

Submitter: Zechariah Heck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and committee members,

I write to ask that you support HB 2977, 1% for Wildlife so that our state secures long-term, sustainable funding for conservation and recovery of our state's most imperiled wildlife and fish species and their habitats.

Much of what makes Oregon such a special place to live is our diverse wildlife and habitats, from hiking in our old-growth forests to whale watching on the coast, rafting the Rogue, Deschutes or McKenzie rivers or birdwatching at one of our wildlife refuges. These unique places and wildlife are a huge draw, supporting Oregon's thriving tourism and recreation based economies.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction in 11 habitats of conservation concern. But current state funds are regularly insufficient to fund the agency's work to address these risks. As you know, it is far more cost efficient to address threats to wildlife and habitat before species are on the brink of extinction. Without adequate, reliable and sustained funding, ODFW is often unable to effectively implement our State Wildlife Action Plan.

HB 2977 provides exactly what is needed: a reliable, sustained, long-term funding source, not vulnerable to the vagaries of the biennial general fund allocation process. Please support this common-sense approach to ensuring ODFW has the funds it needs to conserve and recover Oregon's most threatened wildlife, fish and their habitats for this and future generations.

Please vote yes on 1% for Wildlife!