

I'm in support of SB 247 which increases hunting, angling, and commercial fishing license fees.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages a resource that generates over 1 billion dollars of revenue through recreational activities. Not only does this revenue stream provide jobs, it also provides opportunities for citizens to have a profound experience in Oregon's great outdoors doing something they're passionate about or have a great interest in pursuing. Spending time in nature changes people and it changes them for the better.

Furthermore, these outdoor recreational activities generate considerable human resource benefits (i.e., jobs, purchases, wild fish & game food source, mental and physical health, etc.) without a comparable economic return to ODFW.

ODFW is primarily a self supported agency, getting very little tax revenue as support. ODFW also knows that with a fee increase they will see an initial decline in participation. To keep this from happening an increase from General Fund or tax revenue dollars would be the best for ODFW. However, recognizing this is not going to happen given all the other programs dependent upon those dollars, ODFW is requesting a modest license fee increase as a means to continue to provide an adequate level of fish and wildlife mgmt.

I support SB 247 that will give ODFW a license fee increase spread out over six years.

Sincerely,  
Glen Ardt  
Native Oregonian  
Bend, Oregon