



May 10, 2015

Co-Chair Rep. Dan Rayfield
Co-Chair Richard Devlin
Members of the committee

The Oregon Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (OR-FNAWS), is a hunting and conservation organization that actively supports Bighorn sheep and rocky mountain goats in the State of Oregon. Our organization absolutely supports the agency's mission: *"To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment of present and future generations"*!

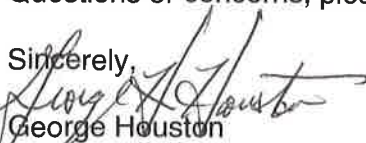
We have been represented on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) about for seven years. The EBAC and internal ODFW Administrative/ Management staff have struggled mightily with ODFW's fiscal shortfall for several months. After careful review of the current fiscal situation, we have come to the conclusion that there are absolutely no easy or quick solutions to the current fiscal challenges. We feel that the general public that makes up consumptive and non-consumptive users of fish and wildlife resources and derive an extra special benefit from Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. For that reason alone we feel that General fund support and possibly lottery fund support from the states budget should be added to ODFW's budget.

After careful review of the current fiscal situation that the agency is working to overcome, we have cautiously decided to accept moderate fee increases to both the hunting and fishing sides of the budget to keep the agency moving ahead effectively. Both hunters and fishers rely upon ODFW field and regional staff to help provide fishing and hunting opportunities that we all enjoy. The field and regional staff members and their support staffers provide the mechanics and support to the public while afield. *We much prefer adding general and lottery fund resources than laying off field and regional staff or their support staff!*

The Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Game enforcement program is critical to the overall hunter/ fisher opportunity. *We again, much prefer adding general and lottery fund resources than laying off OSP Game Enforcement staff or their support staff!*

Active support of HB3315 is very important to the future of the agency, it's staff, the general public, the fish and wildlife resources, and the mission of the agency. We will continue to actively be a part of the agency's future efforts to bring the budget challenges under control, hopefully without damaging their ability to provide much needed recreational support to the growing population base! Protecting fish and wildlife resources for future generations is critical. It is certainly time however that we widen the support base of those who are providing the majority of the financial support to the agency! (More horses pulling the wagon!) Hunter's and anglers have been paying more that their share for a long time. It's time for others who enjoy the resources to step up and pay a share of the support costs also.

Questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

George Houston
President
Sandy, Oregon 97055

President

George Houston
ghouston@hevanet.com
503-826-9109

Past President

Larry Hunts
larrydavidhunts@gmail.com
541-973-9732

1st Vice President

Dave Geelan
dgeelan@comcast.net
503-949-1211

2nd Vice President

Walter Chuck
The4chucks@aol.com
541-574-9078

Secretary

Jane Hunts
jhunts@harryanddavid.com
541-864-2681

Treasurer

Alan Day
aday@Daydata.net
503-678-1508
503-522-7267

Board Members

Nicholas Berg	Linda South
Vic Coggins	Don South
Dale Campbell	Ellen Campbell
Jim Torland	Andy Weibel
Larry Jacobs	Brent Tannock
Jeremy Thompson	
Tom Peterson	Walt Van Dyke
Robert Welsh	

Website

www.oregonfnaws.org
www.facebook.com/orfnaws

"Putting Wild Sheep
on the Mountain"