



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

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

**FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
ORTWS Conservation Committee**

DATE: April 4, 2025

SUBJECT: SB 5009- ODFW Budget - SUPPORT

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

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of SB 5009 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill.

ORTWS represents over 700 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of SB 5009 because it closely aligns with implementing our mission to promote the stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the use of sound ecological information. Similarly, ORTWS strongly supports the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) mission to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. ODFW is a strong collaborator with ORTWS and we are grateful for a seamless transition in their executive leadership.

The budget found in SB 5009 will help ODFW keep pace with increasing costs to operate and sustain core programs and employ top tier biologists tasked with managing Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats. In particular, ORTWS supports POP 113 (increase wildlife diversity capacity), POP 114 (increase regional habitat capacity), and POP 115 (increase wildlife health surveillance). Please support ODFW and their stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife and habitat.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.