

Representative Clem and members of the House Committee  
On Agriculture and Natural Resources

April 6, 2017

Public Comments on HB 3228

I can see no value added by making the proposed change to ORS 496.012.

The protection and maintenance of nongame wildlife resources is already included in ORS 459.012 (1) "To maintain all species of wildlife at optimum levels."

Adding a goal that involves restoring indigenous nongame wildlife resources presents an endless money pit for an agency already challenged to meet their existing goals. The lessons learned by the introduction of Canadian Wolves should serve to remind legislators of the budget impacts of introducing extinct species back into an ecosystem that has stabilized absent that species. Reintroduction destabilizes the wildlife balance and can have unintended consequences on other wildlife as well as domestic animals and people. Until such time as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife can show that they have adequate funding to continue current programs absent the ongoing requests for additional funding and increased fees for outdoor activities, no new goals should be added to the expectations for this agency.

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