

Submitter: Lindsey Wise
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

To members of the committee,

I write to ask you to support HB 2977, 1% for wildlife.

Oregonians deeply value and depend on our natural spaces and its wildlife for our livelihoods and our well being. Keeping our wild places healthy requires the efforts of many agencies and programs that are often underfunded. In addition to supporting Oregon's natural resources and supporting wildlife, the funds from this proposal will support the important work of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC).

Though I write in my personal capacity as an Oregon resident, in my job at Portland State University's Institute for Natural Resources I have worked with and supported the OISC and I have seen first hand how important its work is in protecting and preserving Oregon's natural resources and our economy from the threat of invasive species.

The OISC is a highly collaborative statewide network of agencies, industries, universities, and the public, and it deserves additional state support.

As one example of the council's work, the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline is a long running and very successful public outreach and reporting tool (website and phone number) that leads to early detection and rapid response of invasive species. Detecting and responding to invasive species early is the most effective and cheapest method for protecting our natural systems, economy, and human health from the harm of invasive species.

The Hotline gives the public a direct line to a statewide network of invasive species experts. Having a known annual source of funding would ensure this platform could continue to be there for Oregonians. It is a small investment for big public value.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will support HB 2977.