$8 million reduction in ODFW's Fish Division Programs which will reduce OSP enforcement personnel by another 3.5 FTE. The total impact is a 5 FTE reduction in OSP personnel, an effect that deeply concerns OHA as the administrator of the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Program.

Wildlife Services Predator Control Fund

USDA-Wildlife Services provides vital services to Oregonians, both rural and urban, in the control of predatory animals damaging agricultural crops, as well as incidents of wildlife-human conflict. The \$430,000 removed from the GRB assists in partially funding USDA-Wildlife Services. OHA urges the committee to restore the funding to USDA-Wildlife Services.

OHA highly recommends the restoration of funds in the GRB for the Anti-Poaching Program, Oregon State Police personnel, and the Wildlife Services Predator Control Fund.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director