

Submitter:

Scott Bowler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

I am a retired scientist and educator now living in Sisters. We are a small town dependent largely on tourism, in the middle of central Oregon--a mecca for tourists from all over the country, and indeed the world, who value our outdoor environment. In just one example, I was birding in Black Butte swamp the other day and ran into two women from the Netherlands who were searching for our several species of woodpeckers. We recently hosted two families from Portland for a weekend of bike rides. I also just led a dozen people on a wildflower hike this past Monday. These sorts of activities rely on our beautiful and still largely pristine natural environment.

One major draw to Central Oregon is our wildlife: finding wolf tracks in the winter; watching elk migrate through the woods; finding rare warblers in our riparian areas; or fishing for bull trout in our streams. Sadly, due to habitat loss, vehicle collisions, climate change, invasive species, and simply "loving them to death" our wildlife populations are imperiled. I believe this bill would go a long way to affording vulnerable wildlife more protections, enhancing their habitats, increasing their resilience and abundance.

Please join me in supporting this bill - "it needs doing" to quote my mother. Thank you for all you do.