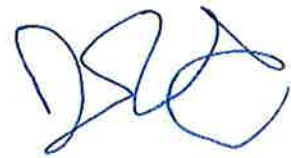


From The Desk of ^{Representative} Dan Rayfield



Support The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Funding Taskforce

Support HB 2402

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has been managing Oregon's animals and wild spaces for generations. In that time, the types of recreational activities have branched out from hunting and angling, yet we still largely rely on hunters and anglers to pay for the agency's programs and services. This system needs an update.



HB 2402 establishes a task force to take a closer look at ODFW's funding and suggest additional alternatives. We need to move beyond simply raising licenses and fees and begin to incorporate all users into the fee structure. The long-term viability of ODFW requires that all users fund programs and services equitably.

Balancing short and long-term funding changes is essential. The task force established in HB 2402 is aimed at identifying long-term ODFW funding issues, while a package of bills fills in other agency funding needs:

- SB 247 focuses on a short-term solution with license and fee increases;
- SB 5511 sets a complete 2015-17 budget balanced with an unprecedented influx of general fund revenue recognizing public benefit;
- HB 3315 & HB 2171 identify two alternative funding sources by recouping agency permitting work and generating revenue from wild bird seed.

This package of bills, including HB 2402, is the result of months of transparent and open discussions between lawmakers, agency leaders, and stakeholders, and represents the best step forward for ODFW.

Vote Yes on HB 2402 and support adding fairness to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fee structure.

With gratitude,
The Oregon Conservation Network

OCN is coordinated by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and powered by the tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to our member organizations.

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