



# Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
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**To: The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction**



**Senate Bill 5506  
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs  
Cameron Smith, Interim Deputy Director for Administration  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Senate Bill 5506 establishes major construction and acquisition projects for the six-year period beginning July 1, 2017. The bill also extends the expiration date of prior authorized major construction and acquisition projects.

The Department supports SB 5506 to implement important deferred maintenance projects. These projects would be funded by \$10,000,000 in General Obligation bonds. The Department's capital assets require repair and replacement of critical elements that are essential for maintaining and enhancing natural resources throughout Oregon.

Many of the Department's facilities are in need of investments to ensure they are able to maintain current operation goals. Over the years agency offices, storage buildings, maintenance shops, public facilities, hatchery infrastructure, and road systems have fallen into varying states of disrepair. The Secretary of State recognized in its recent performance audit that in 2005 ODFW reported an estimated \$94 million backlog of maintenance needs at facilities across the agency, including hatcheries, offices and Wildlife Areas. The Department has worked to address deferred maintenance as resources have become available and the provisions of this bill are an important step in our efforts to restore agency facilities. Continuing to defer maintenance makes projects more expensive in the long-term.

The Department is also requesting to extend the expiration date of a prior authorized project. The "Ruby Pipeline" project was originally established by the 2011 Legislature. It uses mitigation funds to improve wildlife habitat. There have been delays in utilizing the funds, however these funds will be expended on wildlife habitat improvement projects as previously prescribed in the near future, and necessitate an extension of the authorization.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

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