



March 15, 2013

The Honorable Chris Edwards Co-Chair
The Honorable Ben Unger Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Committee on Ways and Means
Natural Resources Sub-Committee
H-178, State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honaorable Co-Chair Chris Edwards, Honorable Co-Chair Ben Unger and Sub-Committee memebers,

I am writing in support of the 2013 budget for the Department of State Lands. The Wetlands Conservancy is the only organization in Oregon dedicated to promoting community and private partnerships to permanently protect and conserve Oregon's greatest wetlands – our most biologically rich and diverse lands. Over the past five years, The Wetlands Conservancy has been working closely with The Department of State Lands regualtory and volunteer stewardship programs on protection of Oregon's aquatic resources. Through development of The Oregon Wetland Explorer and State Wetland Prioritization Project we have been able to identify opportunities for permit streamlining while improving the ecological success of wetland conservation and restoration.

The Wetlands Conservancy looks forward to working with the Department of State Lands on the federal and state transition to a function based wetland system. Once complete, the new system will support conservation of important wetlands functions and streamlining of the regulatory permit process.

Esther Lev

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