

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2015-17 Proposed Shifts to General Fund
From Recreational License Funds and Commercial Fish Funds**

Provide Funding to Support Field Staff (\$4.6 million General Fund)

- **Participate in Regional Solutions Teams**
- **Fulfill statutory obligations for fill and removal permits, water rights, energy development, land use planning, water quality, forest and rangeland management, tribal coordination**

Partial General Fund support for each of our nine watershed managers to engage with their respective Regional Solution teams. These positions are currently funded exclusively with fishing and hunting dollars.

General Fund support for portions of 74 fish and wildlife field positions (53 wildlife; 21 fish) to reflect the amount of staff resources directed at projects and tasks with broad public benefits and activities necessary to meet statutory obligations. These staff review and provide comments on numerous activities such as removal fill permits, water right applications (e.g., fish passage/screening, water storage, water use permits), and land use impacts on fish and wildlife populations and habitat (e.g. energy siting, mining, destination resorts). These staff work with watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, landowners, and other partners to provide data, technical assistance, and support for restoration projects.

District fish and wildlife biologists are currently funded exclusively with fishing and hunting dollars. However, in some areas, these activities account for as much as 80% of their time. The department is proposing to shift 25% of the costs of these positions to General Fund. Two fish assistant district biologists are proposed to shift to 100% General Fund.

Water Quantity and Quality Program (\$603,000 General Fund)

- **Effectively engage in water supply initiative**
- **Participate in Integrated Water Resources Strategy**

General fund support for three partial positions in the Water Quantity and Water Quality program. These positions are critical for ODFW to participate in Oregon's implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, to effectively engage in the Water Supply Development Initiative and to maintain the ability to respond to water quality and quantity actions affecting Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. The General Fund would replace fishing license dollars in these positions. The positions are proposed for elimination if not funded with General Fund.

Habitat and Conservation Program Staff (\$556,000 General Fund)

- **Participate in federal and state forest management**
- **Coordinate comments county, state, and federal energy siting processes**
- **Support Oregon Conservation Strategy**

General Fund support for portions of five positions. These positions are currently funded with hunting license dollars, or federal funded with hunting license matching dollars. This request would provide General Fund to replace the hunting license portion of these positions. These

positions are proposed for elimination if not funded with General Fund.

The Habitat Program staff work closely with other state, federal, tribal, and local agencies, individuals, and interest groups to develop and implement fish, wildlife, and habitat protection and restoration activities. Activities include providing technical assistance, guidance, cooperation, direction, coordination, and planning with regulatory agencies, tribal, federal, and state land managers, watershed councils, and private landowners over activities affecting forest, grassland, upland prairie, wetland, and riparian habitats. The Conservation staff works on policy input, statewide and regional initiatives, such as climate change, sustainability, and energy.

Avian and Pinniped Management (\$581,000 General Fund)

- **Conduct surveys and analysis to determine impacts on salmonid populations**
- **Research, monitor, and management of seal and sea lion interactions**

General fund support for 3 positions. These positions are currently funded by license, lottery dollars, and Commercial Fish Fund and are proposed for elimination or shifting to federal funds where appropriate, if not funded with General Fund.

The avian coordinator position addresses the impacts on avian predators on salmon and steelhead in the lower Columbia River and along the Oregon coast. Biological information and management recommendations are provided to federal partners for planning efforts.

The marine mammal program conducts research, monitoring, and management towards understanding the impact of growing pinniped population in Oregon. This information, along with an understanding of pinniped population status, is used by managers with the objective of providing a more balanced approach to the conservation of both fishery resources and marine mammal populations.

Oregon State Police (\$5,180,000 General Fund)

- **Enforce fish and wildlife laws, including investigation of non-game species violations**
- **Investigate natural resource violations**

General fund support for Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Division. In addition to ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations related to fish and wildlife, OSP is also responsible to enforce traffic, criminal, boat, livestock and environmental protection laws. They investigate natural resource violations in such areas as fill and removal, water quality and quantity, water pollution and forest practices. They also respond to emergency situations unrelated to ODFW. This shift would move a portion of OSP off of license dollars and onto General fund (\$5.1 million) and a portion of OSP off of Commercial Fish Fund onto General Fund (\$80,000).