

Commissioner Update – Mark Labhart
Update on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee

To date, the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund has generated nearly \$200,000 from over 12,000 individual contributions including large restricted contributions from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Oregon Wild. Restricted donations came in support of two projects the Commission approved at the September meeting: (1) Gilchrist Underpass Wildlife Directional Fencing and (2) Feasibility Study: Reintroducing Sea Otters to the Oregon Coast.

The Advisory Committee's second round grant solicitation yielded 65 project proposals requesting over \$500,000. The Committee intends to review the projects and make expenditure recommendations at the January Commission meeting.

Finally, the Advisory Committee formed an Outdoor Equity Subcommittee in July. The Subcommittee members actively pursued contacts with Oregon's conservation and recreation organizations that are seeking to reduce gaps in equitable access to Oregon's outdoors for all. The Advisory Committee adopted a Statement of Purpose regarding outdoor equity that is pasted below for the Commissioners information.

The Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's Outdoor Equity Subcommittee- Statement of Purpose

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) has a broad mandate to advance conservation issues and recreation projects in support of the Oregon Conservation Strategy for the benefit of all Oregonians. Embedded within the mandate for the OCRF is a priority commitment to reach out and engage underserved people and communities who have not traditionally participated in conservation issues or outdoor recreation in the past due to various barriers and perceptions, including but not limited to ethnicity, race, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabilities, and/or other cultural, religion and/or economic status, and other considerations as listed in the State of Oregon Equity Framework

The Advisory Committee further recognizes that these barriers will not be broken down coincidentally but rather need a focused and pursued endeavor sponsored by the Advisory Committee. In support of this commitment, the OCRF Advisory Committee has established the "Outdoor Equity" subcommittee with the explicit purpose of reaching out and connecting with intentionality to people, communities and organizations that have not traditionally engaged in matters tied to ODFW's Conservation Strategy. To this end, we are dedicating a significant portion of the available funds to this purpose, and will work with these audiences and stakeholders to identify and fund opportunities and projects that mutually support the interests, the intersection, and engagement of underserved communities in Oregon with the Conservation and Recreation Fund.