



## MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee On Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness  
FROM: Quinn Read, Wildlife Coordinator, Oregon Wild  
DATE: March 30, 2015  
RE: HB 3315 -- Relating to providing financial support to state agencies for services rendered to other state agencies; declaring an emergency.

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On behalf of Oregon Wild's 15,000 members and supporters from across the state, we would like to thank you for scheduling this hearing on HB 3315 to require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recoup costs incurred in providing services to executive department agencies. Oregon Wild's mission is to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and water as an enduring legacy for all Oregonians. We support this measure and submit the following comments for consideration and incorporation into the record.

ODFW is grappling with a \$32 million budget shortfall. This reflects a long-term downward trend in funding for the agency, leaving it without resources to meet its conservation mandate. To date, ODFW has relied largely on revenues from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. This approach focused the agency on programs that benefit game species, at the expense of its larger mission to protect all of Oregon's native fish and wildlife.

However, for the last two decades, public participation in consumptive uses of fish and wildlife has steadily declined. With less money from license fees and few alternative sources of revenue, ODFW's budget gap will continue to grow. This puts the agency in the unenviable position of raising license fees for hunters and anglers, and asking the public to support the use of general fund dollars for the agency without a commitment to non-game wildlife conservation.

To help ODFW address its budget deficit and to ensure long-term financial sustainability, Oregon Wild is working with a coalition of conservation, hunting and fishing groups to identify new sources of revenue. A diversified revenue base is critical to help the agency overcome its current budget shortfall and to achieve long-term financial stability. We believe that HB 3315 is an important part of a solution that will enable the agency to achieve its broad conservation mission.

HB 3315 requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover costs incurred in providing services to executive department agencies. The agency does significant work and spends significant resources providing consultation services to other state agencies, but is not currently compensated for these services. With ODFW in the midst of a budget shortfall, HB 3315 is one of a package of bills that would provide new sources of revenue for the agency and help stabilize funding into the future. As introduced, this bill would not start generating revenue for several years, but we support it as an important component of long-term agency reform.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.