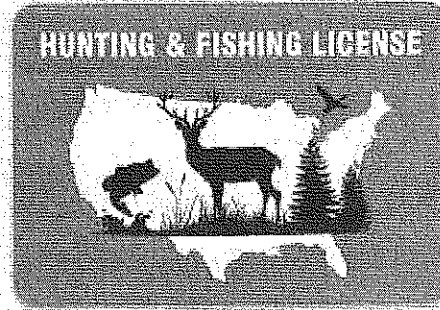


From the desk of Senator Michael Dembrow  
*M. Dembrow*

## Support License and Fee changes for Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Department and Programs Support SB 247

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has been protecting Oregon's fish and wildlife, and their habitats, for generations. A successful system has largely relied on users to pay for the agency's programs and services in the form of licenses and fees. From time to time these licenses and fees have been raised, and have largely tracked with inflation over the past four decades.



Revenue from ODFW's two primary dedicated sources – licenses & fees, and Oregon's lottery revenue, has been flat or falling in recent years. Combine that with increased competition for general fund dollars and the agency's funding challenges only grow.

Both short and long-term funding solutions are needed. SB 247 represents the most practical short-term solution. Legislative leaders, along with stakeholders from the hunting, fishing and conservation communities have crafted it over many months in an incredibly open and transparent process. SB 247 has undergone many hours of discussion and countless edits. SB 247 is the result of hard decisions and compromise, fills the revenue shortfall in the 2015-17 biennium – matching a set of fee increases with an unprecedented infusion of general fund dollars in the ODFW's budget bill to recognize the public's interest in this agency. A second bill, HB 2402, should also pass and creates a taskforce to examine long-term ODFW funding solutions and sustainability of agency programs.

***Vote Yes on SB 247 and support essential fish and wildlife programs for Oregon's hunters, anglers and outdoor recreation users.***

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.**

1000 Friends of Oregon | American Rivers | Associated Oregon Recyclers | Audubon Society of Portland | Beyond Toxics | Bicycle Transportation Alliance | Center for Biological Diversity | Central Oregon Landwatch | Citizens Utility Board of Oregon | Climate Solutions | Defenders of Wildlife | Environment Oregon | Fair and Clean Energy Coalition | Friends of Mount Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Hells Canyon Preservation Society | Kalmiopsis Audubon Society | League of Women Voters of Oregon | National Wildlife Federation | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Citizens for Safe Drinking Water | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition | Oregon Surfrider | Oregon Wild | Pew Charitable Trust | Recycling Advocates | Renewable Northwest Project | Rogue Valley Audubon Society | Rogue Riverkeeper | Sierra Club Oregon Chapter | Trout Unlimited | Tualatin Riverkeepers | Umpqua Valley Audubon Society | Upstream Public Health | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wild Salmon Center | Willamette Riverkeeper