

House Rules Committee--HB 2213
June 1, 2017

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NW Steelheaders and Friends of Gorge

Thank you for providing the opportunity to express a strong endorsement for the important effort to begin implementing stable long term funding for all fish, wildlife and habitat programs. The bill numbers keep changing but we must not allow this idea to die.

It was late summer of 2014 when Joe Rohleder and I initiated two informal meetings for several conservation advocates regarding what the legislature might do to advance this goal. There was an acknowledgement of the increasing need to acquire financial support from the millions of Oregonians who do not regularly buy fishing or hunting licenses. Thanks to significant involvement by Governor Brown's staff and Representative Brad Witt, HB 2402 eventually emerged creating an effective and comprehensive task force. Now the fourth related bill is here.

We continue to believe all Oregonians should help provide better and more dependable funding for a broad range of outdoor conservation programs. It is now obvious this reality will not occur easily or quickly but having sustained sources of revenues will help ensure our state's future success with wildlife conservation and related management work. In our arena this decade no legislative concept is more important. Please support this new bill and maintain the developing momentum for change.