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Date: May 6, 2025

Subject: HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife"

From: Peter J. Gray, Ph.D., President, Tualatin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

We support long-term, dedicated funding to prevent the decline of Oregon's most imperiled fish and wildlife and the habitats they rely upon. Therefore, we support HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife" – which secures dedicated, sustainable funding for the implementation of Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), known as the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy. "1% for Wildlife" proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% in order to invest in the conservation and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitats.

At the request of Congress, Oregon developed a SWAP in 2005 to assess the health of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats and to create a roadmap of conservation actions needed to conserve and recover them. The SWAP is updated every ten years, and as of 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) identified at least 294 species of greatest conservation need and 11 native habitats needing proactive restoration actions. Without direct and targeted interventions these species and habitats will continue on their downward spiral of decline leading to extinction. Unfortunately, the current funds available for implementing SWAP are only a small fraction of what is required to conserve and recover our state's most at-risk fish, wildlife, and habitats.

"1% for Wildlife," is a bold, proactive solution that will directly help at-risk species and habitats. The increase to Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide a steady, sustainable source of funds to ODFW to conserve and recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. A 2023 analysis revealed that Oregon's outdoor recreation industry accounted for 2.6% of the state's GDP, higher than the national average. Additionally, data from 2019 show that Oregon's outdoor economy contributes to \$15.6 billion in consumer spending, of which hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching account for \$1.2 billion.

We urge you to pass HB 2977 - "1% for Wildlife" to conserve and recover Oregon's natural heritage.

Thank you for your support.