



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Testimony in Support of the
-3 Amendments
To HB 2213

June 1, 2017

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Committee on Rules:

I am Al Elkins, representing the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). I am here today in support of the dash three amendments to HB 2213.

The dash three amendments to HB 2213 in part will establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and create an advisory committee to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The committee would in effect review policies of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and make recommendations to the Commission concerning the implementation of activities funded by moneys in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.

OHA was a member of the Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education that was created by HB 2402 by the 2015 Legislature. The purpose of this task force was to develop recommendations for strengthening the funding base of ODFW. The result of that effort was brought forth in HB 3270 that was introduced in the 2017 Legislative session and is now reflected in the dash three amendments to HB 2213.

The final report of the Task Force recommended potential alternative funding sources for ODFW to help better achieve its mission in part with the establishment of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund as a first step in providing ODFW with a vehicle to receive revenues dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, enforcement, outdoor recreation, education and other activities that serve to protect, maintain or enhance the fish and wildlife resources of Oregon.

In conclusion, the dash three amendments help achieve the first step of the task force recommendation with the establishment of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and with an allocation of eleven million dollars from the General Fund. This will serve as the first step in a journey to establish long term, sustainable funding for strengthening the funding base of ODFW.

That concludes my testimony, I will be glad to answer any questions.