



Date: April 13, 2017

From: Audubon Society of Portland

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Re: Support for H.B. 3228

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

Audubon Society of Portland strongly supports passage of House Bill 3228. We support the efforts to modify state wildlife policy to include optimizing intrinsic benefit of indigenous wildlife. Protecting, maintaining and restoring indigenous nongame wildlife resources for their intrinsic values, ecosystem functions and long term benefits is a worthy goal that realigns focus on the larger picture.

88% of the wildlife in Oregon is non-game, yet maintaining this population only accounts for 2% of the ODFW budget. We believe our state's amazing wildlife is an intrinsically valuable component of Oregon's natural habitats, and should be protected and conserved for the long term. H.B. 3228 would recognize this view, which is held by a majority of Oregonians, and would allow our state policies to reflect as such.

This bill will not prevent or restrict current wildlife management goals. But rather, it supports efforts by state wildlife managers and administrators to recognize and include the diverse benefits of our state's wildlife, establishing goals, management plans and guidelines that better represent the values and needs of all Oregonians.

We urge the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to pass HB 3228 out of Committee and to move the bill towards passage.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Audubon Society of Portland