



WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Testimony to Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources on House Bill 5010

The Willamette Partnership is a non-profit committed to solving complex environmental problems in ways that work for people. We aim to make investing in restoration and conservation a practical decision. Our work depends on strong partnerships across a diversity of interests and sectors, including business, environmental groups, agriculture and forestry, tribes, local governments, and academic institutions.

We are submitting testimony in support of continued coordination and management of the State Sage-Grouse Action Plan. There are two key funding elements that we would like to highlight:

- The ODFW mitigation coordinator position referenced in POP 110; and
- The stakeholder coordination on the overall State Sage-Grouse Plan provided by Oregon Consensus.

Both elements help fulfill the state's commitment to support a responsible approach to both stewardship of sage-grouse and sagebrush steppe ecosystems and economic development in central and eastern Oregon.

ODFW's Sage-Grouse Mitigation Program is an important tool for:

- Steering development activities away from the most important sage-grouse habitat
- Helping developers meet compensatory mitigation requirements in a way that is coordinated, practical, predictable, and transparent
- Providing a much-needed funding source for responsible land stewardship, and
- Effectively addressing the most critical threats to the species, including wildland fire and invasive species.

The Mitigation Program and Oregon Consensus Coordination are an important part of the state's commitment to implementing its unique "all-lands, all-threats" sage-grouse plan. Other partners and funding sources can't address this need, and its absence from the Governor's Budget could jeopardize the success of Oregon's collaborative approach. We applaud the legislature's past commitment to this initiative and look forward to helping it succeed, for the benefit of both communities and natural resources in central and eastern Oregon. Please feel to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Bobby Cochran,

Executive Director