

Oregon Hunters Association

April 11, 2013

Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger and members of the Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources I am Joe Ricker, Board member of the Oregon Hunters Association. I am here today to testify in support of the ODFW Budget.

OHA would like to point out to committee members these important points in our continued working relationship with ODFW:

- The Youth Mentor Program is one of the best in the country in bringing interested youth into the sport of hunting and we will continue to work with ODFW on this very successful program.
- For the last several years OHA has been a part of the Department's External Budget Committee (EBAC). This process allows OHA to give direct input into building the agency's budget and we appreciate being part of that process.
- We continue to work with the department on the Mule Deer Initiatives, a process started by Director Elicker that will have a positive effect on Mule Deer populations in Oregon.
- We want to continue working with the Department on obtaining and expending the PR monies increase. In the past this money has been used for working on the Mule Deer initiatives, habitat restoration projects and wildlife surveys. We greatly support working with ODFW on these efforts.

In closing OHA would like to commend ODFW for HB 2252, which in part would allow active duty military personnel to hunt or fish in Oregon for the same cost as an Oregon resident. We applaud ODFW for their recognition of our military personnel.

That concludes my testimony, I would be glad to answer any questions.

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