

**SB 5511**

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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SB 5511 is the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Department is charged with managing, protecting, and enhancing the state's fish and wildlife and their habitats to provide the optimum economic, commercial, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. The budget for the Department totals \$347.3 million. The budget includes \$30.2 million General Fund, \$4.8 million Measure 76 Lottery Funds, \$175.7 million Other Funds, \$136.7 million Federal Funds and 1,472 positions (1,197.26 FTE).

The total funds budget is 1.6% higher than the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget level, while FTE is 5% lower than 2013-15. General Fund support is 70% higher than in 2013-15 due in large part to the addition of \$6.6 million to reduce the agency's reliance on revenue from hunters and fishers. In addition, \$2 million was added to continue Columbia River fish management changes enacted in 2013. Other General Fund additions include \$1 million to continue the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program and \$800,000 to fund research at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center.

Other Funds expenditures are 5.2% lower than 2013-15, even with the inclusion of revenue from increases to hunter and fisher licenses and tags proposed in SB 247. Federal Funds are increased slightly, including additional funding from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act federal excise tax on the sales of firearms and ammunition.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5511 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.