

I read the recent article about how the ODFW is looking at a very steep (in my opinion) increase in license fee's for hunting and fishing. I am not so uninformed as to immediately blame ODFW for this. I know the ex governor of Oregon cut back funding very steeply in the past years. Hopefully the new governor will see the error in this.

I have two concerns with these proposed increases in license fee's. First is what that will do to the kids in Oregon. Specially those kids from families of lesser means. We cannot bankrupt a generation of kids from experiencing the outdoors simply because an increase in fee's is the easiest thing to do when a budget shortfall looms. Thought has to be given to how this will affect quality of life of our children here in Oregon.

Please consider any fee increase's impact on the children. My own youth was spent with many happy memories camping, fishing and hunting. I credit most of any success I may have had in life to the ability to access the outdoors easily. Some of the happiest memories I have of my own childrens growing up years were those spent teaching and showing them the outdoors. My youngest daughter is now a fish biologist. Graduating cum laude from Michigan state University with a masters in fisheries and presently a fish ecologist working on a federally funded wild life study. A career I attribute to her very early contact with the outdoors, which I think generated a love for the outdoors and the environment. This is not meant to brag about her, but to point out where a steep increase in fee's could have precluded this positive experience of the outdoors in her youth and perhaps short changed her and the community at large of a career which will hopefully contribute to better management of our environment through her efforts and those of many others like her. There are many such stories that I am sure other families can tell you.

The other concern I have is the pricing of experiencing the outdoors. If ODFW continues a steep increase in fee's it will affect those family with lesser means very quickly. That is just a no brainer and one which I would have expected the managers at ODFW to consider. You will soon make the outdoors a rich man's domain. Much as it is in Italy right now.

One thing these fee proposals may do is ignite the general population in Oregon to actually become politically active in this arena and I think combatting this may cost ODFW even more money in the long run.

This is not a well thought out action in my opinion. Quality of life must figure in the equation somewhere. Knee jerk reactions often result in regrets later. I do hope the Oregon governor and ODFW at some point realizes that to price the general population out of the outdoors is not to their best interests nor those of Oregon as a whole.

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