

Exhibit B

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence received as of
October 8, 2019**

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee

----- Original message -----

From: Bob Sallinger <bsallinger@audubonportland.org>

Date: 10/1/19 7:33 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: Davia M Palmeri <Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us>

Cc: Kelly Peterson <kpeterson@humanesociety.org>, Brian Posewitz <brian@humanevotersoregon.org>,
Quinn Read <QREAD@defenders.org>, Sristi Kamal <SKamal@defenders.org>, Danielle Moser

<dm@oregonwild.org>

Subject: Re: Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee

Davia,

This represents a substantial improvement with regard to the composition of the advisory committee over prior drafts. I appreciate the changes that have been made. However there are two significant issues that are not addressed.

First, the geographically based positions still include the "lived in or possess expertise" language. We would recommend changing this to simply "possess scientific expertise: (ie eliminate "lived in language altogether and qualify that the expertise must be scientific). From our perspective the lived in language will be problematic for two reasons: 1) living in an ecoregion is not a surrogate for having expertise in the ecoregion--the focus should be on scientific expertise, not where somebody receives mail. 2) including "live in" language will create an expectation that local jurisdictions will have some sort of priority in terms of designating representation replicating some of the political challenges already associated with the ODFW Commission.

Second, the language in 635-098-0020 (2) was not changed as agreed upon in the last meeting. At that meeting I believe we agreed that this language would be amended to read: "Improving engagement of the public in outdoor recreation opportunities including wildlife watching, hunting and fishing opportunities and in other opportunities related to and in support of healthy fish, wildlife and habitats;" This is more than just a semantic change. ODFW has consistently prioritized hunting and fishing and treated other recreational activities as an afterthought. Given the focus of this bill on broadening ODFW's base of engagement, it is important that ODFW refrain from falling into traditional patterns when describing this goal. My recollection is that we got consensus on this change at the last meeting and Rep Helm agreed that it was consistent with the goals of the legislation.

Any thoughts on how best to pursue these issues at this point would be appreciated.

Thanks

Bob

On Mon, Sep 30, 2019 at 11:40 AM Davia M Palmeri <Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us> wrote:

Dear Colleagues-

This is a quick update that materials related to the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund and Advisory Committee are now posted for the October 11 Commission Meeting:
https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/19/10_Oct/index.asp.

Please note that ODFW staff have updated the proposed Draft Oregon Administrative Rules to pursue a diverse and technically sound committee membership:
https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/19/10_Oct/EXHIBIT%20B/Exhibit%20B_Attachment%204_Draft%20Oregon%20Administrative%20Rules.pdf.

Thanks for your interest!

Davia M. Palmeri

Conservation Policy Coordinator

o.503-947-6077 | m.971-719-1192

Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

MyODFW.com

From: Davia M Palmeri
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 7:23 AM
Subject: Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee

Dear Colleagues-

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mary Anne Cooper <maryannecooper@oregonfb.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 4:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Davia M Palmeri; Shannon Hurn; 'jerome.rosa@orcattle.com'; jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com; Katie Fast; Roger Beyer; Kyle Williams
Subject: Comments on Draft Conservation Fund Rulemaking
Attachments: FINAL Conservation Fund Comments.pdf

Commissioners,

Attached please find coalition comments on the draft rules for the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund submitted on behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Forest & Industries Council, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregonians for Food & Shelter, and Oregon Seed Council. Please let us know if you have any issues with these comments.

Thanks,

Mary Anne

Mary Anne Cooper | Vice President of Public Policy
Oregon Farm Bureau
1320 Capitol St. NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301
M: 541.740.4062 • **O:** 503.399.1701 x. 306 • **F:** 503.399.8082
maryanne@oregonfb.org • oregonfb.org



October 7, 2019

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

VIA EMAIL: odfw.commission@state.or.us

RE: *Comments on the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Rulemaking*

Dear Chair Finley, Director Melcher, and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft rules for the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. The Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Forest & Industries Council, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregonians for Food & Shelter, and Oregon Seed Council represent farmers, ranchers and foresters across the state. Collectively, our members provide a significant portion of the fish and wildlife habitat in the state, with some estimates stating that nearly 70% of fish and wildlife habitat occurs on private lands. We write to express our concerns about the Conservation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee ("Advisory Committee") funding direction, composition and process for accepting proposals.

Background on the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

Our organizations have been engaged in the process around the development of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for the past several legislative sessions. We closely followed and testified on previous iterations of the bill that ultimately became HB 2829. Representative Helm clarified on the record that the intent of HB 2829 was to help implement the recommendations of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ("ODFW") Funding Task Force that met in 2015-2016, and noted that to the extent the fund is used on private land, the intent is for the fund to be used on collaborative projects with landowners, and not acquisition of farm or forestland.

Our understanding of HB 2829 was that it was to serve as the stateside match funding if the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act ("RAWA") passes through Congress. However, we recently learned that the intent for the upcoming funding cycle is for ODFW to raise \$1 million from private sources to serve as match funding for the \$1 million allocated by the legislature for the fund. We have a strong interest in ensuring that to the extent there are habitat projects that are funded through this Fund, those projects are collaboratively developed with landowners and that there is representation from the natural resources community on the Advisory Committee.

Comments on the Draft Rules

1. Dedication of Funding

During the process for developing HB 2829, our organizations expressed concern regarding the very broad list of priorities for the fund contained in Section 1(2) of the bill. Historically, our organizations have been concerned with ODFW funding projects that result in the acquisition of farm, ranch, and forestland, and the subsequent removal from production and public use of the property that often has an adverse impact on natural resource neighbors and communities' agriculture and forestry infrastructure. We have long encouraged the department to move toward a "working landscapes" model of conservation, where they work with landowners to achieve the desired habitat goals instead of acquiring land and removing it from production.

The broad list of allowed uses in HB 2829 made it difficult for our organizations to understand where the money would be spent and on what types of projects. In raising this concern with the legislature, we were assured that the funding would be directed toward the priorities contained in the Task Force Recommendations, and that the money would not be used for acquisition projects. We would like to see this language in the rules. Specifically, we request that you add language under Section (2) "Advisory Committee Duties" as follows:

635-098-0060

Advisory Committee Duties

(2) Shall make recommendations to the commission and the department regarding the use of fund moneys. Pursuant to HB 2829 (2019), the advisory committee shall identify uses for which the department may expend fund moneys. **In expending moneys within the purposes allowed by HB 2829, the advisory committee will use the recommendations of the 2016 Funding Task Force to guide expenditures. In investing funds in habitat work, the advisory committee will prioritize projects that are the result of collaboration between diverse groups of stakeholders.**

2. Advisory Committee Membership

Our most significant concern regarding the draft rules relates to the make up of the Advisory Committee. As presently drafted, the advisory committee does not require any representation from rural communities and does not prioritize having even a single member from the natural resources community. This is despite the fact that ODFW has indicated numerous times that the intent is for many of the habitat projects funded under this program to be in partnership with the natural resources community. We are concerned that if there is no voice from farm or forest landowners and managers, the committee will be missing a critical voice as it decides how to engage stakeholders in soliciting a wide array of proposals and vetting proposals to ensure they are going to improve fish and wildlife habitat while not negatively impacting the economic base of a community. As we stated above, with private landowners providing a significant portion of habitat in the state, not soliciting their participation in the advisory process leaves a critical demographic out of this process and ultimately makes it less likely to succeed.

Specifically, we recommend that if the Commission moves forward with the recommendations for membership by Oregon Conservation Strategy regions, the Commission require that members live in the regions they will represent and that at least one of the at large members be a natural resource landowner or manager with experience working on collaborative projects.

635-098-0040

Membership

(1) Advisory Committee Composition:

(a) The advisory committee shall consist of nine members appointed by the Governor.

(b) Six members of the advisory committee shall live in ~~or possess demonstrable expertise related to~~ each of the ecoregions described below, which are documented and described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy:

(A) Nearshore Marine or Coast Range

(B) Willamette Valley

(C) Klamath Mountains

(D) West Cascades or East Cascades

(E) Columbia Plateau or Blue Mountains

(F) Northern Basin and Range

(c) Three members of the advisory committee shall be appointed from Oregon-at-large. ~~These three~~ **Two of these** members shall have an interest in fish and wildlife conservation or outdoor recreation, especially wildlife-associated recreation such as wildlife viewing, nature photography, nature tourism, outdoor education, or community science. **One of these members should own or manage private agricultural or forest lands and have demonstrated experience working on collaborative projects.**

(d) In making appointments of ~~all nine~~ advisory committee members, consideration should be given to appointing members who possess experience engaging youth, underserved communities and diverse audiences in conservation and recreation activities. Consideration should also be given to members with **demonstrated** interest in the economic, social, and educational benefits of healthy ecosystems.

(e) Consideration should be given to ensuring that the advisory committee membership reflects the demographic and geographic diversity of Oregon.

(f) One member of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission may be designated by the Commission as a non-voting participant in the Advisory Committee.

(g) The Director of the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation may serve as a non-voting ex officio member of the advisory committee.

We would also like additional clarification on the difference between a Commission member being “non-voting participant” and the Director of the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation serving as a “non-voting ex officio member.” What is the difference between “non-voting participant” and “non-voting ex officio member”? Does the ex-officio member not get to participate? Or is the Commissioner not a member of the Committee? These terms should be better defined and harmonized, with the roles of each clearly stated.

The changes requested to this section are critical for creating buy in among the natural resources stakeholders whom ODFW hopes to work with under this program.

3. Proposal Process

We also have concerns regarding the proposal process outlined the draft rules. We regularly work with grant programs under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Water Resources Department, Department of Environmental Quality and other agencies. The process outlined in the proposed rules is the most open-ended and least robust out of any of the agency programs. We have concerns this will impede the public's ability to participate in the process and understand the decisions made by the Advisory Committee.

As an initial matter, we are unclear on the difference between the proposed OAR 635-098-0070(1) and OAR 635-098-0070(2). If the Advisory Committee is establishing a process for requesting proposals under Subsection (1), why aren't the department and interested parties expected to follow that process under Subsection (2)? The process adopted by the Advisory Committee should be followed by everyone and no one should be able to recommend proposals outside that process. To this end, we recommend removing the proposed Subsection 2 of this rule.

We also recommend adding a new Subsection 2 that prescribes some sideboards on this process in terms of how the grant process will actually run and whether it will be transparent to the public.

Finally, we again recommend that you reference the purposes of HB 2829 when talking about review criteria to avoid creating a new, undefined set of review criteria.

635-098-0070

Advisory Committee Recommendation Procedures:

(1) The advisory committee shall establish a process for requesting proposals for Conservation and Recreation Fund projects from the department and other interested parties.

(2) The process must be available to the public online. In developing the process, the advisory committee shall, at a minimum, create a plan for soliciting proposals from a diverse group of stakeholders, develop a proposal form to be made available to the public and posted on the Department's webpage, create proposal deadlines and defined funding cycles, and develop clear criteria for reviewing and ranking projects that will be made available prior to soliciting proposals. Any proposals received must be posted on the Department's website within one week of the proposal deadline. The Department will then notify the public of the availability of the proposals online and will solicit comments on the proposals from the public for a period of no less than 14 days.

~~(2) The department and any other interested parties may recommend projects to the advisory committee that follow permissible purposes outlined in [HB 2829 Section 1(2)(a-c)].~~

(3) **Using the criteria developed under Section (2), the advisory committee shall review all submitted projects and shall recommend expenditures to the commission. The advisory committee will be responsible for determining whether the projects propose activities ~~that serve to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon~~ that support permissible purposes outlined in [HB 2829 Section 1(2)(a-e)].**

While these are more minor changes, we strongly recommend that the Commission pause this rulemaking and direct staff to better review the grant funding process used by other agencies, particularly OWEB, and develop a more robust process for soliciting, reviewing and funding projects using state dollars. We are concerned that the lack of detail in the rulemaking will leave the process open to wide latitude by the Advisory Committee, and risks creation of a program that is not transparent or readily accountable to the legislature in terms of how funding is used, and which is arbitrary in how it prioritizes projects under the very broad mission allowed by HB 2829.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our comments.

Respectfully,



Mary Anne Cooper
Vice President of Public Policy
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
maryanne@oregonfb.org



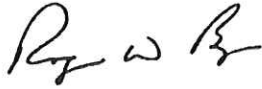
Kyle Williams
Director of Forest Protection
Oregon Forest & Industries Council
kyle@ofic.com



Jerome Rosa
Executive Director
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Jerome.rosa@orcattle.com



Katie Fast
Executive Director
Oregonians for Food & Shelter
katie@ofsonline.org



Roger Beyer
Executive Director
Oregon Seed Council
roger@rwbeyer.com



Jim James
Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: TCA Comments on the OR Conservation and Recreation Fund Draft Rules
Attachments: TCA Comments on the ORCRF 10-8-2019.pdf

From: David Moskowitz <theconservationangler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 10:00 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; curt.melcher@state.or.us
Cc: Michelle Tate <michelle.l.tate@state.or.us>; Davia M Palmeri <davia.m.palmeri@state.or.us>; REP Helm <Rep.KenHelm@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: TCA Comments on the OR Conservation and Recreation Fund Draft Rules

Dear Commissioners and Director Melcher:
The Conservation Angler is providing comments on the draft administrative rules under consideration by the Commission on Friday October 11 in Ontario.

This effort faces a certain pressure based on the timelines in its enacting legislation. This pressure should be applied to "get it right" rather than simply to "get it done."

These comments are presented in that light.

Thank you for your consideration.

kind regards,

David Moskowitz

David A. Moskowitz
Executive Director
971-235-8953 (Direct)
www.theconservationangler.org



Conservation means fair and honest dealings with the future, usually at some cost to the immediate present. It is simply morality, with little to offset the glamour and quick material rewards of the North American deity, "Progress". Roderick Haig-Brown



October 8, 2019

Comments on the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee

General Comments:

The Conservation Angler appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft administrative rules for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund Advisory Committee. The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund created by HB 2829 during the 2019 legislative session is a critical opportunity to increase support for Oregon Conservation Strategy implementation, as well as to diversify the backgrounds, interests, involvement and commitment of Oregonians engaged in ODFW activities. It is also the starting point for engaging the financial support for ODFW conservation efforts from a sector of the public that needs (and wants) to provide it.

TCA wants to take a moment to recognize the commitment and persistence in pursuing this issue of several Commissioners here today – Chair Finley and Commission Labhart – who worked over a significant time with the Task Force examining ODFW funding opportunities, and on subsequent legislative efforts to create a funding stream that supports the broader Agency and Commission mission. We are grateful for your work. It is an important step forward to support ODFW in their efforts in towards providing access to Oregon's wildlife for more people across the state.

TCA is supportive of the draft rules. Given the urgency to establish an advisory committee to guide Commission spending, the changes made in the current draft to prioritize diverse representation on the advisory committee and engagement of diverse audiences in the expenditure of the funds are important. There remain opportunities to improve the draft rules, however.

Specific Recommendations for Changes in the Proposed Draft Rules

Amendment One

OAR 635-098-0000: The current purpose statement roughly characterizes the Commission's mission: "to carry out activities that serve to protect, maintain or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon."

It would be helpful to add a few useful terms from the Commission Mission found at ORS 496.012 that add specificity to these rules.

The Commission could amend the sentence on line 9 to add "or restore indigenous" so that the amended purpose statement was:

"The purpose of the Conservation and Recreation Fund appropriated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife is to carry out activities that serve to protect, maintain, enhance or restore indigenous fish and wildlife resources in Oregon."

Adding the word "restore" is important because many wildlife species require restoration and are the subject of multiple restoration efforts. Restoration is a different activity than "enhancement" and it deserves inclusion as a significant activity Oregonians participate in daily statewide.

The word indigenous is important because it focuses activities for those fish and wildlife resources that are not introduced or exotic. It is consistent with the Department and Commission mission.

Amendment Two

635-098-0020 (2):

Currently as drafted in line 32, “Improving engagement of the public in hunting and fishing opportunities and in other outdoor recreation opportunities related to and in support of healthy fish, wildlife and habitats;” The Commission should amend this section to read:

“Improving engagement in outdoor recreation opportunities including wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and other activities that support healthy fish, wildlife and habitats.”

The current draft language misses an opportunity to prioritize a wide range of public engagement. The Conservation and Recreation Fund is additive to ODFW’s overall budget. Nothing in this phrase diminishes hunting and fishing opportunities or participation, nor the funding for those core programs.

Wildlife watching and related recreational activities are the most popular wildlife activities in Oregon. HB 2829’s emphasis on engaging new audiences to learn more, participate more deeply and begin to make a financial contribution to support wildlife in their communities will ultimately enhance all of Oregon’s wildlife management activities.

Amendment Three

635-098-0040 (1)(b):

This section provides that “Six members of the advisory committee shall live in or possess demonstrable expertise related to each of the ecoregions described below.” TCA recommends that this line be amended:

“Six members of the advisory committee shall ~~live in or~~ possess demonstrable scientific expertise related to each of the ecoregions described below.”

The focus should be on ensuring that committee members have strong scientific expertise in the respective ecoregions without regard to their residency.

Amendment Four

635-098-0040 (1)(c):

For the At-large positions, the commission should add “expertise in urban conservation” to the list of interest areas delineated here. Oregon’s population is mostly urban. Urban conservation presents important conservation priorities not captured in the ecoregional approach in section 635-098-0040(1)(b). Expertise in urban conservation science and opportunities would be an important interest area to try to capture within the at-large positions and could translate into greater fundraising capacity as well.

Amendment Five

OAR 635-098-0050(2)(b) and (d):

This section sets voting requirements and requires establishing a five-person quorum for any meeting where decisions are made. This is standard and acceptable.

Sub-section (2)(d) then requires that any committee recommendation to the Department and Commission receive five affirmative votes to move forward. This is an unreasonable potential bottleneck to project approval. No other ODFW advisory committees require this level of affirmative support. Standard procedure would require simple majority of any quorum for acceptance.

Recommend that the proposed rules require a simple majority of the committee to approve any recommendation made to the Department and Commission.



**OREGON CHAPTER
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

Public Comment, October 11, 2019

From: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

To: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

Subject: Conservation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee proposed rules

On behalf of our members, the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society requests the Commission approve the proposed rule-making regarding the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee – with one important amendment suggested below.

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit professional organization of over 600 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprise. One of our key goals is to support our member's ability to implement science-based natural resource policies and programs throughout Oregon. As such, alternative funding has been the leading priority guiding our engagement with natural resource policy in Oregon.

The ORTWS has strongly supported initiatives to develop alternative funding solutions for ODFW – to more effectively address the goals and objectives of the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategies. Furthermore, the establishment of the Conservation and Recreation Fund, and its Advisory Committee, represents the culmination of a 15 year process of unprecedented engagement by Oregon's conservation and outdoor recreation constituents and stakeholders (see Attachment A. below).

ORTWS applauds the emphasis on ecological and outdoor recreation expertise as outlined in the Draft OAR's regarding the Advisory Committee and their selection. While ODFW Commissioners must consider a wide array of stakeholders, including conservation groups, industry, and other interests; the Conservation and Recreation Fund Committee should be an assemblage of Oregonians who possess expertise in the goals and objectives of HB 2829 (i.e. the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategies, the growing community of outdoor enthusiasts and other previously under-served communities etc).

However we would like to recommend one small wording change that will improve the Committee selection process. See page 2 of Draft Administrative Rules **635-098-0040 (1)(b)**:

"Six members of the advisory committee shall live in or possess demonstrable expertise related to each of the ecoregions described below, which are documented and described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy:"

We support the concept of geographic/local representation in natural resource decision making, however the intent of this rule-making is to include expertise/familiarity with unique ecological areas as defined in the Oregon Conservation strategy. By requiring residency **OR** expertise, decision-makers may be able to ignore ecological/conservation expertise in the future selection of Committee members.

As such, we recommend the Commission support the proposed wording change from the existing text:

"...shall live in or possess demonstrable expertise..."

Change to:

*"...shall live in **and** possess demonstrable expertise..."*

This small change will help ensure that the future composition of at least 6 members of the Advisory Committee will contain conservation/ecological expertise relevant to the stated purpose of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (HB2829).

On behalf of ORTWS Members and Board, thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or to engage in further discussion.

Regards,

John M. Goodell
President
ORTWS
president@ortws.org

Attachment A.

Input & Support for Alternative Funding Initiatives Culminating in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (HB2829)

The Conservation Strategy, Task Force, and Conservation Fund represent a 15 year process of unprecedented engagement by Oregonians to improve fish and wildlife management in Oregon. This engagement included natural resource stakeholders, scientists, land managers, advocates, academics, policy experts, agencies, public citizens, industry and others.

Oregon Conservation Strategy Public Participation 2005 - 2016

The development of the OCS was guided by a Stakeholder Advisory Committee comprising 41 organizations representing a wide spectrum of constituency groups; including outdoor interest groups, conservation groups, private industry (e.g., forestry, agriculture, development), hunting and fishing interests, tourism interests, government agencies (federal, state, tribal), and organizations working with private landowners.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee reviewed 5 drafts of the OCS and participated in multiple in-person meetings to provide guidance to ODFW. All organizations with technical expertise were encouraged to participate in the Technical Review Team which comprised over 50 organizations and over 200 external experts. ODFW also included public input through presentations, on-line updates, and Commission meeting. Technical Review included universities, commissions, tribal programs, and non-profits.

<http://oregonconservationstrategy.org/overview/acknowledgements/>

Nearshore Strategy had similar participation levels

(<http://oregonconservationstrategy.org/oregon-nearshore-strategy/strategy-development/>
<http://oregonconservationstrategy.org/oregon-nearshore-strategy/acknowledgements/>)

Funding Task Force Public Participation 2015 - 2016

In 2015, the Oregon State Legislature created a Task Force (HB 2402) Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education, charged with developing funding solutions for fish and wildlife conservation in Oregon, while also enhancing fish and wildlife-related outdoor recreation and education opportunities.

The Task Force included individuals affiliated with a broad array of outdoor groups and interests including: Columbia Sportswear, Leupold & Stevens, Center for Diversity and Environment, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Travel Commission, Oregon Bicycle Racing Association, The Nature Conservancy, Tillamook County, ranching industry, Portland Audubon Society, Oregon Trawl Commission, outfitter industry, Multnomah County Health Department, and others.

Task Force members donated in excess of 2,000 hours, analyzed feedback from over 50 organizations, and nearly 1,000 Oregon residents. Entities included but were not limited to: the League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Outdoor Recreation and Parks Association,

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Outdoor Alliance, Oregon Land Trust Alliance, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Conservation Network, Defenders of Wildlife, Oregon Audubon Society chapters, Willamette Partnership, African American Outdoor Association, Center for Diversity & the Environment, Northwest Sports Fishing Industry Association, Oregon Hunters Association, Northwest Steelheaders, Oregon Business Council, Oregon Business Alliance, Association of Oregon Industries, Oregon Wild, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society, The Oregon Zoo, Oregon Farm Bureau, Travel Oregon and others.

Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Public Participation 2016 - 2019

The first step recommended by the Task Force's Report was to establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. Representative Ken Helm introduced the Conservation and Recreation Fund bill multiple times between 2016 and 2019.

Like the Task Force, HB 2829 passed following significant public testimony supporting the bill. Testimony, and support for the bill included private citizens and representatives from a wide spectrum of stakeholder groups including but not limited to: The Sierra Club, Northwest Steelheaders, Oregon Zoo, Portland Audubon, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Trout Unlimited, Outdoor Kids and Lifestyle Keen Inc., Oregon Outdoors, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition, WaterWatch of Oregon, Oregon Hunter's Association, Central Oregon Land Watch, Mazamas, American Whitewater, Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society and others.



Date: October 9, 2019

To: ODFW Commission

From: Audubon Society of Portland, Center for Biological Diversity, Willamette Riverkeeper, Cascadia Wildlands, The Conservation Angler, Humane Society of the United State, Humane Voters Oregon, Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Verde and ONDA

Re: Draft Administrative Rules for the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee

Dear Chair Finley and Members of the ODFW Commission,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft administrative rules for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund Advisory Committee. The Oregon Conservation and Recreation fund, created by HB 2829 during the 2019 legislative session, represents an important opportunity to increase support for implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy and to diversify the base of people engaged in ODFW activities. It is an important step in moving ODFW towards a more holistic and inclusive approach to managing the state's wildlife.

We are generally supportive of the draft rules and recognize the urgency of getting the advisory committee in place, given the two year timeframe in which funds allocated by HB 2829 must be spent. We appreciate the changes that have been made in the current draft to better prioritize ensuring diverse representation on the advisory committee and engagement of diverse audiences in the expenditure of the funds. However, there are four sections where we believe the draft rules could still be improved:

635-098-0040 (1)(b): This section currently reads "Six members of the advisory committee shall live in or possess demonstrable expertise related to each of the ecoregions described below." We would respectfully request that this line be changed to read. "Six members of the advisory committee shall ~~live in or~~ possess demonstrable scientific expertise related to each of the ecoregions described below." The focus of these positions should be on ensuring that committee members have strong scientific expertise in the ecoregions, rather than on where they pick-up their mail. We urge you to remove the "live in" language altogether and clarify that the intent is that committee members have "scientific" expertise.

635-098-0040 (1)(c): We would respectfully urge the commission to add “expertise in urban conservation” to the list of interest areas delineated in this section. The majority of the population in Oregon is now urban and urban conservation presents an important conservation priority that is not captured in the ecoregional approach outlined in section 635-098-0040 (1)(b). Expertise in urban conservation would therefore be an important interest area to try to capture in the at large positions.

635-098-0040 (1)(d) and (e): These two sections focus on engaging diverse audiences and ensuring diverse representation on the advisory committee. Both of these sections should be strengthened by specifically referencing “communities of color, tribes and low income communities.” We would also recommend changing “should” to “shall” in each of these sections. We believe that it is important to specifically call out historically marginalized communities which have been underrepresented in ODFW activities.

635-098-0020 (2) This section currently reads, “Improving engagement of the public in hunting and fishing opportunities and in other outdoor recreation opportunities related to and in support of healthy fish, wildlife and habitats;” We would respectfully request that this section be changed to read, “Improving engagement in outdoor recreation opportunities including wildlife watching, hunting, fishing and other activities that support healthy fish, wildlife and habitats.” The currently proposed language in the draft rules unfortunately perpetuates a longstanding trend of prioritizing hunting and fishing while treating other wildlife related recreational activities as afterthoughts. Given HB 2829’s emphasis on engaging new audiences, we believe the language we are proposing would reflect a more inclusive and holistic approach to recreation and recognize that wildlife watching is actually the most popular wildlife related activity in the state.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland

Sristi Kamal
Senior Northwest
Representative
Defenders of Wildlife

Danielle Moser
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Oregon Wild

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director
Cascadia Wildlands

Kelly Peterson
Oregon State Director
Humane Society of the
United States

Jeremy Austin
Policy Manager
Oregon Natural Desert
Association

Travis Williams
Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper

Noah Greenwald
Endangered Species Director
Center for Biological
Diversity

Dave Moskowitz
Executive Director
The Conservation Angler

Brian Posewitz
Board of Director
Humane Voters Oregon

Tony DeFalco
Executive Director
Verde