

# Support for ODFW Budget Compromise

(SB 5511, SB 247, HB 2402)

Oregon Hunters  
Association

Seafood Oregon

Rocky Mountain  
Elk Foundation

The Nature  
Conservancy

League of Women  
Voters of Oregon

Trout Unlimited

Oregon Outdoor  
Council

Alsea Sportsmens  
Association

Oregon  
Conservation  
Network

Oregon Wild

Native Fish  
Society

Oregon  
Environmental  
Council

Oregon  
Foundation for  
North American  
Wild Sheep

## Background

The Governor's 2015-2017 Recommended Budget (GRB) for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) included three components to balance the budget and fill a projected gap between revenues and expenses:

- Fee increases in recreational fishing and hunting license and tag fees and commercial fishing industry fees
- Additional General Fund appropriation for agency activities that benefit the general public, and
- A reduction in current staffing levels.

There was relatively broad stakeholder support for many components of the budget, however the recreational fee increase was opposed by a significant number of fishing and hunting "user groups" and the charter fishing industry.

## ODFW Budget Compromise Reached

*In response to stakeholder concerns Representative Dan Rayfield assembled a workgroup of diverse parties including representatives of hunting, angling, commercial fishing, charter fishing and conservation.* The goal was to determine if a compromise could be reached on the proposed fee increase. The resulting compromise package addresses many stakeholder concerns and includes the following components:

- An additional \$2 million in General Fund monies to support agency programs and reduce the proposed increase in recreational fishing and hunting fees.
- No additional cuts to the 2015-17 budget beyond the approximately 50 positions already reduced or eliminated in the agency recommended budget.
- Support for the reduced recreational fee schedule reflected in SB 247-A. Fees will incrementally increase in 2016, 2018 and 2020. However, the 2020 fee increase will not take effect if sustainable alternative revenue sources are identified to replace license fees.
- Support for SB 5511 – the ODFW Budget.

The compromise proposal includes additional concepts and bills that further address concerns raised by the workgroup. Those include, but are not limited to:

- Increased opportunity to fish and hunt by addressing predation on fish and wildlife (funding of sea lion work, a cormorant study), continuing the Mule Deer Initiative, and advancing the Lower Deschutes River Ranch project acquisition.
- Funding for continuing lower Columbia River Fishery Reform implementation.
- Support for HB 2402 – establishes a task force to diversify agency revenue sources to reduce pressure on fees and ensure long-term sustainability.
- Support for HB 3315 – Provides a potential mechanism for ODFW to recoup costs for services provided to other state agencies.

## Broad Support for the ODFW Budget Compromise

*The groups listed on this handout are a sample of the numerous interest groups that support this budget package.*

*We would like to thank Co-Chair Rayfield for his efforts in brokering this compromise and Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley for supporting establishment of the workgroup. If you have any questions about the compromise and our support please feel free to contact any group listed on this handout.*

FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR RICHARD DEVLIN