



Testimony in Support of HB 5009 – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Chairs Woods, Gomberg, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Tristan Henry, and I serve as the Oregon Field Representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). TRCP is a national nonprofit coalition dedicated to guaranteeing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish, guided by the principles of science-based wildlife management and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which emphasizes public trust resources, professional stewardship, and the user-pays, public-benefits framework that ODFW so effectively upholds.

We strongly support the continued funding of ODFW through HB 5009. This agency is entrusted with managing one of Oregon's most valuable public resources—our fish and wildlife—and the responsibilities it shoulders have only grown in complexity. Whether it's responding to emerging wildlife diseases like CWD and HPAI, adapting to climate-driven shifts in habitat, or meeting the needs of new and returning outdoor users, ODFW has proven itself a capable and forward-thinking steward.

As our testimony on related bills like HB 2342 has emphasized, ODFW's work is underwritten largely by license-buying hunters and anglers—a community that has shown consistent support for reasonable fee increases to maintain service levels and preserve opportunity. In doing so, these rate-payers not only fund core programs but also unlock tens of millions in federal matching dollars through Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and related acts.

But even this robust user-pay model cannot meet the full scale of conservation needs today. Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)—formerly the Oregon Conservation Strategy—remains an unfunded mandate. Initiatives to expand habitat connectivity, such as wildlife crossings, protect species while reducing costly vehicle collisions. These efforts are science-based, shovel-ready, and supported across stakeholder groups, but they require dependable state investment to succeed.

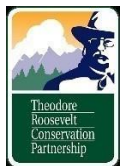
By fully funding ODFW, the legislature can ensure the agency is equipped to:

- Monitor and manage fish and wildlife populations across an increasingly fragmented and warming landscape;
- Maintain public access and outdoor recreation opportunities critical to rural economies;
- Collaborate with Tribes, landowners, and stakeholders on conservation solutions;
- Leverage federal funding and philanthropic partnerships;
- Deliver on our collective obligation to conserve Oregon's natural heritage for future generations.

At a time when public trust in government is often strained, ODFW represents a rare point of consensus: a science-driven agency, trusted by stakeholders, whose work supports both economic development and environmental resilience.

We respectfully urge your full support for HB 5009. Oregon's fish, wildlife, and the people who cherish them are counting on it.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to the future of conservation in our state.



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