Exhibit G

Public Correspondence
Received as of May 21, 2014

Debbie L Colbert

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:05 AM
To: Roy Elicker; Curt Melcher; Debbie L Colbert
Subject: FW: Budget

Suggestion regarding our revenue. – Teri Kucera

From: Greg [mailto:gregb@bendcable.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 6:28 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Budget

This morning I read a newspaper article reporting ODFW will experience budget problems as revenue declines. I am a lifelong Oregonian growing up in Central Oregon and for many years hunted and fished. Now I no longer enjoy harvesting animals but walk my dogs in the forest where everyday I enjoy wildlife. I would like to suggest ODFW develop a fish and wildlife "supporter license". I would be happy to purchase this to help support the important ODFW programs and I believe many other Oregonians would also.

Greg Brown

Debbie L Colbert

From: Debbie L Colbert
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 11:58 AM
To: 'Dave Wiley'
Subject: RE: Proposed Fee Increases for Occupational and Private Benefit Licenses and Permits

Hi Dave,
I forwarded your message to Ron and Curt for further consideration. I think Ron is looking at the cost of the programs and whether the proposed fees fully cover the cost of staff working in these areas.
You may hear back from Ron via phone.

Thank you so much for being a part of our EBAC. I really appreciate the thoughtful feedback that you bring to our process.
Debbie

From: Dave Wiley [mailto:davewiley@wvi.com]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 6:26 PM
To: Debbie Colbert
Subject: Proposed Fee Increases for Occupational and Private Benefit Licenses and Permits

Debbie

After the last EBAC meeting it should be clear that the Department is going to have to do a much more through and justifiable fee increase process with regard to the Occupational and Private Benefit Licenses and Permits. It will not be possible to just raise them by some percentage and call it good enough. The Department must identify every individual license or permit type, the number of each in place, and make a reasonable effort to determine the cost of administration and enforcement for each.

First, and foremost, the Department must adopt a policy that no license and tag fee revenue will be used to backfill the cost of operating the Occupational and Private Benefit License and Permit Program. I know it is not a program present, but maybe it is time it became one or at least an activity for cost accounting purposes.

Second, you should find the fees for each and every one of these Occupational and Private Benefit licenses and permits and move to a single OAR in order that the Department can be sure at the time of each budget cycle they are easy to find and analyze for adequacy. The fact these fees are scattered through the OARs makes it difficult for the Department to find every one of them every time a general analysis of the fee structure is necessary. For example the $5 Wildlife Holding Permit (a Private Benefit) found in Division 44 has not been raised in 41 years. There are two permit fees in Division 44, Wolf Holding Permit and Wildlife Propagation License. Both Wildlife and Fish Divisions must perform a thorough scrubbing of their OARs to identify everyone these licenses and permits and analyze their full costs and revenues before setting a new fee.

One particular area of concern that shows through in many of the OARs regarding Occupational And Private Benefit Licenses and Permits is that of lack of application fees. The Department staff expend time receiving and reviewing them without recovering any revenue from the applicant, I must assume staff is paid for their time using Hunter and Fisher License and tag fee revenue. Some of these applications require a site visit to insure the proposed facility meets required specifications, some applications do not, and not all applications are approved. In order to recover costs of application work I suggest developing and application fee for each license or permit. In some of the pertinent OARs

there is a requirement to obtain a transfer permit and there is no fee stated for one and again I must assume that staff is paid for their processing work with License and Tag fee revenue.

I truly believe that a little effort invested in doing the job well will pay off when dealing with the hunters and fishers about the necessary fee increase and also in defending the increases that will surely be necessary in the Occupational and Private Benefit Licenses and Permits to insure full cost recovery necessary to stop backfilling costs with Hunter and Fisher license and tag fee revenue that is intend for fish and wildlife management.

Dave Wiley
EBAC Member

Lisa Evans

From: Jay Dillon <jay@rubensteins.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 12:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Raising Tags and License fees

I was reading how revenues are down and less people are hunting and fishing. I know I have not hunted and fished for a few years now due to the fees. While I enjoy these activities I cannot justify the added cost. I know you will again raise the fees as once in print it always happens. I know this will not help your budget as more people will also decide the cost is not justified. With everything rising in cost and as stated revenues are down I need to decide where best to invest my money. Large fees for a small return are not worth my hard earned money.

Jay Dillon

--
Jay Dillon
Rubenstein's Contract Carpet,LLC
O:541-484-1101
C:541-228-0856

Jason Bader

From: Mike Dabulskis <mmdabulskis3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:05 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed increase in fees.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I read about your proposed increase in fees today. Just thought I would mention that I purchase less tags and licenses as a direct result of increases. I usually no longer hunt elk, buy a fishing license unless a fishing trip is planned, and limit bear hunting. Sportsman Pacs's are nice but getting pricey.

Trying to receive more from the general fund revenue is good idea. All Oregonians should help pay for our natural resources, especially as they have a say in how we utilize them.

I may not agree with all the ODFW ideas and programs but they do a good job. In any dealing I have had with ODFW employees and officials I am always pleased at their helpfulness and professionalism. This note is not meant to be a rant against government, fees, etc...just explaining why one man hunts, fishes, and spends less.

Have a nice day,

Mike Dabulskis

Jason Bader

From: Ted Leach <ted.leach@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:43 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: License and tag fees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear ODFW-

I just read an article on the KATU web site regarding the falling numbers of anglers and hunters. I just wanted to comment that by continuing to raise license and tag fees you are cutting off your own head. Raising fees is a poor decision on the part of ODFW at a time when it is already prohibitively expensive just to drive to these outdoor locations. As an Oregonian it angers me to see our hunting and fishing heritage become a hobby only for the affluent and privileged who can still afford it. Maybe ODFW needs to look at its operating expenses and make some cuts like the rest of the population is forced to do as costs rise. If your management structure cannot understand this basic concept, maybe there needs to be some changes made in you agency's structure as well.

I have lived in Oregon my entire life and am proud of our outdoors heritage. I have ALWAYS purchased a hunting and fishing license nearly every year but am now at the point where it is now becoming too expensive and is a luxury. If it becomes any more expensive to hunt or fish, you can count on me dropping off the rolls as well. I know countless others that hunt and fish- and not one of them are content with the rising fee structure for licenses and tags. It seems most government agencies have forgotten they exist to serve the population- not themselves. As outdoor enthusiasts, we should be treated as ODFW's customers- not a source to be mined for more revenue.

Regards,
Ted Leach
Citizen
Forest Grove, OR

Jason Bader

From: Joseph Jorgensen <skeet467@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 6:10 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Tag fees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You say less people hunt and fish so you have to raise tag fee this is only going to drive less people to hunt. I have a family of 5 people that is a crazy amount in tags and I buy everything from fish to hunt to fur bear and i want my children to hunt and fish just like I do but your pricing me out

Lisa Evans

To: bk1492@aol.com
Subject: RE: public comment on below increasing of fees - i agree wholeheartedly that fees should be increased to reflect th ereal costs of offering this killing of wildlife for money

From: bk1492@aol.com [mailto:bk1492@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:19 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: public comment on below increasing of fees - i agree wholeheartedly that fees should be increased to reflect th ereal costs of offering this killing of wildlife for money

I also think that its time this division started interacting with what the people now want in 2014, to let animals be protected and to co-exist with them instead of killing them with bow and gun.
this reliance on what used to be in l860 needs to reflect the change in America. all hunting should be banned. it is psychotic. also trapping should be banned. the few animals that are lefgt need protection, not killing. I thnk your actions need to reflect 2014 and forward, not l860. jean public this comment is for the public record on this issue.

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Business
- Entertainment
- Living
- Obituaries
- Blogs
- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Homes
- Rentals
- Cars
- Index ▼

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Fewer hunters, anglers hurts wildlife agency

By CHAD GARLAND, Associated Press
Updated 8:42 pm, Monday, April 28, 2014

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OTHER NEWS

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Fewer Oregonians are hunting and fishing these days, translating into less money to sustain wildlife management and conservation. To help fill the gaps, the state's wildlife agency wants to raise fees for the outdoor enthusiasts who remain in a proposal to be revealed Thursday.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is taking a new look at how it pays for its programs, and it plans to request a bigger share of general fund revenue and more frequent increases in license and tag fees.

The agency will unveil a budget blueprint Thursday and then take the plan on the road to seek public comment in seven cities next month.

"License sales aren't keeping up with expenditures," said Rick Hargrave, department spokesman.

The agency faces a projected $32 million shortfall as it builds a budget for 2015-17, he said. It plans more than $8 million in fee increases and more than $8 million in program reductions and efficiencies, which could include layoffs or leaving vacancies unfilled.

Fee increases are typically done all at once every six years, Hargrave said, but the plan now calls for smaller increases every two years to soften the impact on hunters and anglers.

The plan also calls for drawing more heavily on other revenue sources, including an additional $11.2 million sought from the general fund.

Hargrave said the rationale for the shift is that the department's work benefits all Oregonians, not just hunters and anglers.

Much of the agency's funding has historically come from hunters and sport fishermen, both through fees for licenses and tags and through federal excise taxes on the purchase of firearms, ammunition, archery supplies, fishing equipment and boat fuel.

Firearms sales have surged in recent years, but that has not translated into a boom in hunting participation, which in Oregon and nationwide has continued a decline that began three decades ago and shows few signs of reversing course.

Between 2000 and 2012, Oregon's population grew by more than 13 percent, but the number of people with hunting licenses dropped more than 15 percent and fishing licenses fell 9 percent.

Since 2000, the wildlife department's budget has grown by two-thirds, with much of that growth dependent on federal funding, license and tag fees, and a hodgepodge of other revenue sources.

General fund and lottery revenue made up 11 percent of that mix in 1999-2001, but that share was down to less than 7 percent in the latest two-year budget.

Stan Steele, a member of the department's external budget advisory committee, said he wants to see more of the department's budget shift back to general funds. Steele, a former State Policefish and wildlife trooper, said he sees a "death by a thousand cuts" if the agency cannot find a way to decrease its reliance on revenue from a smaller numbers of hunters and fishers.

A number of factors are contributing to the declines in hunting participation, including social factors such as increasing urbanization and competition from other activities.

"People in the city ... have lost touch with how we were raised," said Larry Potter, a hunter who brought his grandson and granddaughter to an Oregon Hunter's Association youth event at the Canby Rod and Gun Club on Saturday.

Brandee Andrews brought two of her four sons to the event where volunteers coached young people in archery and shotgun skills. She said "it's a heritage, in a way," that she feels may not be passed down as much these days.

Some hunters blame the decreasing interest on loss of access to traditional hunting grounds, reduced wildlife populations and more difficulty getting tags, which all lead to fewer hunting opportunities. Hunters say they can't continue to foot the bill for a hobby that gets more expensive every year.

The department will present the proposal to the public for comment beginning in Clackamas County on May 19, with additional presentations in La Grande, Bend, Newport, Coos Bay, Roseburg and Klamath Falls.

Teri Kucera

From: gutbrodpete <gutbrodpete@wavecable.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 9:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed fee increases

Categories: Red Category

Ok. I have paid the fees and put up with the rising costs of hunting and fishing in this state . But now you folks want to RAISE them again ?? There are less people buying hunting and fishing licenses and some of that is cost and regulations. Its spendy and confusing for many folks.
Raising fees again will only compound the problem. When times are tough at my house, we make cuts and make do with the funds we have. No one bails us out or provides us more money. I dont have the option of raising fees to get a bigger pay check. If you dont have the funds, then look at making cuts. PERIOD. Dont punish the hunters and fisherman again. I can tell you that if you raise fees again it will back fire and be an epic fail. There are large groups trying to boycott any license and tag purchases for a year or 2. Other groups also trying to organize against ODFW and plan on making a huge show at meetings to oppose this raise in costs. You are loosing you supporters and the people who pay the bills. The tax payers. The people you are supposed to be working for. I strongly suggest you look at other options and not raise the cost of licenses for sportsman. Its a BAD idea !!
Pete Gutbrod
Sheridan Oregon

Jason Bader

From: jim ball <jim.d.ball325@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:17 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Price increases

I was saddened to hear you were foing to raise prices every two years to offset the loss of hunters and fishers. There is a basic supply and demand in all things for sale and I fear you will cause a bank ruptcy in the odfw by raising prices. As I have got older the hunts have become less successful do to in my opinion, a lack of proper management and over selling of tags in units to make money. I personally have been more picky about where I hunt knowing I can pay more money and go to another state and have a better hunt. Look seriously at why people are not hunting as much and improve on the problems that are pushing us away. You can charge a thousand dollars to hunt a deer but if no one purchases a tag you have nothing.

Best luck, Jim

Jason Bader

From: Mike Orth <morthmorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:13 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: licensed increase

Just what do you think you doing. thinking about raising the price of licenses. Us poor people can't afford them now. So what are we to do now fish anyway? Can't do that so this is one more thing taken away from us! Thank you so much for thinking of the people that have supported you butt holes for 40 years or more.

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Vote out every politician that breaks the state or the US constitution

Jason Bader

From: Bob Oleson <BOleson@jhiengineering.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 2:36 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Your fees that are going up next year

I am responding to the article in the link below
http://www.katu.com/news/local/Fewer-hunters-anglers-hurts-wildlife-agency-257086841.html

I'm 61 years old and I'm a born and raised Oregon. I have hunted since I was 12 years old and I have fished since I was old enough to hold a pole. Every year I have applied for a special cow tag, antelope, buck, and doe tags. I buy a combination hunting/fishing license, upland game bird stamp, water fowl stamp, federal water fowl stamp. Up until this year I would buy my salmon tags as well, but this year I would have to buy two of them for the Columbia river and one for the rest of the state. After the increases for the salmon tags I said I'm not going to fish for salmon this year, two tags for one state is bull shit!! ☹ I also buy my license for crabbing. So if I get my special hunt, say Elk, Buck, doe or just go the General season, how much money have I spent? Now I also have three grandkids that hunt and fish with me. One is 17, the other is 14 and one that is 11 years old that will be with me next year. I have to buy all the apps for them + licenses and stamps as well + crabbing. How much money now how much have I spent? Right now I have been wondering if this is all worth it. We hunt Highway 18 or Mt Stout and the some of the land owners will let us onto their property others will lets us walk in. But the area every year gets smaller and more hunters with less animals. We used to get our Cow tags every other year and doe tags every other year. That doesn't happen anymore. So what we have is a nature walk without any big game to see. I could do that without buying any tags what so ever, and would save me a lot of money too!! I did notice that your budget has gone up by 2/3rds since 2000, my budget has not gone up by 2/3rds sense 2000. So I'm not keeping up with you guys and your increases. Also in this article it says that less people are hunting and fishing. Why, is because we can't afford what you people want, so something has to give or give up. So if you try and charge me more next year I'm going to give up and not buy anything and just go on nature hikes, sell my boat and be done with it all. I'm sure my grandkids will understand that.

I sure hope this e-mail finds someone that cares and is put into the pile for your upcoming meetings such as the one in Clackamas County on the 19th.

Teri Kucera

From: Dave Miller <drmmsd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 8:28 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposal to raise fees.

Categories: Red Category

I heard on the news recently that ODFW is concerned about the continued decrease in the number of folks hunting and fishing and the resulting loss of revenue for the dept. It is incredible to me that you folks continue to see raising fees as the solution. As life long residents of Oregon my wife and did not buy hunting licenses or tags for the first time in fifty years. The reason!!! We can no longer afford it. People are voting with their feet. Continue to raise fees and the number of hunters and fisherman will continue to decrease. My sports friends have long held the belief that it is in the works to either regulate us out of our sports or price us out. Well, both are now at hand. You may be surprised how numbers would go up if we could once again afford a license and tags. An example, my son is an excellent hunter that loves the sport. This year he said it would cost him over $300.00 to buy license and tags for himself and his sons. He has decided not to spend the money this year. Want to make the problem worse? Continue raising rates and adding more ridiculous regulations you all will be out of a job and we will lose a precious sport.
Sincerely.
Dave Miller

Jason Bader

From: billy schwindt <wschwindr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 2:54 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us; Lars Larson
Subject: You are crazy

I just heard that you are talking about raising fees on tags and licenses but you are going to 7 cities to get opinions. I'm sure you will be going to cities that really care about hunting portland salem beaverton Clackamas, you get my drift. Why don't you look at lowering costs and be more friendly to out of state hunters and even to instate hunters the odfw is single handedly shooting them self in the pocket book which I belive odfw stands for the stopping of hunting and fishing so the more response they get that I will stop buying tags if they get to high is what you are wanting if you are short on money why did you just build a new building in salem that is really necessary for the elk and deer population and the increase of fish. I'm sure this will get passed on and looked at probably not so who ever reads this your welcome for giving you something to do. I bet that your job will be one of the lasts to go that way until the general public takes over the odfw you can let everyone know the thoughts of the oregon hunters that you care so much about. Thanks have a good day. I will be expecting my generic auto response email saying thank you for your thoughs.

Jason Bader

From: JIMCHARDY@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 10:02 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: proposed increase in fees for hunting and fishing licenses

To whom it may concern,

What is with you bureaucrats thinking that you are "entitled" to lay claim to any amount of money you see fit without taking into consideration the impact on citizens of Oregon now and in the future. You are unilaterally stealing the privilege of enjoying sporting for citizens of Oregon over the age of fourteen who live in already depressed situations. This is absolutely outrageous to me and many others. You don't seem to take into account that you are prohibiting, by virtue of financial constraint, citizens of limited means from enjoying many of the attractive features of this great state. I strongly suggest you rethink your budget long term to eliminate this ridiculous increase in fees, whereby you will possibly wind up with less money by virtue of the huge numbers of citizens who will be forced to quit hunting and fishing and those who will never start to hunt and/or fish for that same reason.

I look at the miserable job the fisheries Division has done of managing the resource at Diamond Lake and am convinced any fees your get are too high already unless your idea of failure is to be rewarded.

You really need to start thinking about the huge segment of the population of this state that is financially stressed and consider making special licensing fees to attract them into the fishing and hunting circles rather than your current display of total lack of compassion. "Let them eat cake" does not have a place in our state.

James Hardy
Medford

Jason Bader

From: vicki adams <adamsgang6@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 8:07 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Raise in tags and License

I can not believe I am reading a 26% increase in tag fee's. I see this is do to the lack of people buying the items in the first place. Please try and figure this out. Gas prices are at an all time high and now you want to do this increase. I can tell you right now if this increase goes into place you are driving away more people from the woods and lakes. You are beginning to make the outdoors a rich persons activity and it is wrong. I know I will hear programs will be lost without the increase. I work in the public sector, and I know what that means. But I also know there is waste in every division of every state run organization and it is time to cut the fat off the top. Stop passing the buck to those of us who just love the outdoors. Find a better way. An increase because people are not buying is about as lame as it gets.

Thank you

EBAC Member Comments by Richard Haines

Pertaining to review of 3rd meeting notes

The following is intended to serve as input to the 4th meeting, today, May 1, 2014.

1. I find the notes represent both my input and the theme of discussion from meeting #2, understanding that the intend of the discussion around meeting #3 was to deal with the short term budget deficit, not the entire budget input and discussion from meeting #2.
2. I think it's very clear that the leadership of ODFW has gone well beyond the norm in soliciting and utilizing EBAC input in its approach to preparing the FY 2015-17 biennium. This is exceptional and is to be commended.
3. I believe the effort by ODFW leadership to downsize in meeting outyear budget projections has clearly included an effort to do at al levels of employment(regional managers to front line field personnel) and in all program areas. This, too, is very commendable.
4. I also find that field level employees around me here in the Northeast Region understand item 3 above and, while possibly being affected, are positive about the fairness of the approach the leadership has taken. This is invaluable as it pertains to the morale of the workforce that will be affected by the forthcoming agency changes.

General comments.

1. I am slightly nervous in relying more on federal PR funds as a means of support. In the short term FY2015-17) it makes total sense. In the longer term I fear the day these funds may decline, as they are based on an excise tax. With the results being terribly painful at the time, and a potential to be in crisis for years with the fear of downsizing, which takes it toll on productively, and in the potential loss of quality employees.
2. I know it is not in the agencies authority at this time, and it is obviously a slow process to gain successful approval from the legislature for alternative funding such as bird seed tax. Having said that I remain in firm belief the agency needs the employee skills it has to meet the present and future complexity of wildlife and fish management. Knowing we all recognize the fact that the citizens of Oregon,(and the US) have changed steadily over the past 3 decades from consumptive to largely nonconsumptive users. The priority to continue to plan, unite and market this need is of paramount importance. To be clear my words in no way suggest ODFW is not working on this. My words simply footnote this as a extremely important program of work item that needs as much attention as the fiscal importance of balancing the budget. Perhaps this is already the case.I encourage utilizing those who lead an effort to promote the sale of more licenses and tags to focus on this need.
3. I am very concerned about what I interpret as decreases in law enforcement staffing. In that Oregon and neighboring states such as Idaho (2 legged wolves recent Lewiston Tribute article) continue to experience more illegal harvest then legal harvest, the basic need to deal with this is fundamentally important. This seems to put at risk the wise and fair use of a

renewable resource, and what could be an income recognized in more tags. Seeing what I believe has been a budget driven significant decrease in USDA forest Service enforcement personnel over the past decade, it is clear to me the amount of illegal firewood activity has increased significantly here in rural eastern Oregon. Hearing a neighboring hunter education area coordinator, in a phone call last week, justify the need for citizens in his rural county to poach big game in these economic times...tells me this remains a key management need.

4. Two small areas I wish to mention is the review of annual surveys, paring down employee and helicopter time where possible. And, in the threat of losing tenured employees with years of training and high skill levels, the ability to share (partially fund) an ODFW employee with another agency, through government to government agreements. I believe the latter has been done in my area in the past, and I trust that discussing and revising survey needs and associated costs is done periodically.

This concludes my comments.

Thank you.

/s/Richard Haines

Teri Kucera

From: David Lane
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 10:10 AM
To: Mike Hiatt; david.w.lane@state.or.us
Cc: ODFW Commission; Richard Hargrave
Subject: RE: Fee Increase

Categories: Red Category

Good morning Mr. Hiatt,

Thank you for taking the time to send your thoughts and suggestions to us. We want to hear from our customers.

The increased responsibilities hunters and anglers are shouldering for the health of the state's fish and wildlife are not lost on us. Healthy fish, wildlife and their habitats not only benefit hunters and anglers but the entire state. That is why we're seeking alternative funding sources. If adopted, this will spread the responsibilities beyond just hunters and anglers.

Also, we're seeking to implement incremental fee adjustments over a number of years rather than one large adjustment every six years. This is the preferred approach by hunters and anglers.

Your suggestions are good ones. I'm copying the Commission's email box, so they can see your suggestions as well. I encourage you to attend a Town Hall meeting. Here's a link to our meeting schedule.

Again, thank you for writing us. We hope to see you at one of our meetings.

David

Statewide Marketing Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
p. 503 947 6013
c. 503 302 5495

From: Mike Hiatt [mailto:mikribl181@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 2:29 PM
To: david.w.lane@state.or.us
Subject: Fee Increase

Richard or David,

I read an article in the Herald and News today that license sales are not keeping up with expenditures. As the article states there are fewer Oregonians hunting and fishing these days. As a lifetime Oregonian I have witnessed the increase of tags and licenses for residents and I have also witnesses the increase in fees for out of state as well. Although I commend the office on managing the program I believe many in the lower income brackets simply cannot afford to hunt and fish anymore.

I purchased my hunting and fishing licences separately this year and when all is said and done I will end up paying over $190.00 for my fishing license, hunting license, deer tag, elk tag, combined harvest tag, water fowl

validation, upland bird validation, and federal stamp. I understand that there is the sports mans pack out there but I cant seem to swing the $164.75 at one time because of other expenses.

I make a modest salary and am willing to pay the fees as they are slated. However, did you ever consider raising the fines on game violations? Or maybe a low income based license (with proof of income from taxes)? I feel this would be a way to get more people out there and enjoying the great state of Oregon and buying licenses and tags. This does not have to be too drastic but a reduced amount maybe 75% of current cost. Many people will buy them because they get a discount alone! I know several people that would love to hunt and fish but they cannot afford the tags and licenses.

Just food for thought.

Best Regards,

Mike Hiatt

Teri Kucera

From: David Lane
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 10:10 AM
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Statewide Marketing Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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I purchased my hunting and fishing licences separately this year and when all is said and done I will end up paying over $190.00 for my fishing license, hunting license, deer tag, elk tag, combined harvest tag, water fowl

validation, upland bird validation, and federal stamp. I understand that there is the sports mans pack out there but I cant seem to swing the $164.75 at one time because of other expenses.

I make a modest salary and am willing to pay the fees as they are slated. However, did you ever consider raising the fines on game violations? Or maybe a low income based license (with proof of income from taxes)? I feel this would be a way to get more people out there and enjoying the great state of Oregon and buying licenses and tags. This does not have to be too drastic but a reduced amount maybe 75% of current cost. Many people will buy them because they get a discount alone! I know several people that would love to hunt and fish but they cannot afford the tags and licenses.

Just food for thought.

Best Regards,

Mike Hiatt

EBAC Member Comments by Richard Haines

Pertaining to review of 3rd meeting notes

The following is intended to serve as input to the 4th meeting, today, May 1, 2014.

1. I find the notes represent both my input and the theme of discussion from meeting #2, understanding that the intend of the discussion around meeting #3 was to deal with the short term budget deficit, not the entire budget input and discussion from meeting #2.
2. I think it's very clear that the leadership of ODFW has gone well beyond the norm in soliciting and utilizing EBAC input in its approach to preparing the FY 2015-17 biennium. This is exceptional and is to be commended.
3. I believe the effort by ODFW leadership to downsize in meeting outyear budget projections has clearly included an effort to do at al levels of employment(regional managers to front line field personnel) and in all program areas. This, too, is very commendable.
4. I also find that field level employees around me here in the Northeast Region understand item 3 above and, while possibly being affected, are positive about the fairness of the approach the leadership has taken. This is invaluable as it pertains to the morale of the workforce that will be affected by the forthcoming agency changes.

General comments.

1. I am slightly nervous in relying more on federal PR funds as a means of support. In the short term FY2015-17) it makes total sense. In the longer term I fear the day these funds may decline, as they are based on an excise tax. With the results being terribly painful at the time, and a potential to be in crisis for years with the fear of downsizing, which takes it toll on productively, and in the potential loss of quality employees.
2. I know it is not in the agencies authority at this time, and it is obviously a slow process to gain successful approval from the legislature for alternative funding such as bird seed tax. Having said that I remain in firm belief the agency needs the employee skills it has to meet the present and future complexity of wildlife and fish management. Knowing we all recognize the fact that the citizens of Oregon,(and the US) have changed steadily over the past 3 decades from consumptive to largely nonconsumptive users. The priority to continue to plan, unite and market this need is of paramount importance. To be clear my words in no way suggest ODFW is not working on this. My words simply footnote this as a extremely important program of work item that needs as much attention as the fiscal importance of balancing the budget. Perhaps this is already the case.I encourage utilizing those who lead an effort to promote the sale of more licenses and tags to focus on this need.
3. I am very concerned about what I interpret as decreases in law enforcement staffing. In that Oregon and neighboring states such as Idaho (2 legged wolves recent Lewiston Tribute article) continue to experience more illegal harvest then legal harvest, the basic need to deal with this is fundamentally important. This seems to put at risk the wise and fair use of a

renewable resource, and what could be an income recognized in more tags. Seeing what I believe has been a budget driven significant decrease in USDA forest Service enforcement personnel over the past decade, it is clear to me the amount of illegal firewood activity has increased significantly here in rural eastern Oregon. Hearing a neighboring hunter education area coordinator, in a phone call last week, justify the need for citizens in his rural county to poach big game in these economic times...tells me this remains a key management need.

4. Two small areas I wish to mention is the review of annual surveys, paring down employee and helicopter time where possible. And, in the threat of losing tenured employees with years of training and high skill levels, the ability to share (partially fund) an ODFW employee with another agency, through government to government agreements. I believe the latter has been done in my area in the past, and I trust that discussing and revising survey needs and associated costs is done periodically.

This concludes my comments.

Thank you.

/s/Richard Haines

Jason Bader

From: Troy Johnston <t_roy71@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 7:26 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Higher prices???

Read the other day how the geniuses at ODFW think raising the prices on licenses and tags is the answer to dwindling #s of people hunting and fishing... Of course I wasn't surprised, that's how liberals think. Talked to a guy last night while I was spending 70 bucks on a fishing license and tags, (guess that just isn't quite enough...) 10 bucks higher than last year... He said he just moved to Oregon from Montana, used to be a hunting and fishing guide, he said Oregon is the highest priced already for resident hunters and fishers... You ever thought maybe the reason #s are going down is because prices are too high already, access to lands is closed, what's the incentive to pay more? This will be my last year hunting... But we all know the dirty little secret is, that's what your true intentions are, shutting down fishing and hunting.... ODFW IS A STINKING JOKE!!! A bloated bureaucratic tic on the back of hard working law abiding citizens of Oregon.

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: John Snelling <snellinj@peak.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 8:05 PM
To: ODFW.Comments@state.or.us
Subject: License Fees

For many years now I have been afraid that you are pricing outdoor enthusiasts out of the market. With decreasing sales of licenses, what other explanation is there?

You must find another model. And I strongly encourage better management overall. Less waste in government is good.

--
John Snelling
hunter and fisher in Corvallis
Oregon Licenses holder since l985

Jason Bader

From: John Walker <johntwalker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:16 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Budget Cuts

ODFW Faces Possible Budget Cuts. That is the title of the article I read the other day in the East Oregonian. I was interested to see that fees will be going up once again and that the ODFW sited that there are less and less hunters. It is due to urbanization, they stated. I think it doesn't have anything to do with that, and I think the ODFW knows that as well and doesn't want to really look at the problems with the management of our wildlife caused by ODFW. I am 39 years old this summer. When I was a young boy growing up in La Grande, I could get a controlled buck tag for Catherine Creek every year. My family has hunted the bear wallow area for over a hundred years, so this has always been our preferred area, right up by the wilderness line. No road hunters, low hunting pressure, and there was a very vibrant and healthy mule deer population. Opening morning was always active with at least twenty rifle reports heard from other hunters below before noon. Now that is all over. In the last decade it has turned into a four year wait for a Catherine Creek deer tag. Party hunts with the family are a thing of the past. The deer are gone for the most part, so I've stopped hunting them all together. There was one rifle report on the last opening morning I hunted up Catherine Creek. The way I see it, I cannot dedicate a week of vacation and extremely low odds to a hunt I probably won't get anyway. Big deal you might say, I'm only one guy. Well, that's fine, but you see I have four kids, three of them teens. I wonder if my kids will someday say that they remember the one year when they were growing up that they got to hunt deer with dad? Probably not. I don't see one opportunity in four years as adequate to teach my children to hunt, especially if we can't hunt together. The youth programs and first time hunter programs are fine, but if you can only get them out one time in their youth you have not promoted the sport. So I choose not to take them even the first time. I don't want them getting interested in an enjoyable hobby that will keep them frustrated for the rest of their adults lives due to the poor management practices of their own state government. As for me, I've moved to general season archery elk hunting, but due to less and less opportunity I'm giving that up as well. It's not the odds that stop me, it's the lack of open units to hunt in. More and more draw units equals less opportunity and at the same time we have less and less hunters. Interesting! So if there are fewer animals and fewer hunters, what is wrong? Either the agency wants to severely restrict hunting, and if so it's doing a fine job, or the ODFW is failing miserably. For what it's worth, I gave up fishing when my partner did because he had to get a boaters operator license and the last travel management plan with the forest service slated my hunting camp road (a century old camp at the top of lick creek at Hess' Cabin) for closure. Oh, but I got a free parking permit from ODFW with my license last year. Goody, another regulation for me to remember! I'm supposed to display it in my window in areas that previously had free permit-less parking. More rules and restrictions equal less opportunity. There comes a point where the endless hoops you have to jump through make the whole thing not worth it any more. It's really too bad that most hunters view ODFW as the enemy and not an ally. John Walker Stanfield, OR. ODL5384264 (sorry no hunter ID, I didn't buy a license this year)

Teri Kucera

From: Miles from No where <melhornh@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 7:20 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Pricing Families out of Hunting and Fishing

ODFW wants to raise the prices on hunting and fishing so people quit these sports. What better way to get rid of hunters and fishermen and women, over price the market and force us out of the sport. This is a very easy thing to do and ODFW plans on doing exactly that, keep raising prices so only a few rich people can enjoy the sport. When ODFW informed us of raising the prices again I reacted to this by relaying this info to many sports lovers and they repeated the same feeling to me about over pricing the market. People are very upset because families trying to raise children to become hunters and fishermen will no longer be able to afford to do it and that is the sadist part. I warned ODFW about over pricing 5 years ago and they raised the prices and now record numbers are leaving the sport. ODFW has become another big government program no longer serving the people. Henry

Jason Bader

From: C.R. <toolboxchev@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 12:36 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Fee Increase

If you raise my fees I will boycott your product.

I should not have to pay someones retirement, while I get none so you can raise fish.

Think I am kidding, so will 10 of my friends, and so on, and so on.

You wont even listen to the public when its in your best interest. I think its time for the true change our President has promised.

YOU!

Lisa Evans

From:	Jim Myron <myrons@canby.com>
Sent:	Friday, May 09, 2014 7:23 PM
To:	ODFW.Comments@state.or.us
Subject:	Comments on 2015/17 Budget Development
Attachments:	GF Funding Discussion Memo.docx; ODFW GF Expenditures 13-15.docx; ODFW Revenue Distribution Formula Proposal.docx

From: Jim Myron
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2014 8:38 PM
To: Roy Elicker ; Debbie L Colbert ; curt.melcher@state.or.us ; ed.bowles@state.or.us ; ronald.e.anglin@state.or.us ; Jeff Samuels
Cc: Bill Bakke
Subject: Proposed Fund Shifts to the General Fund

Please see attached documents.

JIM MYRON

Natural Resource

Policy/Planning/Advocacy

P. O. Box 675

Canby, OR 97013

503.819.5589

myrons@canby.com

5.1.14

Memo to: ODFW Executive Staff

Subject: Fund Shifts to General Fund

As you develop your agency recommended budget for 2015/17, the Native Fish Society would like you to carefully review all proposed fund shifts to the general fund to assure that those programs legitimately belong in the GF funding category. We suggest that you use NFS' proposed Revenue Distribution Formula to assist you in this process. We want to be assured that programs which are more appropriately funded by recreational and commercial licenses and fees not be placed in the GF funding category.

In addition, we would like you to look closely at existing general fund expenditures to assure that they are also in the correct category. There are a number of items on the attached list of current GF allocations that appear to us to be more appropriately funded by license and fee revenues. One of the more striking examples is the nearly five million dollars of taxpayer funds that are spent on fish propagation, an activity that should be paid for by commercial and recreational anglers.

The Native Fish Society will support an increase in general fund dollars to the agency during the next biennium once we are convinced that those funds will be allocated to programs in the agency that are in the public interest and that benefit the public at large, not any particular group or groups of resource users.

Jim Myron, Lobbyist

The Native Fish Society

A REVENUE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA FOR

THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife receives revenue for its operations from a variety of different sources, including the general public, the state of Oregon, the federal government and from private sources. This income supports over fifty separate programs within the agency.

The purpose of this proposed revision to ODFW's revenue distribution formula is to more closely align these various programs with the sources of revenue that fund them. The intended outcome is to have each program funded by the most logical and appropriate source of revenue. This will help to assure that those who are picking up the tab are getting what they pay for and will help to identify who the agency needs to make their case to anytime they need additional revenues. Conversely, in years when budget cuts are required, the impacts will be clearly connected and transparent.

Some examples of the various contributors to the agency's operation include:

Private Sources

- The general public in the form of license revenues
- The commercial fishing industry through licenses and fees
- Private utilities through mitigation agreements

State Sources

- General Fund (income tax revenues)
- Lottery Fund

Federal Sources

- Income tax revenues through various mitigation programs
- Excise taxes on the sale of certain sporting equipment
- Electric ratepayer dollars through the Bonneville Power Admin.

To the greatest extent possible, those who fund the operation should have a direct connection to the programs they are paying for. Fishing and hunting license revenues should be spent on agency programs that support and benefit fishing and hunting activities (which is currently the case). General Fund and Lottery revenues should go toward programs that benefit the public in general and the wildlife resources that all of us enjoy (which is not necessarily the case now). Utility ratepayer funds and certain federal taxpayer dollars should fund mitigation programs that they are obligated to fund.

Here are just a few examples of how ODFW programs could be more closely tied to the appropriate funding sources:

* Fishing and hunting license dollars, as well as commercial fishing license and poundage fees, would continue to be allocated to programs that directly benefit those user groups, as is currently the case. Fish propagation activities and the associated management activities related to the development, authorization and prosecution of the various recreational and commercial fisheries would be paid by license and poundage fees as well as certain federal appropriations.

* Activities that primarily benefit the public at large would be paid for with state general fund dollars and certain federal allocations as well as with Lottery funds. These activities include the implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other conservation programs which do not currently receive license revenues.

* Fish and Wildlife enforcement activities should be funded by any available revenue sources because these activities benefit all groups, including non-consumptive users. But primarily, they benefit all of Oregon's wildlife, not just those species that are fished for or hunted.

* Federal funds dedicated to certain mitigation activities would continue to be spent on those programs, however a regular review of those programs should occur to determine if those expenditures continue to represent the best use of those funds. Mitigation agreements can be renegotiated when it makes sense to consider other activities, such as funding conservation efforts.

5.1.14

ODFW 2013/15 General Fund Allocations
Source: Program Prioritization Document (5.1.14)

#2	Game Management	7,791
#5	Hatchery Management	4,968,378
#7	Wildlife Management	500,000
#9	Game Research	10,173
#10	Fish Research/Monitoring	3,565,312
#14	Ocean Salmon Management	2,001,099
#15	Marine Sampling	122,621
#16	Fish Screening/Passage	1,734,023
#19	Statewide Policy Coordination	234,652
#22	Capital Improvements	142,694
#24	Predator Management	50,000
#26	Commercial Shellfish Management	2,324
#28	Ground Fish Research	11,729
#29	Water Quality/Quantity	294,123
#39	Predator Control (Wildlife Services)	408,890
#40	Hydro Program``	65,752
#42	Marine Reserves	1,236,323
#45	Watershed Council Liaisons	37,471
	Administration	1,290,610
	Debt Service	354,775
	Wildlife Management	118,673
	Total GF Expenditures	17,157,413

Lisa Evans

From: Don and Fara <faraquilts@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 7:24 PM
To: ODFW
Cc: ODFW
Subject: License increases.

In my opinion the ODFW is the unwitting dunce that is eliminating hunting and fishing opportunities and destroying a major recreational industry, largely dependent on hunters and anglers for survival. As the numbers of hunters and anglers decline there are fewer people to support the rural communities, lodges, public camp grounds, and even the ODFW. Raising license fees will further reduce the number of sportsmen, which will reduce support for recreation industry of Oregon.

A couple of years ago I wrote to you suggesting that the ODFW implement something like Montana's block management program which would provide funding to major land owners for access by hunters. You haven't done a thing. And I'm not holding my breath waiting for you to act. At that time I said that major land owners would close their lands, and resort to leases. There are ranches in eastern Oregon which have done this for years I'm told. However, we've been lucky here on the west side, until now. A couple years ago a "lease" showed up in the Tioga unit. Now I'm told that Weyerhaeuser is going to do that starting this year. I'm sure that Roseburg lumber, Seneca, Georgia Pacific and others will follow suit. ODFW's failure to act is the cause.

There is absolutely no need for the Tioga elk season to remain a draw, so you are going to lose out on that bit of revenue. The number of number one applicants hasn't equaled the tag numbers for years, and with a good portion of the Tioga unit being locked up by Weyerhaeuser that won't get any better. Since the majority of hunters will be compressed into a smaller area of the Tioga unit, I see no alternative for you except to reduce tag numbers. The only tool I see you've got to combat the situation is to reduce cow hunts in leased areas. The preferred action would be Block management, but that requires some thought and work on your part, so that isn't going to happen.

Now we are being told that perhaps all salmon and steelhead will have to be returned after being caught. I don't fish for those species, but it's a big deal for lots of my friends. I don't see how you can increase license fees when reducing fish availability.

Big game numbers are in rapid decline due to poor management on our National Forests, and BLM lands on the west side. Private lands are being locked up. So you want to raise license fees, when big game numbers and hunting opportunities are declining. Only a government agency with a monopoly could propose such a thing. I read a study which I believe was conducted by you guys a few years ago that said the number one reason people weren't hunting was because of lack of game.

I guess that game numbers may increase on private lands, and if one is rich enough, one will be able to enjoy some good hunting. However, for the majority of hunters, YOUR LIFE BLOOD, game numbers and hunting opportunities are declining. Excuse me I'm mad now, just thinking about license increases, so I'll leave it there before I get nasty.

Don Wilson

Lisa Evans

From: boxsters986@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 12:05 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW Budget

The first suggestion is to let the biologist and other on-the-ground people decide where to spend the available money.
Second is to let some sportsman groups like: NW Steelheaders Assoc, OHA and RMEF review and prioritize potential projects from the prospective of those paying the license and tag fees.
Currently there are far too many ongoing project (Multi year) that were ill conceived and are way past any reasonable sunset date. All projects should have a sunset date and not be open ended. A few projects that I know of that fall into this category are: The bear population study, The Dusky Goose protection project, and The Rock fish study. I am quite confident that there are many others that could be weeded out with input at the detail level from the sportsmans groups mentioned above if given the opportunity.
One of the main drivers to your reduction in available budget is driven by fewer hunters and fishermen buying license and tags. Raising the

cost of these fees will not increase your budget, rather it will drive more people away from hunting and fishing. The reason people are leaving the sport is in large part do to what the ODF&W is doing. Your focus is not aligned with those who you should consider as your customers (the hunters and fishermen). If you folks were aligned with your customers, people would be able to find more catchable fish in our waters and more large and small game to hunt. If more fish and game were available more people would gladly buy licenses and tags, etc. You would also see the volunteer rate go up dramatically by sportsman groups and other individuals.
I have a list of projects that much more closely fits the customers needs than some/most of the ones the ODF&W bureaucracy directs.

Lon Jackson 541 231 2939
Member of NW Steelheaders, OHA, RMEF, Ducks Unlimited

Lisa Evans

From: James Boyles <james.boyles@petersoncorp.com>
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 1:59 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Public Comments from the Web

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

So from what I've read in our very liberal Register Guard Newspaper, ODFW is considering tag and license increases due to reduced tag and license sales. I'll be honest, I'm really tired of take take take philosophy of our government agencies. I've experienced many financial short falls since the introduction of Obama to the nation as a president. The company I have worked for, for over 13 years has experienced a pretty bumpy road, and this has transmitted into very little or no pay increases to employees. While the cost of everything is sky rocketing around my family, we have had to make do on the same paycheck which doesn't go very far anymore. It was in 2010 that you introduced the last major increase in rates. We saw everything across the board take a pretty hefty hike. Not to mention slipping in other little taxes like introducing shell fish licenses and requiring evasive species permits, and now this year a Columbia river endorsement. Where's it stop? I live in the Eugene area, and I'll be honest, what you people have allowed to happen to fishing quality on our local rivers here and on the coast are a joke. It's typical government mentality, "oh we've got less people buying lets raise prices on the ones that do buy". Or Oh we've got less people working so lets increase taxes on those that do work. Or Oh we've got less people driving so lets throw in another gas tax so the people that are driving can pay more. Where's it stop? What you need to do is start treating our money like it was money you actually had to work for. But first you have to pretend that you don't work for the government and actually work for a living. Budget in most households means this is what I've got coming in and this is what I've got going out. And we need to make it work. We don't have the ability to crack the whip on the sheeple and suck more money out of the herd, no we make it work. If you people can't live within your means, cut some fat, and by cut some fat I don't mean stop planting fish and shutting down hatcheries, I mean dump your overhead, tighten your belts and work harder. I'm sure I'm not alone in my thinking that my days of overpaying for crappy hunting and fishing opportunities are close to coming to an end.

Topic: ODFW budget for 2015-2017
Name: James D Boyles
E-mail: jamesboyles007@msn.com

Comment:

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Lisa Evans

To: Debbie L Colbert
Subject: RE: Public Comments from the Web

From: Greg [mailto:gregb@bendcable.com]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 9:03 PM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Public Comments from the Web

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

Topic: Decline of Hunting and Fishing
Name: GREG BROWN
E-mail: gregb@bendcable.com

Comment:

With ODFW facing a large loss of revenue from declining hunting and fishing licenses the department should look at some type of Oregon Natural Resources membership. Many people join historical societies and other type organizations to
support history, arts etc. I believe many Oregonian's would purchase a membership that would help support your departments efforts.

G Brown

Lisa Evans

From: Tony Snyder <kattony@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 9:41 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Tags and revenue

I was reading in the news that the number of hunters and anglers had dropped over the last 2o years and this leads to a decrease in revenue for ODFW. Fee increases cannot make up the difference without a large increase to the individual person that buys a license. I would like for you to consider opening up general bow season (or general gun season) as an extra tag (or create a program for a tag trade in/swap that I will explain below).
The mule deer herd has decreased and I do not know if the number of hunters is just about right for the number of tags issued and the desired harvest. If the number of hunter days and the success rate is at your targets, then my idea would not work.

The limitation of weapon choice for 100 deer or 200 elk and the relatively short controlled hunt time frames limits my days in the woods. As a boy in Mississippi, I could bow hunt in October, gun hunt November to January and then have a final bow season into February. Mississippi had 1.5 million whitetails and it could stand that pressure. I miss the number of options and regret the lack of opportunities.
Most hunters prefer the controlled hunt option and they will apply for a controlled hunt first and if successful, they go that route. If unsuccessful, they buy a general tag.

I propose the following
1. That the general archery (100) be sold as an extra tag
2. Or allow the purchase of a general archery or general gun tag on a trade in basis. If you trade in an unfilled controlled hunt tag, then you could purchase a general tag.

I would like to go to eastern Oregon for a controlled hunt, if I was unsuccessful (a likely scenario roughly 2/3 of the time), then turn in my unfilled tag and then go bow hunting in the coast range.

Revenue
I would pay a large tag fee for the 2nd tag or new tag via trade in/tag swap. If required, I would buy a 2nd replacement license to go along with that tag.
I would gladly pay more for more hunting options and tag choices.
Again, if you are getting the number of hunter days and hitting the harvest goals, then my ideas would not work. If the herds can support the extra hunter days, please consider expanding my hunting options by allowing the purchase of a 2nd tag (variable weapon) or an unfilled tag trade-in program.

I realize that I can bow hunt for deer, gun hunt for elk and spend all year hunting cougar. It would be nice to controlled rifle hunt mule deer in eastern Oregon and bow hunt the coast range for black tails. This would increase your revenue stream to make up for the decrease in hunters buying license.

Tony Snyder
Dallas Oregon

Jason Bader

From: Cridgeman@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 3:21 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Raising Fees?

I read a news article that ODFW is having budget issues. The lack of hunters applying for licenses and such has diminished and that takes away from the ODFW budget.

Did anyone in the Big Office sense that the rates are so high, there are less and less hunters that can afford the fees.

Take into account the cost of all other hunting equipment, fuel, etc., the hunt calculates out to more than what you would spend at the store for meat - so do the math.

There are way too many regulations - the most noxious that has come about is the reporting. What a pain in the back side. Make the cost more reasonable, open up areas to hunt, drop the excessive reporting rules (Simplify - like, did you get an elk? Yes / No....or when you get a specific species you want part of the reproductive system brought in...like, just ask for an answer of what type - Male? Female?) More folks will be back out, revenue back in your coffers.

When you "Over think" and "Micro Manage" you ruin it for everyone...even yourselves.

Bring back the "Hunt" like it was in the past...for all categories. It's like when you raise taxes, what do you really gain?

Thanks for your time

C.Kunkle

Jason Bader

From: Krieger Dave S <Dave.S.Krieger@doc.state.or.us>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 5:00 PM
To: INFO Odfw
Subject: What is going on?

Hello, I have been prompted to send this message for some time, the time is now I guess. What is the ODFW doing? In case this is a surprise, the majority of Oregonians are quite disappointed in the way the ODFW is managing the wildlife and hunting opportunities in Oregon. I have looked at the synopsis and what I have found was: Just the northeast area, half of the elk hunts and tags are on private property. This is severely limiting the general public from obtaining tags. Just in my case, it took 12 years to draw a pronghorn tag for Oregon, that is $90 dollars just in application fees. I can go to another state and hunt every year or every other year and really not spend much more money. So why should I continue to apply for pronghorn tags here, The state of Oregon can support more pronghorn than they do on public lands. Same goes for elk, hunting another state is not that much more than hunting Oregon but the opportunities are far better.

I guess what I am asking is what is the direction for the ODFW? To continue to raise the tag fees isn't the answer. Ever ask Why would someone from out of state come to Oregon to hunt? The opportunities are just better in other states.

Hope you can provide some insight to this.
Thanks, Dave

Debbie L Colbert

From:	Rob Klavins <rk@oregonwild.org>
Sent:	Monday, May 12, 2014 11:41 AM
To:	ronald.e.anglin; Debbie.L.Colbert@state.or.us; Curt Melcher; Michelle Dennehy
Cc:	Russ Morgan; Steve Pedery; Quinn Read
Subject:	Oregon Wild on ODFW funding
Attachments:	ODFW White Paper 2014 Oregon Wild.pdf

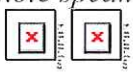
Hello Ron, Michelle, Debbie, Curt, & Russ,

Attached please find an Oregon Wild white paper outlining our perspective on some of the issues currently facing ODFW. It's a living document that represents our current thinking. With that in mind. we'd welcome any feedback you may have, but would ask that in that spirit, you not share it outside the agency without our ok.

In an effort to find common ground and be as constructive as we can in the coming budget process, we'd be happy to discuss the issue, the paper, and get your perspectives. If there's an immediate desire and opportunity to discuss this in person, I'll be on the West side from May 19th to at least the morning of the 22nd and perhaps even the 23rd.

Best,
Rob
--
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Join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act at the Oregon Wilderness Conference, June 5-7 in Portland.
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OREGON WILD

Resolving the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Funding Crisis

An Oregon Wild White Paper

Updated May 12, 2014

Problem: The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is charged "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." However, like many similar agencies around the country ODFW faces a severe and worsening shortage of resources to carry out conservation initiatives that benefit non-game species, and an unsustainable dependence on revenues from hunting and fishing license sales.

Despite strong support for fish and wildlife conservation among the Oregon public, in the 1990s and early 2000s the legislature slashed general fund support for ODFW, creating an unsustainable dependence on hunting and fishing license sales and related fees. Public participation in hunting and fishing, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of population, has steadily declined in Oregon over the last 20 years. This led to a catch-22 of increasing license fees, decreasing license sales and declining budgets. Hunters and anglers are frustrated when their license fees are diverted to fund conservation programs that do not favor game species. Non-hunting and fishing wildlife advocates are equally frustrated, as they feel the agency is falling short in pursuing its broader conservation mission and gives too little attention to Oregon's non-game species and non-consumptive stakeholders. Now, in 2014, the issue is coming to a head with the agency facing the largest funding shortfall in its history.

Solution: The State of Oregon should create an Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund (and/or modify existing non-game conservation programs) with funds used exclusively for the conservation of non-game species and their habitat.

Initial monies for this fund could be derived from a variety of sources. Sales of a special Oregon endangered species license plate could generate some revenues, while increasing public awareness of the funding need and increasing support for the agencies broad conservation mission.

Other sources of revenue for this fund should be identified and secured including revisiting recent proposals for a tariff on birdseed or outdoor equipment, mitigation fees, developer fees, lottery dollars, gas tax funds, or fees for agency services. Because of its non-game focus, funding from federal and private conservation grants could also be available. To truly address the problem in the long term, the legislature must fundamentally reform ODFW's budget structure and – to the extent possible – decouple funding from declining revenue streams. General Fund dollars could be directed to this non-game species fund to support ODFW in fulfilling its broad conservation mission and honoring the values of Oregonians.

As ODFW receives more General Fund dollars, it is imperative that they be spent on conservation and other programs that can not access license revenues. To increase support for the agency, build trust among non-hunting and fishing Oregonians, and raise broader public awareness for the agency, this fund must be subject to clear sideboards and mechanisms for accountability in how it is used and subject to oversight by a citizen's advisory committee made up of non-game species conservation advocates, scientists, and institutions.

Background:

Despite the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's (ODFW) broad mission and the diverse public it serves, the agency's funding is based on an outdated model. In 2014, despite the long-term decline of participation in hunting and fishing, ODFW remains largely dependent on license revenues and related fees. Because of this, ODFW has historically prioritized consumptive opportunities and game species over its broader conservation mission, leading many non-consumptive users of wildlife (who make up the majority of Oregon's population) to believe ODFW does not consider their views or work to conserve the resources they value.

Worse, the agency's dependence on license fees hamstrings its ability to act upon and implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and to manage non-game fish and wildlife species (which are the overwhelming majority of fish and wildlife species in the state). A more robust and effective non-game species and habitat conservation program would allow ODFW to play a more effective role in conserving and recovering rare or declining fish and wildlife, a critical need that could help Oregon avoid the need for future federal Endangered Species Act listings and recover currently listed species.

History

The agency's current budget model (and chronic budget shortfalls) and disconnect from the broad public are largely the result of changes to the agency in the 1980s and 1990s. In the early 1980s the agency adopted a policy not to use dollars generated from hunting and fishing to support non-game wildlife conservation. At the time, non-game programs were well-funded by the general funds, a voluntary tax checkoff, lottery dollars, and federal grants. However, over the last 20 years these monies have declined dramatically, resulting in deep cuts in conservation programs.

In 1993 the agency had a proactive habitat conservation division separate from wildlife diversity program that consisted of 14 positions, including 9 field staff, with a management perspective that benefited both game and non-game fish and wildlife. However, a series of moves from the legislature and Governor in the 1990s and early 2000s resulted in a number of changes that weakened conservation activities, including:

- Dissolving the Habitat Conservation Division
- Relocating the agency headquarters to Salem and replacing the Director in part due to pressure from anti-conservation interests
- Pressuring subsequent Directors to narrow the agency's work, vision, and scope to reduce its emphasis on fish and wildlife conservation

Former ODFW staff and agency watchers report that the changes resulted in serious declines in employee morale, and a shift of agency culture away from proactive conservation and toward a culture of self-preservation. Efforts that were perceived as politically controversial, like habitat conservation, science-based restoration of native biodiversity, or law enforcement activities related to habitat destruction were decreased while "safer" priorities like maximizing hunting and fishing opportunities were prioritized. By 2011, only seven staff nominally worked on non-game conservation issues. However some of those positions still focus on game species or do not actually work to conserve wildlife, but rather kill animals in response to damage claims.

Though the agency has developed a laudable vision in its *"Oregon Conservation Strategy"*, the lack of funding and decline in conservation culture within the agency has meant that the program has largely not been implemented.

Unbalanced Funding

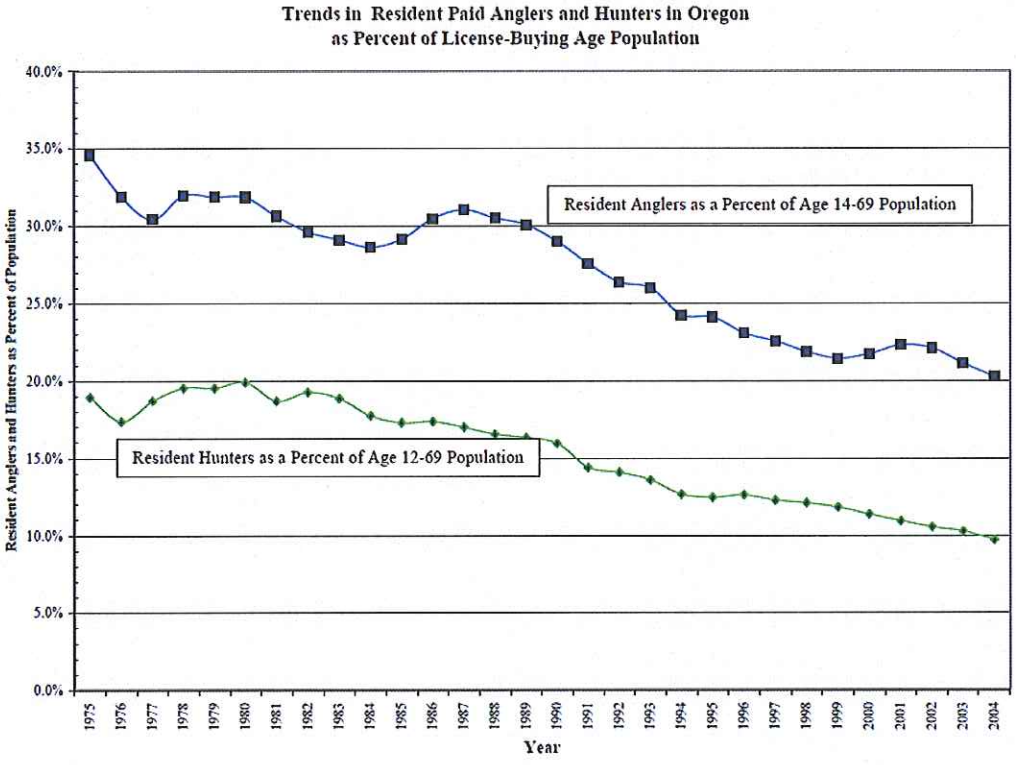
Despite the broad mission, only 4% of ODFW's current budget will be spent on non-game and habitat conservation. That's in line with the revenue-side where approximately two-thirds of funds come directly from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and other funding sources closely tied to consumptive user groups. The Pittman-Robertson Act (1937) and Dingell Johnson Act (1950) provide the agency with additional federal funds, but those dollars are also focused on hunting and fishing related activities.

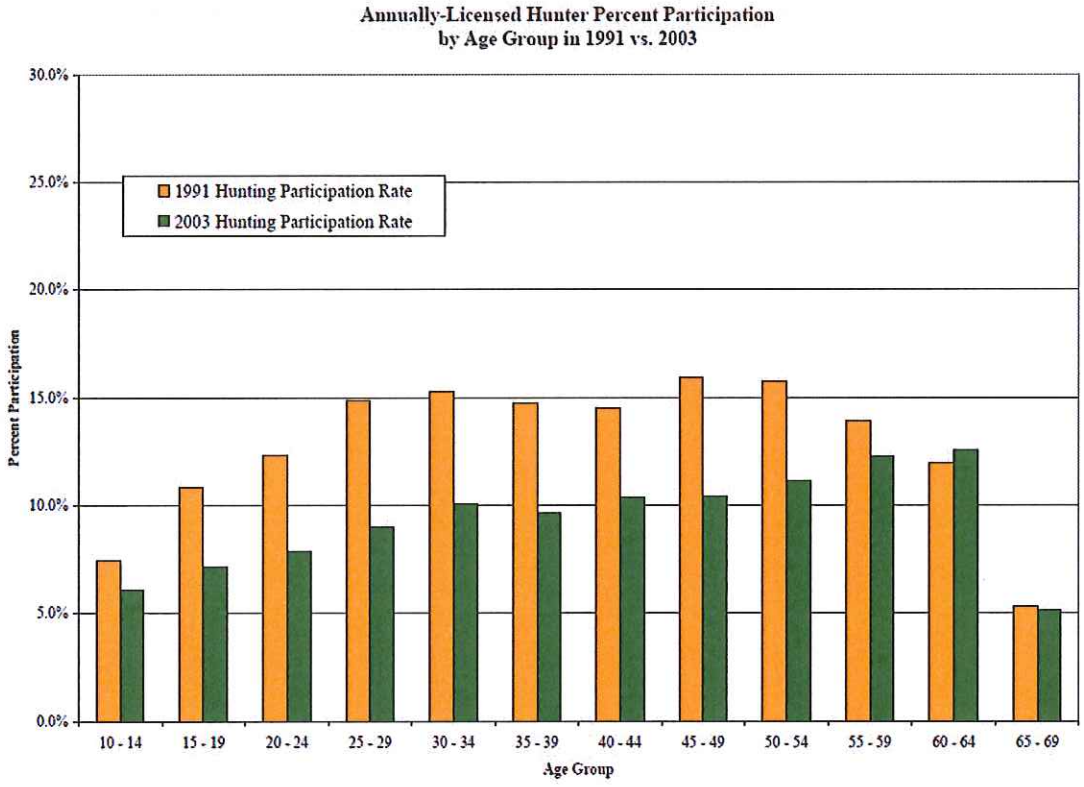
Oregonians generally believe they already support their state's broader conservation mission through their tax dollars. However less than 5% of ODFW's projected revenue comes from the General Fund. Lottery dollars account for just over 1% of the agency's revenue. As a percentage of the overall state budget, ODFW receives only 0.04% of all state expenditures and, by one measure, only 1.25% of natural resource expenditures. The numbers simply don't match up with the values and self-identity of Oregonians, or the growing body of evidence pointing to the role that environmental conservation plays in Oregon's thriving tourism and outdoor recreation economy. This meager funding also ignores the value of proactive conservation work by ODFW in addressing and reversing wildlife declines before they reach a crisis stage and spark federal or state Endangered Species Act listings.

Decline of fishing and hunting dollars

With the overwhelming majority of ODFW's funding coming from consumptive users – primarily hunters and anglers – the fiscal health of the agency is directly tied to trends in those user groups. The agency in turn focuses disproportionately on the concerns of those stakeholders - only 4% of expenditures are directed towards conservation and habitat.

As it has across the country, interest in hunting and fishing in Oregon has experienced a sustained decline. Decades of intense efforts by hunting and fishing groups and wildlife agencies to increase youth participation in those activities have failed to stem the decline. Even as the state's population has increased dramatically, the participation decline has been in both absolute numbers and rates of participation. Consumptive users tend to be older and are more highly concentrated in rural areas; however the decline has been seen in nearly every county in the state.





Source – Staff Report Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Review of License Sale Trends by Chris Carter, Ph.D. and Harry Upton, Ph.D. Between 2003 and 2013, hunting license sales declined a further 36,995 which represents a participation decline to less than 7%

Missed opportunities: Leaving money on the table

As a result of declines in total license sales, ODFW has been forced to boost license fees, creating a vicious cycle that may be spurring additional declines. However, as ODFW has struggled with how to maintain funding from shrinking license sales, it has missed out on the growing group of stakeholders that benefit from the agency's broader conservation mission.

Outdoor recreation and tourism has long been a bright spot for Oregon's economy. That included during the Great Recession when a 2008 story in the *Oregonian* declared "Wildlife watching surpasses hunting and fishing." This was in response to a US Fish and Wildlife Service report showing that the participation rates and economic impact of wildlife watching far surpassed those of hunting and fishing. The growth of this important and sustainable sector of Oregon's economy has and is predicted to continue in years to come. While some have sought to downplay the importance of outdoor recreation businesses in our economy, nationally the outdoor recreation industry exceeds the pharmaceutical and automotive industries in annual consumer spending. According to a 2013 Outdoor Industry Association report, Americans spend upwards of $646 billion on outdoor recreation each year.

Over 68% of Oregon residents participate in some form of outdoor recreation. That activity generates $12.8 billion in consumer spending, 141,000 direct Oregon jobs, $4 billion in wages and salaries, and $955 million in state and local tax revenue in 2013. Our state's fish and wildlife are also important factors in the quality of life that attracts new employers and investment to our state. Though Oregon's fish and wildlife resources help drive the recreation economy and quality of life that bring new jobs and investment to our state, ODFW sees little direct benefit and does little to protect or enhance these values.

According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, none of the 10-fastest growing outdoor recreational activities in America involves consumptive use of fish and wildlife resources. Among the fastest growing groups fueling the growth of the outdoor recreation industry are wildlife watchers. A 2006 US Fish & Wildlife Service report revealed that **nearly 1.5 million people participated in wildlife watching in Oregon alone** – more than double the *total* number of hunting and fishing licenses sold that year. Nationally, wildlife watching supported 1 million jobs and generated over $18 billion in tax revenue in 2006. Not taking into account any multipliers or secondary expenditures (like lodging, transportation, and food), Oregon's share of the spending was over $775 million.

Important as they are, economic considerations may fail to take into account the intrinsic value of fish and wildlife, which is a fundamental reason for public appreciation of wildlife. Nor does it take into account less quantifiable values including the state's international reputation and the cultural role wildlife and the outdoors play in the core self-identity of Oregonians.

Expenditures & Engagement

Because of its funding structure and historic emphasis on hunting and fishing, ODFW has relatively little to no engagement with the broader wildlife conservation and non-consumptive outdoor recreation community in Oregon. In fact, agency actions that prioritize consumptive uses have created a growing level of mistrust of the agency among many wildlife enthusiasts. This is borne out by frequent high-profile conflicts, including litigation, over fish and wildlife management.

Increasing Pressure & Failed Solutions

The financial problems and resulting mission crisis facing ODFW are not new, but they are growing. In recent years solutions have been proposed, but few have come to fruition and many reinforce root problems.

- A state tax check-off for non-game funding was initially highly effective. The program demonstrated the popularity of wildlife conservation and the willingness of the public to fund such efforts. However, the subsequent explosion of similar check-offs has created competition and confusion.
- A wildlife conservation stamp has been instituted by ODFW, but it remains so obscure that very few Oregonians even know it exists. That it mimics a duck hunting stamp may also undermine the interest of non-hunters in participating in the program.
- A multi-year effort to pass a modest birdseed tax has stalled despite broad support from the hunting, business, and conservation community.
- ODFW and outside advocacy groups have invested heavily in programs intended to increase interest in hunting and fishing among Oregon youth with little evidence of success.
- Efforts to increasing hunting and fishing opportunity to spur additional license sales have resulted in overharvest, conflict within and between user groups, and added layers to already confusing regulations.
- With other options exhausted, ODFW has been forced to turn to ever increasing hunting and fishing related fees that disenfranchise and discourage some users, increase controversy, and further reduce participation.

Solutions:

In the long term, ODFW's broad conservation mission "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations" should be funded, at least in part, through the Oregon General Fund and other new sources. However, without short-term action to increase public trust and transparency and increase the agencies engagement on non-game species and habitat conservation, public support may be hard to generate.

The Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund

In 2015, the legislature should create the Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund with funds that are legally restricted to activities that protect and restore native, non-game species and their habitat in Oregon. The Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund must include greater public transparency and accountability in how ODFW uses non-game funding, and include a provision for oversight by conservation-minded Oregonians. Because of the agency's traditional emphasis on hunting and fishing, trust for ODFW among non-consumptive users of fish and wildlife resources is low. Strong sideboards are needed to change this dynamic.

An Oregon wildlife license plate

Initial monies for such a fund could be derived through sales of a wildlife-themed license plate featuring a prominent and non-game animal, such as internationally famous "OR-7" gray wolf and one of Portland's resident population of peregrine falcons. Though revenues will fall far short of what is needed in the long-term, the public conversation such a license plate would generate is vital to resolving the larger ODFW budget and mission crisis.

In 2013, Representative Jules Bailey introduced LC3261, a measure that would have created just such a license. The proposal builds off of highly successful non-game conservation license plates in states such as Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Texas. Given the willingness of non-consumptive users to "pay their share", organizations and interests supportive of wildlife conservation would almost certainly promote the plates at no cost to the state, and citizens would be voluntarily opting-in to support the agency. Doing so would also help alleviate some of the friction between groups concerned that declining license sale dollars are being used to support non-game conservation efforts.

Birdseed Fee or other non-game user funds

Over the last several legislative sessions, a number of measures have been put forward to generate modest funding for ODFW non-game programs through fees that would be paid by Oregonians who are strong supporters of non-game conservation. The most significant of these proposals is the birdseed bill that would levy a small fee on the sale of wild bird seed at the wholesale level. Such a measure could generate several million dollars for ODFW's non-game species program. However, the measure has failed for a number of reasons including concern over how ODFW would use such funds. Were the measure married to an Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund with strong sideboards, transparency, and public accountability, support for such a measure would likely increase. Other feasible and significant funding sources should be identified.

Federal and private conservation grants

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies do provide grant funding for activities that support the conservation and recovery of wildlife, particularly Endangered Species. Similarly, private foundations frequently award funding for scientific research, habitat acquisition and conservation, and other activities related to fish and wildlife recovery. ODFW's current funding model, capacity, and reputation make it difficult for the agency to compete for these dollars. However, under a reformed funding structure such funds could be more available.

Long-term

Setting aside the question of its broader conservation mission, ODFW's current funding model is clearly broken. Demographic trends in Oregon are likely to continue a decline of interest in hunting and fishing, with a commensurate decline in associated funds. If ODFW is to achieve fiscal health, regain public trust, and fulfill its broad mission the agency's budget must be fundamentally restructured.

While ODFW and the legislature should look to fees and other measures that would allow non-hunting and fishing wildlife enthusiasts to "pay their fair share", ODFW's broad conservation mission is a benefit to the entire Oregon public, our economy, and our quality of life. For that reason, the agencies non-game programs should be funded substantially from General Fund dollars and other sources not tied to particular user-groups.

Conclusion & Recommendation:

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife finds itself in a deepening financial and existential crisis that threatens the mission and the public it serves. Many of the agency's woes result from a funding structure that is increasingly unsustainable. Other forms of outdoor recreation are growing in Oregon, but currently non-consumptive wildlife enthusiasts are not "paying their share". Worse, many of these non-consumptive stakeholders distrust the agency because they believe it is not responsive to or equally engaged with their interests. They argue the agency lacks sufficient transparency and accountability, and does not place enough emphasis on its broad conservation mission that includes non-game fish and wildlife and habitat conservation. These problems and perceptions serve to create conflict between and among stakeholders who all benefit from a healthy and functional agency.

Oregon's wildlife funding problems are not unique, and many other states are wrestling with the same issues. However, some states have managed to get ahead of the curve through a number of reforms. The strong conservation values of the Oregon public make our state well-positioned to enact effective measures of our own. Doing so would build on our reputation as a state that values conservation and seeks pragmatic solutions. All Oregonians benefit from solving the problem and are likely to be supportive of both incremental steps and the long-term solutions to which they lead.

As a first step, Oregon should create the Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund (and/or modify existing non-game conservation programs) with funds that are exclusively used for non-game species and habitat conservation that benefits all wildlife and agency stakeholders. The fund should serve as a repository for future revenues with an initial funding mechanism of a non-game wildlife license plate, birdseed fees, grants, or other funds. Other sources of more significant revenues should be investigated including but not limited to mitigation fees, gas taxes, and lottery dollars. Any additional General Fund dollars allocated to the agency must be spent on conservation and other programs that cannot access license revenue.

In the long-term, Oregon must recognize that ODFW's mission "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations" benefits all of the state's citizens, as well as future generations. It is also a major factor behind and vital tourism and outdoor recreation economy, and the quality of life that attracts new employers and investment to our state. Given these facts, the legislature should allocate sufficient General Fund dollars to create and sustain an Oregon Wildlife Conservation fund that would support non-game fish and wildlife conservation and allow ODFW to fulfill its broad mission. Doing so is a wise investment in Oregon's future.

About Oregon Wild:

Founded in 1974, Oregon Wild is a non-profit conservation organization that works to protect Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations. As part of that mission the organization seeks to protect and restore healthy abundant populations of all native wildlife. While we seek to keep common species like elk and chickadees common, our efforts are largely focused on helping those species like wolves, wolverine, murrelets, and salmon that need extra help. The organization was founded in part by conservation-minded hunters and still counts among its board, staff, and supporters many avid hunters and anglers. Oregon Wild's staff in Portland, Bend, Eugene, and Enterprise represent over 10,000 members in Oregon and across the country who support our mission and our work.

Terms:

- While we have used the term consumptive and non-consumptive users in some instances, we recognize there can be a significant overlap in communities and individuals. The term non-consumptive users of fish and wildlife is intended to include those who don't see themselves as "users" of fish and wildlife, but rather as appreciators or viewers. The term – along with all others - is not meant to offend, but rather to simplify.

- Oregon Wild recognizes that conservation efforts aimed at non-game species can help game species and vice versa. Non-game species is meant to be a broad and inclusive term encompassing everything from raptors, reptiles, and amphibians to songbirds and invertebrates.

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3217 Riverbanks Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527
May 2, 2014







ODFW Wildlife Division
3406 Cherry Avenue, NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Commission:

A recent newspaper article entitled, "ODFW May Raise Fees Due to Drop in Hunters, anglers" gave several reasons for the possible increase. These included:

1. A general decline in hunting and fishing participation due to
2. Social factors such as increasing urbanization and competition from, other activities (Weren't there always "other activities"?)
3. Loss of access to traditional hunting grounds, reduced wildlife populations and more difficulty in getting tags
4. Increased tag and license expenses.

I am sure that all of the above are contributing factors, but in my opinion, the major culprit is the continuing increasing cost of license and tag fees. My wife and I, for example exist on Social Security, and it has reached the point where we are seriously considering not hunting and fishing this year. I haven't missed a hunting season since I left Korea in 1953, and yet, even though we were drawn for a 2013 Elk tag, we were unable to afford to go. When you consider the joint $59.00 hunting license fees, the joint tag fees of $85.00, and the cost of gas, food, etc. is beyond our meager income.

I don't have a copy of the 2014 Fishing Regulations available but here again, the increased cost factor has prevented me from purchasing a fishing license and punch cards.

We hope that you will consider our senior concerns before any price increases are enacted.

Sincerely,

Howard & Heike Arnold

Teri Kucera

From: Tony Pranger <tony.pranger@att.net>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 4:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Attachments: ODFW Budget recommendations 2014.doc

May 12, 2014

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
c/o ODFW Wildlife Division
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in regards to ODFW's 2015-2017 Budget Development Process. A significant part of ODFW's budget shortfall can be attributed to declining numbers of hunters purchasing licenses and tags. Decreasing deer/elk populations, and just as importantly, decreasing hunter interest due to a lower quality hunting experience have both contributed to this decline.

I believe Oregon is losing two classes of hunters. Casual hunters, who will lose interest easily if they are not successful on a regular basis or if they are seeing low numbers of game. Serious hunters, those who are seeking a high quality hunting experience where good numbers of game are available and there is a good possibility of finding a mature buck or bull. Oregon is competing with every other western state for the money spent by the serious class of hunter, and frankly, Oregon offers very little to entice those serious hunters, or severely limits there opportunity to spend their money here.

Following, are my suggestions on changes that could be enacted to improve ODFW's revenue stream, and rebuild declining deer and elk populations. Vital to the success of any action adopted, is that increased revenue be used to offset the necessary reductions in tag numbers where needed.

1. For Eastern Oregon, consider a 3 pt. or better antler requirement for all buck deer hunts and/or reduce season days. There would be no loss of opportunity, i.e. no need to necessarily reduce tag numbers/revenue yet there should be an immediate improvement in buck survival and buck ratios. Please consider the success Washington State had when they adopted the 3 pt. or better policy for Eastern Washington. As well as the success Colorado had when they adopted policies which increased their buck ratios significantly. Demand for Colorado deer tags increased dramatically, creating an opportunity for increased revenue. The serious class of hunter desires the opportunity to see lots of deer and large bucks. If Oregon provides that, those hunters will spend money here.

2. For all elk units that do not currently have a spike only limitation in one of their hunts, change the bull bag limit to 3 pt. or better. Again, consider the success that Colorado and Montana have with this policy. There is no need to reduce opportunities/tags sold, yet bull ratios will immediately improve. There is overwhelming evidence that higher ratios of mature bulls in a population can improve overall herd productivity which could create a domino effect of more elk available, again providing an opportunity for increased revenue. Please consider Colorado's very high calf to cow ratios in units where they have a similar 4 pt. or better rule in general hunting units with very high hunter pressure. They are consistently higher than Oregon's calf/cow ratios. The majority of the harvest in Colorado's 4 pt. or better general hunting units is

2.5 year old bulls, but obviously something is working with that approach as they have better bull and calf ratios than most Oregon units.

More branch antlered bulls available for harvest will again be of greater appeal to the serious class of hunter, creating the desire for them to spend their money here. This regulation could easily be adopted for the Cascade elk season units, Northside, Chesnimnus, Murderers Creek, Alsea, Sixes, Minam, etc.

3. Increase the non-resident quota to 10% for all controlled hunt tags, and publicize it. Oregon has one of the lowest non-resident quotas of all western states and is continually portrayed in a poor light by business's such as Eastmans Hunting Journal, Huntin Fool magazine, Cabelas, and other tag brokering entities.

One non-resident deer tag is equal in revenue to approximately 16 resident deer tags. So just as an example, offering just 5 more nonresident tags in unit XX means you could reduce overall tags by approximately 75 and maintain the same revenue. 75 less tags means 25-40 more bucks should survive to become larger bucks, improve buck ratios, and begin to rebuild populations. As populations rebuild, this should mean more future opportunity, greater demand for tags, and again, increased revenue opportunity. Colorado is a prime example again of what is possible by improving buck ratios.

4. Increase the ability of hunters to harvest cougars, and establish a management objective of 3000-4000 cougars statewide. Increase mortality quotas in an effort to move the cougar population towards a population of 3000-4000. Certain hunters have developed the skill to effectively hunt cougars without dogs, so allow for a total of 3 cougar tags per individual to utilize those hunters who are effective.

Allow hunters to use their deer or elk tag to harvest a cougar, during the period/location where the deer or elk tag is valid. Imagine the benefits, potentially one elk or deer that is not harvested by the hunter, and certainly many times that not killed by the cougar. Idaho offers this option to non-residents.

5. Expand spring bear seasons to include the month of June. This could either be an expansion of existing season dates, or create additional controlled hunts. Idaho and Wyoming offer these expanded season dates with no ill effects to the bear or ungulate populations. This would allow for additional harvest on healthy bear populations, increased revenue, and particularly an increased opportunity for youth as school would not conflict in the latter part of June.

6. Once in a Lifetime tags. Two tags for Deer and two tags for Elk offered annually for every unit, with a season length of September 1 – November 30. This a concept developed by Mike Morris from Bend, OR. Please refer to his proposal for the details.

7. Premier tags. Again this is a concept developed by Mike Morris, please refer to his proposal.

8. Quality hunts. For each unit create a controlled elk hunt that occurs Monday-Friday between the end of regular archery season and the start of the general/controlled buck seasons. This elk hunt would occur essentially at the end of September/first part of October each year. Similar to the late season buck deer hunts that have been created for the White River and Mt. Emily units, establish a late season buck deer hunt for all units.

Establish 5-10 tags for each hunt. This would offer a very high quality deer or elk hunt which would be in very high demand.

9. Change timing of draw and pricing structure to capture more non-resident dollars. **IF**, the Once in a lifetime tags, Premier tags, or Quality hunts as described above become reality, and **IF**, the non-resident quota increases to 10% of tags, there will be a huge interest from non-residents in applying in Oregon. We will have very high quality hunts available and they will have what now seems like a reasonable chance to actually draw.

Similar to what Wyoming does, I would eliminate the requirement for non-residents to purchase a license in order to purchase preference points. Instead price non-resident points at $50 for elk/deer/antelope. Wyoming brings in Millions of dollars from non-residents purchasing points only. That is millions of dollars available for programs/management without harvesting a single animal.

Since Oregon is competing with all the other western states for hunters, move the drawing to February or early March with results available by mid March. This puts Oregon first in line for most of the western states drawing periods, and first in line for hunter dollars. Those hunters who apply in multiple states, can apply, get there results from Oregon, then move on to other states.

Create a tiered pricing system for non-resident deer and elk tags based on the number of preference points required to draw the tag. My suggestion would be as follows:

	0-4 pts.	5-8 pts.	9+ pts.
Deer	$350	$650	$950
Elk	$525	$1050	$1575

In 2014, **thousands** of non-resident hunters paid Wyoming over $1000 for a General season elk tag. Not a high demand controlled hunt, just a General season tag. Oregon is clearly undervaluing some of the tags we currently offer, and could offer many more valuable tags if changes are implemented.

10. Convert some controlled spike only elk hunts to 3 pt. or better. Mike Morris has a proposal for conversion of the spike tags in the Wenaha, Mt. Emily and Walla Walla units. This proposal is for the Powers, Sled Springs, and Snake River units.

Application history clearly demonstrates that hunters would much rather hunt branch antlered bulls, and ODFW should capitalize on non-resident hunters willingness to pay for that opportunity. Here is an example of the 2013 revenue stream from Sled Springs archery bull elk tags. The any bull tag required 8 points for a non-resident to draw, the spike tag could be drawn with 0 points.

2013 Sled Springs Archery elk. 372 total tags.

Resident tags issued: **358 @ $42.50 = $15,215**
Nonresident tags issued: **14 @ $508.50 = $7,119**

Total Revenue: **$22,334**

Here is what the revenue stream could look like if Non-residents were offered 10% of tags, and were priced according to the proposed tiered system. This example assumes a total of 300 tags issued.

Resident tags issued: **270 @ $42.50 = $11,475**
Nonresident tags issued: **30 @ $1050 = $31,500**

Total Revenue: **$42,975**

This scenario provides several benefits. Increased revenue stream for ODFW, the ability to temporarily reduce tag numbers to boost bull ratios and herd productivity, the opportunity for Oregon hunters to pursue branch antlered bulls instead of spikes which application history illustrates is clearly their preference.

11. Create Cascades hunting opportunity, unique to Oregon.
For rifle hunters with limited time available for hunting trips, one of the advantages of other western states such as Montana, Idaho, Colorado and Wyoming is the ability to hunt for deer and elk at the same time. No real opportunity exists for that in Oregon. A hunt that may be of great appeal to residents and non-residents is the ability to rifle hunt for elk and blacktail deer at the same time. Such an opportunity does not currently exist anywhere, and would certainly be unique to Oregon.

My proposal is this. In the Santiam, McKenzie, Indigo, Dixon, Rogue, and Evans Creek units establish October 31 as the end of the Western Oregon General Deer rifle season. To compensate for that loss of opportunity at the end of the season, allow Cascade elk tag holders with unused Western General Deer rifle tags or High Cascade tags, the opportunity to hunt deer in the above mentioned units during the Cascade elk season.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these proposals, and I hope you will seriously consider these or any others you receive that will benefit Oregon's big game populations and future generations of Oregon hunters.

Respectfully,

Tony Pranger
Oregon City, OR

Teri Kucera

From: League of Women Voters <lwvor@lwvor.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 12:38 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Roy.Elicker@state.or.us; Debbie.L.Colbert@state.or.us; WHITMAN Richard M * GOV
Subject: LWVOR ODFW Commission Budget Letter May 2014
Attachments: ODFW CommissionBudgetLetter May2014.doc

Dear Commission Chair and Members.
Please find attached a letter from the League of Women Voters of Oregon concerning the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2015-17 budget requests.
We thank you for your time and for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Kathy Greysmith
Administrative Manager
League of Women Voters of Oregon
And League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund

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Follow us on Twitter

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide.

League of Women Voters of Oregon
1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302
Phone: 503-581-5722; *Fax:* 503-581-9403; *Email:* lwvor@lwvor.org; *Web:* www.lwvor.org; www.VoteOregon.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (closed Fridays May through August)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

May 13, 2014

To: Chair Bobby Levy, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (ODFW)
Members of the Commission
Odfw.commission@state.or.us

Re: 2015-17 Budget Requests

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We appreciate having been asked to participate in ODFW's External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) this year. We have learned a great deal about the missions and challenges facing this agency. It has been especially rewarding to have an opportunity to meet with Oregon's hunters and fishers and listen to their thoughtful, but tough struggles with the enormous budget shortfall due in part to the reduced participation in these sports by Oregonians and others. Although we have no specific positions on these license/fee increases, we respect the recommendations made by EBAC on those licenses/fees after these comprehensive meetings.

We are conscious of the needs of all state agencies to tap into the General Fund and therefore support only some targeted "asks" by this agency. As we understand, most agencies have been instructed to consider only a 20% increase in General Funds/Lottery Funds. In 2013 ODFW was allotted $17 million in General Funds. Under that formula, ODFW's "ask" should only be about $20.4 million and not $28 million. Even if we can convince the Governor and Legislators to increase General Funds beyond $20.4 million, it seems unrealistic to expect the full $28 million in the current draft budget. And such an increase could negate some needed service funding for other natural resource agency programs. Therefore, it will be important for you to look hard at all ODFW General Funding to determine your priorities. The League has very specific positions in a number of areas where General Funds are being considered by ODFW. We offer them below:

We have very specific positions on Water Quality and Quantity. *"The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that water is a resource that should be managed for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms."* We participated in the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and continue to **support General Funding of ODFW's Water Quality/Quantity/Instream Flow Program** (#010-05-03-10000).

As with other natural resources agencies, we support the collection of data with which to make good decisions. That leads us to **support General Funding of ODFW's Fishery Research and Monitoring Program** (#010-05-02-21000, 010-05-02-22000 & 010-05-02-24000). Should other programs proposed to be funded by General Funds that focus on data

collection, we would also consider support for those programs. It is a stance we have with other natural resource agencies.

In 2013, the League adopted positions regarding Coastal and Nearshore Management. *"The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the creation and operation of marine reserves and protected areas on the Oregon Coast."* We also participated in the development and adoption of the Territorial Sea Plan. Therefore, we **support General Funding of ODFW's Nearshore & Estuarine Management** (#010-06-01-10000).

This past year we participated in discussions surrounding the state's Regional Solutions program. We worked with others to amend the original HB 4015 (2014) so that natural resource agencies being asked to participate in this economic development program be allowed to request additional staffing to help with permitting and consultation issues. Although there are no General Funds currently listed in ODFW's proposed budget under Intra-agency Coordination (#020-02-04-00000), we believe that **there should be adequate funding, by permit fees and General Fund or Lottery Funds (under the economic development portion), to assure that ODFW has the ability to participate in these regional meetings and permitting** so as to protect Oregon's fish and wildlife and administer Oregon's laws related to fish and wildlife habitat.

The League has been concerned that funding for implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy, in which many League members participated in developing, has been mainly absent. Therefore, we **support efforts to fund implementation of that strategy.**

ODFW has many worthy programs, as do other natural resources agencies. The League is aware of the many demands made on the state's General Fund. We hope the Commission considers prioritizing the General Fund "asks" that it offers to the Governor during this budget process.

Thank you again for allowing the League to participate in EBAC. We look forward to hearing from the general public during your town halls and continuing to work with your excellent staff on finding ways to assure Oregon's fish and wildlife are here for future generations.

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom
President

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

CC: ODFW Director Roy Elicker
ODFW Deputy Director Debbie Colbert,
Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Advisor

Lisa Evans

From: Terri Denton <walther2312@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 3:05 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: RE: Hunting and Fishing

Dear Barbara,

I came across the following article in the Oregon Outdoor Council, the comments were full, so will take this time to contact you directly. My opinion only, but possibly a few reasons there are fewer Hunters and Anglers, is ODFW keeps raising the rates, licenses, fees and tags. We use to joke that hunting would be a rich man's sport, but I never figured I would see that happen in my lifetime... There has been occasions the Salmon runs were later due to fluctuation of water levels, high runoff and small runs. However, the licenses and tags already purchased and non-refundable, approximately one week prior to opening of season ODFW closes the Imnaha River to the Oregon residents. Yet, the Native American Indians were allowed to continue to fish with their nets. For the most part I understand interagency agreements and tribal rights. Was there ever consideration to make exceptions and lower daily catch limits and/or refund partial or all of the cost of the tags ? I use to enjoy going to Doug Bar on the Snake River to catfish, but can't access that area any longer unless I charter a boat.

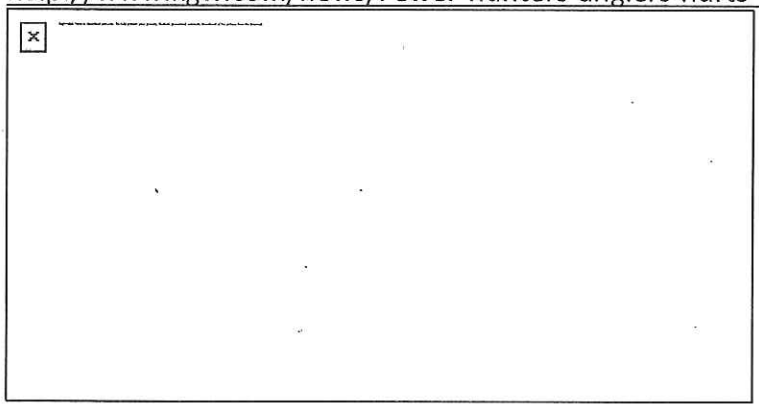
In regards to hunting, with all the expenses of licensing, tags, fees and the economy people are having to prioritize what big game they wish to hunt. Having to pay a fee just to see if you can draw a tag for controlled hunts is getting more expensive each year and chances are slim to be successful to draw a tag in many hunting units and next to impossible in others, private lands locked up. We have contacted private property owners after watching 1500-2000 head of elk for several days and most wouldn't even discuss giving authorization. I know ODFW does pay some private land owners for damages caused by wildlife. When payment is made, ODFW needs to stipulate an emergency hunt will be set up and the land owner will authorize permission for someone with a valid license and tag to harvest an animal. Np damages will be paid until after the hunt has been conducted. Another factor with the draw hunts, this has required hunting parties that have hunted for years together to break up. If all apply individually 1-3 will be successful in drawing tags from the group. If the option of party hunt is chosen chances of not drawing a party tag and no one getting to hunt, which leaves hunting in the general hunt with high numbers in small condensed areas. I've belly crawled off a ridge in general season due to others shooting at a herd of elk and the bullets were hitting the trees above me. To many tags being sold and it is a free for all.

I know that ODFW gives suggestions or recommendations to the USFS for wildlife management regarding road closures, limited access, back county travel, motorized access, buffer zones and wilderness through congress. With the areas open to hunting getting so condensed, people have quit hunting. If you meet the requirements you can get a handicap permit, but access regulations for road closures still apply accordingly, that permit doesn't allow you to drive where you want to go. Older people and people with a handicaps can not compete, nor can they walk the additional distances just to get to where they can hunt.

The wildlife populations are not what they used to be for many reasons, but we all know predators is the main cause for decreasing herds. The habitat is sufficient and the herds should of tripled in population instead of decreased. The introduction of wolves in 2009 by ODFW is the worst. I disagree with the count of wolves

ODFW publishes for the public, the packs are splitting up and multiplying at a quicker rate than ODFW will admit, the few game cams and investigations on livestock kills is only a small portion of the devastation the wolves are doing. No, reality is people are taking pictures to prove to ODFW and reporting sittings more frequently as the packs spread out. as the packs spread out as the count of pups per liter is not accurately reported to the public. Look at breeding cycles, young splitting off and starting their own pack, sightings reported all over the state. They are not being controlled by ODFW, when there is a repeated offender being tracked back to the livestock kills, the wolf is not destroyed, but tied up in the court system or the wolf is lost in the mountains and the collar not working. I've laid in my recreational vehicle and listened to 6-8 different distinct howls from the same area moving up the ridge at Salt Creek Summit lasting a couple hrs. We no longer cap or hunt that immediate area, I was raised in a loggers camp, not afraid of known animals that are known predators wildlife until the wolf was introduced. It is only a matter of time when a human will be attacked, due to lack of control of population or the human walks into a den site. They are protected and have no fear of man. There have been several confirmed kills of humans by the wolf look on the internet. These are brutal killings or mutilations. I have heard them in the daytime in Big Sheep howling and taken pictures of fresh tracks just a short distance from our camp site. Some of those tracks were larger than my hand spread out and left deep impressions in the mud, confirming their size is enormous. Not only are they killing large game as a pack, but killing bear cubs, coyotes livestock or any other easy prey. ODFW has protected the Big Horn Sheep on the Snake and resolved the wolves approaching on those safety zones. Yet, USFS will not allow domestic sheep grazing any where close to the ODFW Big Horn Sheep due to concerns regarding disease.

http://www.kgw.com/news/Fewer-hunters-anglers-hurts-wildlife-agency-257158011.html



Fewer hunters, anglers hurts Ore. wildlife agency
www.kgw.com
Fewer Oregonians are hunting and fishing these days, translating into less money to sustain wildlife management and conservation.

Here's a great example, ODFW charges SENIORS $13.75 for license & 25.50 for Combo to age 69, At age 70 w/5 years Oregon resident 58.00 for Combo. Lifetime residents at 65+ are free and today we heard ODFW is considering charging them also in the future. The Lifetime residents at the age of 65 have paid their dues and I hoping this will does not change and remains free.

A couple years ago we sat down and using the Big Game Synopsis, for Bear, Cougar, Deer Elk, Antelope, Big Horn Sheep, Rocky Mt Goats multiplying by number of tags issued, in addition to application fees for controlled hunt multiplied by number of applicants multiplied by the license fees. We were amazed of the

amount of revenues paid to ODFW. Those figures did not include Sportsman Packages, Fishing licenses or tag fees, Raffles or auction hunts, etc.

If ODFW can't sustain wildlife management with annual revenues, need to get the wolves off endangered specials and have a open season on them also. ODFW is managing a animal that could destroy revenues for future years and put them selves out of business if management doesn't change. Where would ODFW be if all hunting and fishing was stopped for 1-2 years. If there is a decrease or total stoppage of hunters and fishing, the predator problems could be resolved and removed off endangered species list, protect your livelood, send your recommendstionds to the USFS , "No additional road closures, barriers, buffer zones, Wildlife Corridors, etc. and bring back logging, they improved conditions of the roads, riparian enhancements & repair.

Thank you

Terri Denton

Lisa Evans

To: Debbie L Colbert
Subject: RE: 2014

From: Gail Waser [mailto:gwaser@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 8:41 AM
To: ODFW.Comments@state.or.us
Subject: 2014

You just don't get it ! I hear you wasting money on radio commercials crying because people aren't buying enough licenses. You have priced non government workers out of the affordability to purchase a license. Every year you raise the FEES it's balongy that you haven't had a fee increase since 2010 the cost of my license has gone up every year. Now we have to pay for commercial and Indian nets with our Co. River endorsement to fish in central Or. How about doubling the big game permit from $4.00 to $8.00 just so we can apply and not get drawn. We no longer can fish and retain a single sturgeon in the lower Columbia but you still let the most wasteful fishery happen- Gillnetting. The average hunter/fisherman is ready to give up the sport they love thanks to your mismanagement and spending.

Teri Kucera

From: CenturyLink Customer <abzwardwell@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 9:02 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us; ODFW Commission
Cc: SEN Prozanski; Ronald Anglin
Subject: license and tags

My son would like me to hunt and fish with him this year here in Oregon. The issue is that you are trying to charge me a $25.00 for not reporting an unsuccessful deer hunt back in 2012. We hunted with no fine in 2013 but in 2014 you want to charge the fine. This policy does not make sense. Reported an unsuccessful hunt in 2013 then a few weeks later someone from your office did have the time to call on a followup.

I have been sending emails to Senator Floyd Prozanski about ODFW and the policies. It appears that ODFW is now short of money because folks are not buying license and tags. It does not mean folks are not hunting or fishing, they are just not buying.

So as the tag application deadline approaches I would like to hunt and fish with my son. I am not going to pay the $25.00. If the fine goes away I will buy my license, tags, and apply for hunts if the fine does not go away I wont. Good luck getting any support from me on anything.

Thank you for your time,

Arnold Wardwell

Lisa Evans

From: Kimberley Priestley <kjp@waterwatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 6:44 PM
To: Odfw commission
Cc: Debbie L Colbert
Subject: ODFW Budget Briefing, Comments
Attachments: ODFW budget letter may 2014 pdf3.pdf

Dear Commission Chair and Members.

Attached please find preliminary comments from WaterWatch of Oregon for consideration in advance of tomorrow's ODFW budget briefing. We look forward to providing more detailed comments in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Priestley

--
Kimberley Priestley
WaterWatch of Oregon
213 SW Ash, Suite 208
Portland, OR 97204
ph: 503-295-4039, x 3
www.waterwatch.org

WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

May 15, 2014

Chair Bobby Levy,
Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
odfw.commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us

Re: 2015-2017 Budget Requests

Dear Chair Levy and members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

WaterWatch is river conservation group devoted to restoring and protecting natural flows in Oregon's rivers. WaterWatch is writing in support of ODFW's budget requests that either directly or indirectly further the state's work to protect water instream for Oregon's fish and wildlife, or otherwise protect aquatic habitat.[1]

While we will provide more detailed comments as the budgeting process moves forward, we wanted to provide some initial thoughts in advance of tomorrow's budget briefing.

First and foremost, we support ODFW's proposed increase in its general fund request. As we understand it; these new funds will be used to support positions that benefit the public at large rather than any one user group. Included in the General Fund request is ODFW's Water Quality/Quantity/Instream flow program. This program is critical to the protection and restoration of Oregon's rivers. This program is also critical to the successful implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, which was adopted in 2013.

Second, with regards to continuation of existing general fund monies, WaterWatch would urge that the Commission consider fund shifts to ensure that these monies are supporting programs that benefit the public at large. We urge the Commission to consider moving programs that are more appropriately funded by recreational and commercial license fees out of the general fund funding category. Related to this, we would urge the Commission to re-evaluate where cuts would fall if ODFW's general fund request is not approved. At the last EBAC meeting, ODFW staff suggested that if the new general funds were not procured, there would be cuts to the fish conservation staff, the habitat and conservation strategy program, the water quality and quantity program and in enforcement. These positions are of critical importance to protecting fish and wildlife values that are meaningful to all Oregonians and should be retained.

Third, as we understand it, ODFW is proposing to reduce assistant district biologist positions to one FTE in regions that currently have two FTE. We would urge the Commission to build into the ODFW budget request full funding of all authorized district biologist and assistant district biologists positions.

Fourth, we support the proposed increase in fees for recreational and commercial fishermen. We encourage the Commission to set these fees in an amount sufficient to pay for all programs that benefit these user groups.

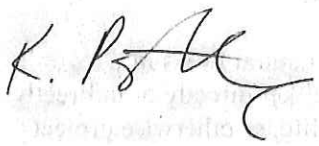
[1] These programs, as described in ODFW's draft program prioritization, include but are not limited to programs #26, #1, # 3, #10, #16, #17, #18, #19, #25, #37, #38, #40, #46 and #48.

Main Office: 213 SW ASH SUITE 208 PORTLAND, OR 97204 TEL: 503-295-4039 FAX: 503-295-2791 Visit us at:
Field Office: 27 NORTH IVY STREET MEDFORD, OR TEL: 541-772-6116 FAX: 541-779-0791
www.waterwatch.org

Fifth, we ask the Commission to place a much higher priority on the Water Quantity and Water Quality Program, which is currently ranked #29 on ODFW's draft program prioritization. It is undisputed that fish need water. This program is absolutely critical to ensuring that the flow requirements of fish and other aquatic species are considered, and protected, in the wide array of water allocation/reallocation/policy decisions that affect Oregon's rivers. This should be a top priority for the agency.

Thank you for consideration of our initial comments on the ODFW proposed budget. We look forward providing more detailed input in the future.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Priestley
Sr. Policy Analyst

Teri Kucera

From: CenturyLink Customer <abzwardwell@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 7:05 PM
To: Thomas Thornton; ODFW Commission
Cc: SEN Prozanski
Subject: Re: license and tags

What you and the rest of ODFW do not get or hear is that I am not going to pay the fine no matter when you assign it. You are a dense group. The fine is not right and borderline illegal. You are fining me for not doing your job. I do not need to read your document again. If you want me to hunt and fish in Oregon get rid of the ridiculous fine.

From: "Thomas Thornton" <thomas.l.thornton@state.or.us>
To: abzwardwell@q.com
Cc: "Don Whittaker" <don.whittaker@state.or.us>, "Eric Rickerson" <eric.v.rickerson@state.or.us>, "Ronald Anglin" <ronald.e.anglin@state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 3:40:19 PM
Subject: RE: license and tags

Arnold:

I understand the confusion caused by assessing the penalty for not reporting on a 2012 tag with the purchase of a 2014 license, rather than when a 2013 license was purchased.

The fee is not assessed for the following year because hunters are able to purchase licenses for the next year beginning December 1 each year. For example, on December 1, 2012, hunters were able to purchase a 2013 license, but the deadline for reporting on a 2012 deer tag was January 31, 2013. Many hunters who purchased 2012 tags purchased their 2013 hunting licenses before the reporting deadlines. For that reason the fee is assessed for the year after all deadlines have passed. In this example some tags from the 2012 drawing were valid until March 31, 2013 and the latest reporting deadline was April 15, 2013 so the fee was assessed with the purchase of the 2014 license.

I have also attached an overview regarding development of the mandatory reporting system.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or comments.

Tom Thornton
Game Program Manager

From: CenturyLink Customer [mailto:abzwardwell@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 9:02 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us; ODFW Commission
Cc: SEN Prozanski; Ronald Anglin
Subject: license and tags

My son would like me to hunt and fish with him this year here in Oregon. The issue is that you are trying to charge me a $25.00 for not reporting an unsuccessful deer hunt back in 2012. We hunted with no fine in 2013

but in 2014 you want to charge the fine. This policy does not make sense. Reported an unsuccessful hunt in 2013 then a few weeks later someone from your office did have the time to call on a followup.

I have been sending emails to Senator Floyd Prozanski about ODFW and the policies. It appears that ODFW is now short of money because folks are not buying license and tags. It does not mean folks are not hunting or fishing, they are just not buying.

So as the tag application deadline approaches I would like to hunt and fish with my son. I am not going to pay the $25.00. If the fine goes away I will buy my license, tags, and apply for hunts if the fine does not go away I wont. Good luck getting any support from me on anything.

Thank you for your time,

Arnold Wardwell

Lisa Evans

From: Lisa Evans
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Lisa Evans
Subject: FW: Fishing and Hunting Licenses

From: Craig Harstad [mailto:harstad@clear.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 1:20 PM
To: ODFW.Comments@state.or.us
Subject: Fishing and Hunting Licenses

PLEASE! No cost hikes for either in the future. No one paid for my retirement and I don't want to pay for anyone else's.

Cancel the extra cost to subsidize the gill netters in the Columbia.

We, the people, are being charged more and more for everything and at some point, something is going to break. We are not made of money, retired, and extra charges for everything is getting ridiculous.

Lynn J Harstad

Lisa Evans

From: Debbie L Colbert
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 12:27 PM
To: Lisa Evans
Subject: FW: Budget Plan

From: ODFW Comments [mailto:odfw.comments@state.or.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Debbie L Colbert
Subject: FW: Budget Plan

From: Paul Brown [mailto:paulbrown150@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:28 AM
To: ODFW.Comments@state.or.us
Subject: Budget Plan

To all the sportsmen and governing agencies,
I think it is time to reconsider the impact of investing our sport dollars in the general fund. It takes the dollars out of our hands as sportsmen to improve the sport the way we need it done. You have to claim fines and fees to better fishing and hunting. We can not trust government of our sport to monies from the general fund. I would like a serious discussion about this subject.

We have a good fish and game department and we are letting people with no experience or science put input into our sports. We can not fight government and at some point we need to govern fish and game with our own money.

Paul Brown
An advocate for fish and wildlife

Lisa Evans

From: Jim <JLBox@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 9:14 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: comment for the Commission

My name is James Box, and I am a resident of Dallas, Oregon.

I was planning to take my family fishing for a couple of days next week, but when I found it would cost nearly $200 just to purchase our four licenses and tags, we decided to do something else. That is far too expensive. Catch limits and other fishing restrictions are also way out of line and the fishing rules are far too complicated. My family will NOT be purchasing fishing licenses in Oregon this year. Say good-bye to that revenue.

I'd add that hunting has become so bad in the area I have traditionally hunted (Stott Mountain area) and the expense of my hunting license and tags is so high that it is very likely that I will decline to purchase an Oregon hunting license this year... that's more lost revenue for you.

Simply put, too many restrictions and the high cost of licenses and tags has put hunting and fishing out of my reach and it has reduced your revenue. That is a big bummer for all of us.

If you improve hunting in my area I will purchase the required licenses and tags. If fishing was cheaper, less complicated, and if it had reasonable catch limits we'd all go fishing.... or you can leave things all screwed up and my family will just do something else and you can continue to watch your revenues decline.

Thank you for your time.

James Box

18 May, 2014

To: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)

Subject: Testimony ODFW 2015-17 Budget

To begin, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Larry Mills. I reside at 1406 N Winchell, Portland, OR.

After reading Bill Monroe's article of May 11th, and letting my emotions settle a bit, I decided it was time to respond. In casual conversations with fellow sportsmen, frustration with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is palpable.

Issues with the organization are many with serious, systemic implications. Current discussions on fee increases are only part of the problem. Thank God, Bill Monroe is still reporting, and something resembling the Oregonian is still around, or most people would know little of these budgetary considerations, So, transparency is a problem.

My understanding, in talking to sporting good retailers, confirms the trend of steadily declining license sales. That's understandable, considering the shrinking resources, myriad volumes of regulation and totally unpredictable seasons. To highlight examples, two proposals appear very counter-productive.

First, let's talk about pioneer licenses. I always thought it was great PR to reward lifelong residents with a pioneers license at no fee. After all, most of these people have supported the ODFW system their entire lives. Time to give these individuals a break. One of your proposals creates a fee for pioneers. As reported, it is only a small amount. That's not the point. It's the principle. By the way, I'm 66 years old. If you do, what I think you will do, I will have exercised that privilege once.

Next, what about juveniles? They are our future. If indeed, young people are being encouraged to participate in outdoor activities, it seems counter-intuitive to fee them.

Therein lies the problem. These are just two examples. It is the organizational mindset that bothers me. Wherever ODFW can find a possible financial resource, it goes after it - nothing is sacred.

Here's my last question. How did ODFW get 32 Million dollars in the hole? Why, as your customers, are we again being blindsided by this agency's policies? Where is the transparency and accountability? Maybe we need another watchdog group; something like 'Citizens for Responsible Resource Management'. Just a thought.

Obviously, this can't go on 'ad infinitum'. You cannot fee ODFW out of the problem. A good friend told me one time, you cannot forever raise fees because there comes a point of diminishing returns. There's a a lot of anger out there. Hopefully, as decision makers, you realize this.

Sincerely,

Larry Mills

Jason Bader

From: Jim <elkguy@colton.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 7:38 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Public input

I have several items to discuss that I hope can be considered for the next public meeting. This letter is also being sent to the Governor's Office for consideration:

First of all I went to the ODFW home page and could not find any info on an upcoming public meeting. This is unsatisfactory. These meetings need to be published widely and people encouraged to attend, let alone hiding the info on the homepage. The general consensus with people that I hunt and fish with is that ODFW would rather make their decisions on their own without public interference and the meetings are just an unfortunate requirement.

Second: There is a proposal to increase the cost of licenses/tags because of a shortfall in hunter tag purchases. Where do you get your marketing advice? My degree is in marketing and I know a little about the subject. You have increased prices until many people just quit hunting and fishing. It was the higher prices that led to the lower revenues and now you are trying to continue that downward spiral. There are so many ODFW employees that it looks like a colony of digger squirrels running back and forth between buildings at the ODFW offices when I go there. Have you ever thought of reducing expenses to meet budget goals? The regulations are so large and complex that it takes a lawyer to wade through them because every employee (biologist/assistant biologist/etc) has to publish something to justify their position.Every decision that ODFW makes concerning game management is based on how much income it can produce. You increase the number of draw units and keep shrinking the general season units because it results in more income from draw applicants. To apply for a deer, elk, or antelope draw unit it costs $24 and that doesn't give a hunter any benefit at all, just the privilege of spending more money on a tag if you are lucky enough to draw one. And you wonder why less and less people buy tags or licenses every year?

Is it not obvious that your revenues have dropped considerably (and consistently) since you entered into a policy of native species promotion to the detriment of all fishing in Oregon. Please provide me with the name of the individual who came up with the idea. It is not supported by the vast majority of fishermen in Oregon, only by a relative few in special interest groups, mainly fly fishermen. I intend to make sure all Oregon fishermen know about the policies including killing off all Eastern Brook trout in the high lakes because they were not native to Oregon. I suggest you promote a survey to all fishermen to be given out when they buy a license asking just one simple question: Would you prefer to catch and eat a salmon, steelhead, or trout or catch and release those same fish? You would find that the answer would be 90%+ in favor of catch and eat. Years ago when ODFW promoted more fish in the rivers rather than less fish and assisted individuals in bringing hatchery steelhead and salmon to the smaller streams, there were many more fish in the rivers. Many of the rivers and creeks are nearly sterile for lack of fish since ODFW started managing with native species domination. The Molalla river for just one example, has had terrible fish production over the last 10 years. You did away with two excellent runs of hatchery steelhead to promote a possible small increase in native steelhead which have to be released. You need to find the people responsible for this native species promotion and fire them all immediately. That policy change alone would reduce payroll expenses and encourage many more people to buy fishing licenses.

Thirdly; ODFW continues to mismanage all wildlife in Oregon. Case in point: antelope. I hunt anytime I want in Wyoming as a nonresident and can harvest 3-5 antelope every single year if I choose. Eastern Oregon has very similar terrain, forage, weather as much of Wyoming yet we have to wait an average of 10 years to get a single tag for one antelope!!! I might mention that in all of the time I have spent hunting antelope in Wyoming I have yet to see a coyote or wolf. Coyotes are rampant in Eastern Oregon.

I hope that this letter will be carefully considered. I intend to make as many Oregon hunters and fishermen aware of the problems brought on by personal policies of ODFW staff rather than managing our resources based on what the general public wants. I wouldn't have any problems paying more money for a tag if we got something for our money. It is always the same old thing you want more money so you can hire more people that do nothing to improve wildlife resources in Oregon. Thank you, Jim Heitmanek

cc: Governors Office, State of Oregon


This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Lisa Evans

To: Lisa Evans
Subject: RE: ODFW Budget Meetings.....NO MEETINGS IN SALEM OR PORTLAND ! HOW MUCH INPUT DO THEY REALLY WANT ?

From: "County, CCA" <info@ccapnw.org>
To: "buckno, r" <r.buckno@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 11:37:58 AM
Subject: ODFW Budget Meetings

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is convening town hall meetings across the state to receive comment on the agency's proposed budget request for the next two years. The first town hall will be convened this Monday, May 19 from 7:00-8:30 at the Monarch Hotel (www.Monarchhotel.cc) in Clackamas. Recreational anglers and hunters already provide $103.8 million in license fee revenue to ODFW and are being asked to shoulder an 11% increase in license fees. Some licenses would see even higher fee increases under the budget request, including a 32% increase in the combined angling license. Recreational anglers and hunters also provide tens of millions more to ODFW through federal excise taxes collected on fishing and hunting equipment. The revenue figures do not include the new Columbia River stamp that is being charged this year to generate additional funds for the Columbia River reforms.

Attached you will find the comment letter CCA Oregon sent in advance of the meetings. We urge you to attend these meetings to underscore the important contributions recreational angling makes to Oregon's economy and ODFW's budget. All too often, we've seen actions taken by ODFW that actually harm recreational fishing opportunity, including the overly large and punitive Youngs Bay Exclusion Zone adopted by the ODFW Commission this spring. CCA Oregon believes that ODFW must outline a plan to increase recreation fishing opportunity so it can sell more fishing licenses, not just charge more for the same or dwindling opportunity.

Recreational anglers are generally willing to pay more, if it results in increased recreational fishing opportunities, not the status quo. CCA Oregon has offered a number of recommendations, which we urge you to consider commenting on at the Town Hall meetings:

- **Given their important economic and fiscal contributions, we should be looking to prioritize recreational fisheries, including through fully implementing the Columbia River fishery reform plan.**
- **We must take action to maintain and enhance hatchery production in the face of existing and emerging threats. ODFW should outline a plan for accomplishing this across the state.**
- **Oregon must take action to address the impact predation is having on our fisheries. Instead of promoting studies, we should implement concrete actions to**

reduce avian and marine mammal predation.

As ODFW considers asking anglers to pay more, the agency should also consider what it can do to improve the perception of the recreational fishing community towards ODFW:

- **Scale back the Youngs Bay Exclusion Zone area and remove the barbless hook requirement where it does not result in reductions in mortality, including in the Willamette River.**
- **Partner with the sportfishing community to develop fishery enhancements benefitting our fisheries. Funds from the new Columbia River stamp provide a perfect opportunity.**
- **Do more to communicate the importance of recreational fishing to Oregon's economy and ODFW's budget.**

CCA Oregon appreciates its partnership with ODFW, but also believes we must increase recreational fishing opportunity and the economic, social, and conservation benefits it provides.
We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to share your thoughts with the agency before its budget request is presented to the Legislature next year.

The full list of town hall meetings is below:

Monday, May 19th in Clackamas at the Monarch Hotel from 7 to 8:30 pm

Tuesday, May 20th in La Grande at the Blue Mountain Conference Center from 7 to 8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 21st in Bend at the Central Oregon Community College, Boyle Education Building , Rm 155 from 7 to 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 22nd in Newport at the Hallmark Inn from 7 to 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 22nd in Tillamook at the Oregon Department of Forestry from 7 to 8:30 pm

Tuesday, May 22nd in Coos Bay/North Bend at the North Bend Public Library from 7 to 8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 28th in Roseburg at the ODFW Office from 7 to 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 29th in Klamath Falls at Oregon Institute of Technology, College Union Bldg., Mt. Bailey Room from 7 to 8:30 pm

CCA has been involved in the budget process and will continue to be through the legislative process. We urge you to comment in person and comment to ODFW. If you cannot attend one of the above meetings, please comment by e-mail here : *odfw.info@state.or.us*

To unsubscribe from this mailing list click here.

Lisa Evans

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 12:17 PM
To: Teri Kucera; Lisa Evans
Subject: FW: budget meetings

-----Original Message-----
From: Allen Stutheit [mailto:27olds@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 11:55 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: budget meetings

Why is there not a meeting in Eugene?

Lisa Evans

From:	Teri Kucera
Sent:	Monday, May 19, 2014 1:20 PM
To:	'27olds@comcast.net'
Cc:	Lisa Evans
Subject:	FW: budget meetings

Dear Mr. Stutheit:

Your email was forwarded to me for response.

The State Fish and Wildlife Commission has a two-day meeting scheduled June 5-6, 2014 at our Salem Headquarters building. On Thursday, June 5th, the last exhibit on their agenda will be an "informational presentation" by our Deputy Director on the Department's 2015-2017 Proposed Agency Budget. The public is welcome to attend and voice their comments. Or, you can send your comments to the Commission Inbox at: odfw.commission@state.or.us. Your written comments will be included in the Commission's packet.

Then at the Commission's August 1, 2014 meeting also here at Salem Headquarters, the Commission will be asked to "approve" the Department's 2015-2017 Proposed Agency Budget. Again, you may come and testify before the Commission and/or send written comments to the Commission Inbox.

Sincerely,
Teri Kucera
Executive Assistant to Roy Elicker
Director's Office
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
Phone: (503) 947-6033
Fax: (503) 947-6042
Teri.Kucera@state.or.us

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Subject: budget meetings

Why is there not a meeting in Eugene?

CCA

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
OREGON

Testimony to Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
May 19th Town Hall Meeting
Clackamas, Oregon

Director Elicker,

For the record my name is Dana Roberts, I live in Salem Oregon and I have represented the Coastal Conservation Association of Oregon (CCA Oregon) on your External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC).

I would like to thank the Department for the open process you have adopted in developing your 15/17 Biennium Agency Request Budget. You have utilized the EBAC as a sounding board for your ideas and now are giving the general public the opportunity to understand your proposals through the scheduled Town Hall meetings. This will give you the opportunity to receive our feedback and provide you with more information to develop a better Agency Request Budget. Ultimately, CCA Oregon believes that the Department must take actions to increase recreational fishing opportunity and license sales, not merely increase license fees. We also suggest that the agency do a better job promoting expanded recreational fishing opportunity and the value of recreational fishing to the agency.

CCA Oregon has submitted a letter outlining some general concerns, recommendations and questions related to the budget request. I want to underscore the importance of improving how the Columbia River reform plan is being implemented:

- There is a perception that Columbia River reforms are being paid by sport anglers through the Columbia River endorsement fee and all the benefits are going to the commercial sector. Further, perceived punitive actions have been adopted by the Department affecting sport anglers such as the overly large Young's Bay Control Zone, the extending of the barbless hook requirement to the Willamette River and only minor mortality rate reductions for the adoption of the barbless hook requirement on the Columbia. The actions and budget outlined in the current agency request proposal does little to change this perception.
- We would encourage the Department in finalizing the Policy Option Package to continue the Columbia River reforms to include specific enhancement projects for sport fisheries and to make these enhancements known to sport anglers. Our members have ideas for potential enhances that would go a long ways towards improving perceptions.

As CCA's representative on the EBAC I would also like to offer the following comments, observations and concerns:

- The simplification of youth licenses is a positive step towards encouraging the next generation of sport anglers and hunters to start enjoying Oregon's fishing and hunting opportunities. As mentioned in the EBAC process if this simplification is coupled with a financial break for low income families (1/4 of Oregon's families are on food stamps) you might help turn around the declines in sport angler participation and license sales.
- Your initial proposed fee increases hurt resident sport anglers more than non-resident sport anglers (15% increase for residents and 10% for non-residents). Annual license holders also are proposed to have a 32% fee increase in the adult combined angling tag. These are significant increases.
- The Department has 3 Policy Option packages that should be looked as part of a single plan to address maintaining and enhancing our salmon fisheries. They are: Fish Research, Monitoring and Evaluation for $2.4 million utilizing Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration funds; Coastal & Lower Columbia Salmoind Status and Trend monitoring for $3.4 million utilizing Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds and $2.0 million in combined Lottery / General Funds to fully implement the Coastal Multi-species Plan. When combined, these policy packages total $7.8 million and should be coordinated to achieve the best use and effectiveness of these funds towards maintaining and enhancing our fisheries. We would be pleased to work with you on specific actions to coordinate the use of these funds.

Recreational fisheries -- particularly catch and keep fisheries -- are responsible for a significant portion of the Department's overall budget. We encourage you to think about additional actions to prioritize and enhance recreational fisheries as part of your budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and we stand ready to continue assisting the Department in finalizing your 15/17 Biennium Agency Request.

Kind Regards,

Dana Roberts

Dana Roberts

Teri Kucera

From: Blaine Ackley <blaineackley@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 10:16 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Budget
Attachments: ODFW budget.doc

Director Elicker and Members of the Commission:
Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the budget last night in Clackamas.

You are doing a lot of what I advocate in my attachment. However, with such high license fees already, did you know that New York is reducing and simplifying their license fees?

I did not understand what formula you used to calculate the loss of participation with the higher fees and the reduction in the budget but the increase in enforcement that would be required with more poachers possibly appearing. Can you elaborate about your calculations in this regard?

Finally, if you are going to increase the fees on recreational anglers, why not show them a little love and open up the Young's Bay Control Zone? And OK the use of barbed hooks in the Willamette?

Thanks again,
:)Blaine Ackley

Blaine C. Ackley

655 NW 229th Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-693-0610

May 19, 2014

Director Ellicker, Chair Levy and Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

My wife and I have purchased resident yearly fishing licenses with salmon tags (plus the new Columbia River enhancement fee) and shellfish licenses for the past 5 years.
I am here today to respond to an ODFW proposal to increase license fees and cut programs in response to a budget shortfall. I would like to raise some questions about the whole premise of these fee increases and program cuts.

In a 2011 study for the Minnesota Department of Human Resources, Dr. Tony Fedler and Responsive Management consultants found that :

> "Substantial or particularly sudden fee increases will result in larger protest or dropout rates; modest or incremental increases will yield smaller declines in overall licenses sold/participation rates. The evidence suggests that agencies should expect a 2- to 5-year sales decline before sales may be expected to rebound to pre-increase levels. As a general rule, the higher the fee increase, the longer it is likely to take for license sales to rebound to pre-increase levels. (p.6)"

In 2010, Oregon had the third highest resident fishing license fees and the 8th highest resident hunting fees in the country. At the same time, Oregon has experienced a decline in license sales between 1990 and 2008 of between 11% (fishing) and 19% (hunting). When faced with a similar dilemma, the state of New York in February chose to DECREASE the cost and consolidate licenses and fees in order to increase participation.
If you are so determined to increase the cost of licenses and fees, here are some questions I believe the ODFW staff and Commission have to ask first:

1) Will the increase in fees be enough to offset the decrease in the actual number of participants and the concomitant loss of federal aid funds?
2) Will the decrease in participants be temporary or permanent?
3) What kind of effect will this reduction in participants have on future agency funding?
4) Can the ODFW budget cycle wait for the 2 to 5 years it my take for the fee increase to

Blaine C. Ackley
655 NW 229th Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-693-0610

equalize with the decrease in participation?

5) What effect will increased license fees have on poaching and illegal hunting and fishing? Will the budget allow for increased enforcement as a consequence of increased poaching pressure?

6) Have you considered hiring a consultant to study of the budget options that are available to ODFW (like Minnesota did) before a fee increase is enacted?

7) What increased opportunities or resource enhancement will the fee increase provide for hunters and anglers?

8) Why not consider funding non-game wildlife enhancement from the general fund since it benefits all the citizens of the state?

9) Will there be license fee increases for commercial fishing and hunting interests including guides and charters so everyone shares equally any increases in license fees?

10) Why not consider market incentives to increase participation and license sales? For example, if a license holder sponsored someone new to fishing or hunting, they would receive a reduction in license fees in the following year? Or ODFW could provide businesses and guides with incentives to sign up new licensees?

In conclusion, I think it would benefit ODFW to use the expertise within the agency and outside consultants to come back to the public and the legislature with some options that respond to the questions that surround the proposed fee increases and program cuts. Surely full-time staff and consultants can come up with something better than to simply raise the fees and cut programs. Anyone can do that. In Oregon, we have come to expect more from our Department of Fish and Wildlife. Why not follow the example of New York and decrease license types and fees in order to increase participation? Or the example of Minnesota and study the whole range of options first before deciding on one course of action?

Sincerely yours,

69217 Tapidero
Sisters, OR 97759

ODFW Director's Office
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE
Salem, OR 97302

SUBJECT: ODFW 2015-2017 Budget Comments

I know that brevity is valuable in making program and budget comments. My most important point is that Oregon's economy, world image and fish-wildlife resources depend on ODFW. My comments follow:

- Don't just try to recover from the current shortfall – significantly increase most of ODFW's programs
- **Increase** and do not reduce regional, district or research positions – administrative and hatchery cuts may be necessary
- **Increase** all fishing, hunting and viewing fees (commercial and recreational) sufficient to pay for significant increases in all programs that benefit fish and wildlife
- **Fund** ODFW's water quantity & quality, fish, wildlife, wetland, riparian, research, habitat protection and restoration programs at **significantly higher levels** than in the past
- Recommend to the legislature
  1. General taxpayer revenues to help pay for activities that benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife resources
  2. The authority for ODFW to set water quality, eutrophication, sediment delivery and bedload regulations, including discharge limits, necessary for wild-native salmonid recovery and protection – based on recent court decisions this is an area where ODEQ needs assistance
  3. The authority for ODFW to set Oregon and federal timber harvest and logging constraints, including discharge/runoff, no disturbance and location limits that are necessary for wild-native salmonid recovery and protection – based on recent court decisions and real-world problems it's obvious that this is an area where it's important for ODFW to have such authority
  4. The authority for ODFW to set Oregon land use and development constraints that benefit fish and wildlife – DLCD and most local governments often minimize the importance of such resources
  5. The revision of Oregon water law to provide adequate instream water for fish based on ODFW's flow studies

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to comment.

H. Tom Davis, PE
Hydrologist and Water Resources Engineer



Renews 01/01/2016

Lisa Evans

From:	thomas <tmilowolf@msn.com>
Sent:	Wednesday, May 21, 2014 3:36 PM
To:	ODFW.Comments@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us; Roy ELICKER; Debbie Colbert; Ed Bowles; Curt Melcher; Bruce McIntosh
Subject:	Trout Unlimited on proposed ODFW
Attachments:	OCTU comments on ODFW 2015-2017 budget.docx

Chair Levy, Commissioners, Director Elicker, ODFW staff-

Here are Trout Unlimited's comments on proposed ODFW 2015-17 budget.

Tom Wolf, Executive Director
Oregon Council trout Unlimited

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

May 16, 2014-

Director Elicker, ODFW Commissioners, ODFW staff-

The proposed 2105-2017 ODFW budget is a very important process, with the discussion of increase in license fees, funding diversification and the possible cutting of key ODFW staff and programs. Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest coldwater conservation group, with 150,000 members nationwide and 3000 here in Oregon, offers the following comments which we hope will be found thoughtful and useful during this current budget discussion.

First we would like to address the license fee increases and proposed additions, with a few suggestions of our own.

1. Trout Unlimited is fine with the various proposed increases. Even though these increases might seem steep to many people, up to 40% 0ver 6 years, it still is a bargain for most people as compared to most types of recreation. For the cost of buying your fishing licenses and tags for a year, it is still much cheaper than recreational fees for other outdoor activities such as golfing, skiing, boating, etc.
2. The new lines fee concepts such as the Ocean endorsement, multi-year licenses, pioneer fee and Non-resident combined angling tags are also fine with Trout Unlimited. We see this as more opportunities to get money for ODFW without costing too much.
3. We like that ODFW is proposing to lower the cost of a Non-resident fishing license. As studies show, bring non-resident anglers into rural Oregon communities to fish provides economic stimulus for the local economy. In Eastern Oregon, where many great Oregon waters are closer to the Metropolitan areas of Idaho, this could encourage many Idaho residents to visit great fishing areas in Oregon and provide money for local economy. It is important that people be encouraged, by lowering non-resident license fees, to fish in our state so that more money for rural communities be spent in these areas.
4. TU likes that license fee increases will be raised very 2 years instead of a big increase at the beginning or the 6 year cycle. This seems a more equitable system and will not scare people off from buying a fishing or hunting license because of "sticker" shock.

We have a few suggestions for the license end of this that TU would like to propose.

A.ODFW should look at creating a wild fish tag that could be used on specific waters, with the money going towards wild fish research and monitoring in these specific wild native fish waters. The money raised from these tags need to be earmarked just for wild fish conservation.
B. Money, as being proposed, from all license fees should target specific sportsmen's needs. For example, hatcheries should just be funded from license fee monies and not from General Fund, unless there is a specific license fee that would fund conservation, as the proposed wild fish tag would. General fund should not be used for hatcheries but for specific conservation goals that would provide true conservation values for all Oregonians.
C. ODFW should explore a special license fee for people who are living unemployed and in dire economic straits but need to feed their families with fish and game. They would need to provide some sort of proof to acquire this sort of license but it is an idea ODFW should explore.
D. ODFW should look, by diversification of funding, good economic management and other means, at breaking from the current 6 year cycle of raising license fees so trust can be rebuild in the public for ODFW. I know that might be impossible to avoid a 6 year license fee increase but ODFW should at least explore breaking this cycle..

Use of General Fund monies.

1. As stated before General Fund money, both current and future, should be used for conservation purposes. Whether this is for the ODFW Conservation strategy or monitoring and protecting native fish species, General fund money should benefit the majority of Oregonians.
2. ODFW should work in partnership with other Oregon Natural Resource agencies, who will also be looking at more General fund money for future budgets. The amount of tax money spent on Oregon Natural Resources is abysmal and needs to be increased. I know that natural resources is far behind in legislators minds to education and health care but if we truly want to protect our key natural sources to be enjoyed by future Oregonians, then we need to change our current funding scheme. And agencies such as ODF, ODFW, DEQ, WRF and ODA need to work together and not see their agency's budget as the sole one in need. Infighting will keep all Oregon natural resource agencies from being properly funded.
3. IF ODFW wants to pursue their proposed General Fund increase, they need to avail themselves of the lobbying efforts/personal of the various stakeholder groups that compose EBAC. Only with this broad general support, will a General fund increase be obtained.

Other Funds-

1. Wild Bird seed tax- ODFW work hard with it's partners to push hard to make this happen in the 2015 session. I think, with Rep. Bentz's help, the bill's passage are good but this needs to be a high priority.
2. State Forest pass- A state forest pass, much like the National Forest pass currently being used, has a potential to provide funding for ODF and ODFW. Both agencies need to explore this option.
3. Wildlife stamp- This needs to be better marketed so that the public will be more aware of this but this could raise significant amounts of revenue if done correctly.

4. Partnerships with stores and other outside interests- this source of revenue needs to be explored more and could contribute more funds to ODFW. But some things need to be better marketed. For example the partnership with the winery Duck Pond, is a good idea nobody knows about. This type of product marketing where a percentage goes to ODFW can be used with other products –and should be. ODFW should be exploring all possible retail funding opportunities.
5. Other ways to get funding from wildlife viewing users- ODFW should be looking at other ways to get funds for the Conservation Strategy from bird and wildlife viewers-the largest user group ODFW has. Whether it is charging more money at ODFW wildlife areas, partnering with binocular and scope industry, looking at some sort of wildlife viewing tag/license, ODFW should be exploring all options
6. ODFW should have a brainstorming session with a select group of creative people outside the agency to explore funding opportunities. Then it should take the ideas generated and push hard to get legislative approval for the good ideas, working in partnership with the various stakeholder groups.

Cost cutting within the ODFW-

1. Hatcheries- ODFW should look at consolidating hatcheries, closing down ones which are economically unfeasible and consolidating their staff and programs in another hatchery, as they did with Fall River and Wizard Falls. They should also look to not replace hatchery personnel positions but rather look at consolidating duties.
2. Stocking programs should be looked at closely and programs that aren't needed should be cut ODFW should do a cost analysis of these programs to evaluate them. If a specific stocking program costs too much per fish or doesn't provide good fishing benefits or is not needed, this program should be eliminated. ODFW should be very much cost focused in evaluating its hatchery programs.
3. ODFW should tie hatchery programs unto fishing license sales, where state money is needed, to fund hatcheries. General fund money should not be used for hatchery programs.
4. Conservation programs should be given a high priority, especially on the ground personnel such as District Biologists and assistant district biologists. We don't believe that any of the assistant district biologists proposed for cuts should be cut.

Budget priorities-

Obviously Trout Unlimited wants all conservation programs given a high priority, whether they be on the ground staff, monitoring staff, research staff or any program which would benefit wild native fish. Looking at the Program Prioritization list just released by ODFW staff, we think the most important programs to be saved and given priority are as follows.

1. Fish Management #1
2. Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division #4
3. Fishery Research and Monitoring Program #10
4. Oregon Hatchery Research Center #11

5. Fish Screens and Passage #16
6. Oregon Conservation Strategy #17
7. Water Quality/Quantity/Instream flow program #29
8. Salmon and Trout Enhancement program #32
9. Columbia River Investigations #34
10. Hydro Program #40

Trout Unlimited feels that all these programs are important for conservation of native wild fish, both game and non-game. This is a the most important part of ODFW's mission and making sure that the fore mentioned programs are fully funded will help in protecting and restoring Oregon's native wild fish and their habitat, a major concern of Trout Unlimited.

Comments and Concerns- Trout Unlimited has some thoughts about ODFW's budget requests for 2015-2017 and where we feel ODFW should be putting their time and efforts. This reflects TU's mission as a coldwater conservation group of volunteer members fighting to protect and restore native wild fish and their habitat.

These comments are not meant as a criticism of individual ODFW staff. TU feels that ODFW staff are dedicated professionals and many of them have worked closely with Trout Unlimited volunteers and staff on important conservation issues.

Still, it is important that Trout Unlimited share it's concerns and thoughts about ODFW budget and future, as this will help in ODFW's conservation mission.

1. EBAC process- This was the best ODFW EBAC process I have ever been involved with. I personally had, and am continuing to have, chances to talk with ODFW staff about TU's budget concerns and our vision for the agency. The EBAC sessions TU was involved with allowed us to share some of our thoughts.

   Still we feel that in the future there can be improvements made. If there is more discussion broken out into smaller groups, that would help overall process. Having discussions with 40-50 people in the room did not lend itself to good thought sharing. If likeminded groups, with appropriate ODFW staff present, could be broken into appropriate focus groups composed of separate interests such as wild fish groups, wildlife conservation groups, hunting groups, commercial fishing groups, recreational fishing groups, etc, this could help. These separate groups, with only 6-10 people in each group or room could be able to generate more creative thoughts. I know ODFW did a little of this but I feel that if this procedure was followed for all 4 EBAC meetings, better discussions would have ensued.
2. Hatcheries- I have already mentioned this but ODFW needs to look seriously and closing old decrepit hatcheries and consolidate their operations with

another hatchery. Hatchery positions, should be looked at seriously about being replaced when someone retires.

The concept developed by Bill Bakke of Native Fish Society, looking at the cost of hatchery fish and the cost of wild fish in specific basins, needs to be followed. I know this is labor intensive but if this program was followed, overly expensive hatchery programs could be revealed and cut, in favor of wild fish production.

One of Trout Unlimited's missions is to restore salmon and steelhead wild numbers so that they can be harvested. If it is revealed, through careful investigation, that a hatchery program is way too costly and wild fish populations in a basin can be grown and harvested at a lesser cost, than TU believes that individual hatchery program should be cut.

Trout Unlimited believes that hatcheries have importance and certainly we are not opposed to Oregon citizens harvesting fish for their families. But we believe that in several watersheds, wild fish can be harvested and hatchery programs ended. This will save ODFW money into a time when costs for the agency are high. We believe this study of the cost of a hatchery program in specific basins, along with the costs of wild fish in that same basin, could save ODFW money. And therefore it is time well worth using.

3. General Fund use- Trout Unlimited believes that all general fund money for ODFW should be spent on conservation programs. This means not only the General Fund money ODFW is proposing to ask for but also the General Fund money they currently receive. No hatchery program should be funded with General Fund money. In particular, General fund money should be directed at funding the ODFW Conservation Strategy.
4. Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division- Trout Unlimited appreciates all the effort put in by the ODF Fish and Wildlife division officers. They are dedicated individuals and TU feels fish and wildlife enforcement is very important.

   Having said that, TU feels that having fish and game enforcement under OSP is terribly inefficient and takes away time from the officers duties in fish and wildlife enforcement because they must also act as state troopers.

   Trout Unlimited proposes that ODFW create a game warden program as most states have which will allow the officers to dedicate their whole efforts to fish and game enforcement. We believe this will be more efficient and be less costly for the agency.

   If this is too much to accomplish, then at the very least, the OSP Fish and Wildlife division program needs to be decoupled in some way from the rest of the Oregon State Police so that the officers can devote all their time to fish and wildlife enforcement. This wouldn't be a perfect solution but it could at least be more efficient and save money.
5. Water quantity and instream flow programs- I mentioned these already but just want to reiterate the importance of funding this program. Having

sufficient instream flow is of critical importance and TU believes that this program should be fully funded and even more staff should be added.

6. Other fees idea development- This was mentioned earlier but I think ODFW should organize a focus group that brings in creative minds to develop new funding fees or ideas for ODFW. Once this is done, these ideas need to be focused on, developed and taken forward. ODFW future of getting more General Fund money is uncertain and new fee and money sources need to be developed.
7. Working with hunting and fishing groups to bring in more people who would buy licenses- Many groups are doing great work at recruiting new people into the sport of hunting and fishing. Even though TU is a conservation group, we are composed of hunter/anglers and it is vital to our mission to bring people into our sport.
   ODFW should bring all these groups together and work out a combined strategy, working together, that would increase the number of hunters and anglers in our state, thus bringing more funds into ODFW's coffers.

In closing, Trout Unlimited has, even though we have disagreed with ODFW policy at times, always tried to be a good partner with the agency in working together for the future of native wild fish species in our state and helping protecting the sport of fishing also. During the 2015, TU will work hard to help ODFW get more General Fund money and get license fee increases. But it is also important to us that we share our concerns about conservation staffing, programs and funding. It is not meant of criticism but as ways that can improve the conservation mission of ODFW.

I hope within the next year ODFW and Trout Unlimited can continue to work together to develop a budget that will reduce costs, bring in more General Fund and help the agency be strong to provide for all Oregonians who hunt, fish and view wildlife.

That is Trout Unlimited's hope for the future-a strongly funded ODFW working on programs which ensure the future of native wild fish in Oregon and make sure that future Oregonians can have the joy of angling for those beautiful wild fish species.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf
Executive Director
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

NFS BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ODFW EBAC PROCESS

- Implement a fishing license fee increase for both recreational and commercial fishers sufficient to pay the cost of all programs that directly benefit those industries.
- Implement the Revenue Distribution Formula proposed by the Native Fish Society in order to allocate general fund and Lottery dollars to programs that do not receive revenue from license sales.
- Fund all existing field staff positions and fill all vacancies at field offices.
- Fund all currently authorized positions in the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division.
- Provide sufficient funding to the Oregon Hatchery Research Center for critically important research projects.
- Fund all current positions in the Water Quality/Quantity/Instream flow program.
- Asses all of the costs of the fish propagation program---ecological as well as financial---and use that information to develop a legitimate benefit/cost analysis of Oregon's fish hatchery programs.
- Suspend the implementation of the 25 Year Recreational Fishing Plan and reprogram that funding to higher priority programs.
- When implementing additional program cuts, use the department's Program Prioritization list and eliminate entire programs rather than making across the board budget cuts.

3.24.14
The Native Fish Society

Lisa Evans

To: Michelle Dennehy
Subject: RE: Comments on Lagrande budget meeting 5/20/2014

From: CenturyLink Customer [mailto:kash@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 8:48 AM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: Comments on Lagrande budget meeting 5/20/2014

More Predator control vital to help fish and wildlife flourish.

Use research that has been paid for like the Antelope predator study in S.E. Oregon, or the Pheasant study done in western Oregon, or the Starkey study done on elk. You did the work need to put out the results and implant what was found to correct the problems. Or quit doing the research.

Have done a lot of fish habitat work here in North East now it is time to let some of the hatchery fish up the cr. to spawn would make more wild fish.

Quit micro managing every stream and lake with regulations. You would save on printing cost and the fishing public could make heads or tails out of the booklet.
This goes for hunting too. Too many special hunts run same type hunt at the same time (cow hunts same time as bull hunts second season) would stop the need for as much law enforcement for so long.

Be careful if you place funding into the general fund (OSP game division) could be cut first when funds are short.

Every thing in the regs is don't do that. catch and release, fly fishing only, don't fish in streams, don't use bait , pay more for access (fishing in Columbia river and it's tributaries)

Steve Hutchinson kash@q.com

Jason Bader

From: Don Slaybaugh <donslaybaugh@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 3:05 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: License fee increases

Greetings, I cannot attend the upcoming budget meeting but believe I must express my outrage over the recreational license fee increases these last few years. This is especially maddening considering the reduced fishing opportunities such as (Youngs Bay fiasco) and the barbless hook requirement. These increases including the Columbia enhancement fee to help the Commercial fishermen is outrageous.

How about living within your budget like I do? These increases you say are necessary because there are fewer hunters and fishermen, well, duh, wonder why. I quit buying elk tags when the populations were reduced to about zero in some areas due to predation. So, the salmon are going the same way with some help on the Columbia but A fat zero on the Willamette due to the sealions there.

So, so I would vote for a increase maybe when the fish& game prospects get better, not worse. In general, you guys have been doing a stinko job for the $ you are already getting.

Sincerely

Don Slaybaugh
9400 SW 130th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97008

Sent from Don Slaybaugh's iPad