



March 29, 2017

Subject: Testimony before the Joint Ways and Means Sub-committee for Natural Resources

RE: HB 5010 – ODFW Budget

Co-Chairs Senator Fredrick and Representative Witt

My name is David Wiley. I am representing the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF).

RMEF is a national non-profit wildlife conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, all other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. RMEF has more than 16,000 members in Oregon and 220,000 nationwide. In Oregon, over the years, RMEF and its partners have enhanced and protected more than 787,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

Through the years Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and RMEF have partnered to address many wildlife management, research and habitat issues and will continue to do so into the future.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports the Governor's ODFW Budget for Wildlife Management with two exceptions and those are the elimination of the General Fund supported Predator Management Program and for the Volunteer Program. We request these programs be restored funding. Both programs provide a tremendous return on investment to the citizens of Oregon.

The Predator Management Program manages the inevitable conflicts between humans and wildlife through contract with USDA-Wildlife Service's – the Government Trappers. It is unreasonable to expect wildlife-human conflicts to stop occurring and ODFW needs this program to do the mission assigned by law. Please restore the more or less \$400,000 General Funds. Predator management is jointly addressed by ODFW and ODA and we have previously made this request in regard to the Governor's ODA budget.

Restoring General Fund support of ODFW Volunteer program is also requested, and it is less than \$100,000. This funding supports management and organization of the hundreds ODFW Volunteers who



provide without charge many, many thousands of hours annually to delivering vital services and expertise to the accomplishment of the ODFW mission.

Additionally, I wish to state that RMEF supports the full funding of the ODFW's Sage Grouse Management and Habitat Restoration Program, the full funding of the Wolf Conservation and Management Program, and increasing the law enforcement effort to eliminate poaching of the public's wildlife and fish resources.

Wildlife law enforcement is of course a function of the Oregon State Police and last budget OSP was provided additional General Fund Revenue for wildlife and fisheries law enforcement and RMEF asks that this funding continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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