



TASK FORCE ON FUNDING FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION

HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE

February 16, 2017



Alternative Funding Task Force

- Established by 2015 Legislature in HB 2402 to address unfunded and increasing costs of conservation and related outdoor recreation and education opportunities
- Governor appointed
- 17 voting members representing:
 - Hunters and anglers
 - Conservation groups
 - Outdoor recreation businesses
 - Tourism industry
 - Outdoor education
 - Diverse communities
- 6 Ex Officio members
 - 2 Senators
 - 2 Representatives
 - ODFW Commission Chair
 - ODFW Director



Non-Voting Members

Sen. Chris Edwards	OR Legislature
Sen. Doug Whitsett	OR Legislature
Rep. Ken Helm	OR Legislature
Rep. Wayne Krieger	OR Legislature
Mike Finley	ODFW Commission Chair
Curt Melcher	ODFW Director

Voting Members

Scott Welch	Columbia Sportswear
Rob Morrison	Leupold & Stevens Corp.
Claire Puchy	Retired, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Robb Ball	The Nature Conservancy
Kenji Sugahara	OR Bicycle Racing Association
Meryl Redisch	Retired, Portland Audubon Society
Bruce Taylor	OR Habitat Joint Venture
James Nash	6 Ranch Fly Fishing
Mark Labhart	Tillamook Co. Board of Commissioners
Tricia Tillman	Multnomah Co. Health Dept.
Queta Gonzalez	Center for Diversity & Environment
Kari Westlund	Travel Lane County
Nancy Bales	Gray Family Foundation
Jim Martin	Retired, Pure Fishing Company
Brad Pettinger	Oregon Trawl Commission
Mike Herbel	Neskowin Store
Paul Donheffner	OR Hunters Association

The Charge



1. Identify & recommend potential alternative, sustainable funding sources for ODFW.
2. Recommend any adjustments necessary to ensure that relevant program areas are funded in accordance with the intent of HB 2402.
3. Recommend opportunities to better achieve the mission through leveraging, coordinating and budgeting funds from alternative and existing sources.



The Challenge



AUDIT: CASH FLOW PROBLEMS THREATEN FINANCIAL HEALTH OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCY

By [Molly Woon](#) April 09, 2015 Audits

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) faces an ongoing cash flow problem that puts the agency's financial health at risk, according to a report by the Secretary of State.

Ore. Considers Fee Hikes As Hunting, Fishing Suffer Declines

by AP AP | April 29, 2014 8:15 a.m. | Updated: May 2, 2014

Fewer Oregonians are hunting and fish money to sustain wildlife management gaps, the state's wildlife agency wants t enthusiasts who remain in a proposal t

The Oregon Department of Fish and W pays for its programs, and it plans to r revenue and more frequent increases it

Fishing license hikes 'make outlaws of us'

ODFW fees to rise beginning in January 2016

Carla Castano

Published: August 4, 2015, 6:00 AM

ODFW budget creates 'sticker shock'

State fish and wildlife managers are proposing to phase in an overall 26 percent increase to hunting and angling licenses and tags over five years

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Fee increases passed for hunting, fishing, boating in Oregon



By Bill Monroe | For The Oregonian/OregonLive on July 10, 2015 at 5:45 PM, updated July 10, 2015 at 5:46 PM



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Costs of Oregon hunting, fishing licenses keep climbing

License sales drop but ODFW says price not main factor

By Dylan J. Darling • The Bulletin

Published Oct 25, 2015 at 12:03AM

Hunting and fishing license costs in Oregon are steadily going up, starting next year and continuing every other year until 2020.

An annual hunting license for an Oregon resident, which costs \$29.50 this year, will increase to \$32 next year, \$33.50 in 2018 and \$34.50 in 2020. An annual state resident fishing license, which costs \$33 this year, will cost \$38 next year, \$41 in 2018 and \$44 in 2020.

Increases in the license costs are not new, but the frequency of the price bumps and the smaller size of the increases are, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Service data. Since 2004 the cost of annual hunting and fishing licenses for residents has increased every six years, said Aaron Jenkins, economist with the agency in Salem. Gov. Kate Brown this summer signed a bill setting the gradual price increases, he said.

"We would like the fees to edge up slowly rather than have a big jump," Jenkins said. "People don't like big jumps in prices."

The Challenge

- Conservation aspects of ODFW's mission have not historically been adequately funded.
- Comprehensive, sustainable fish/wildlife management and conservation funding is critical to Oregon's livability, economy – now and in the future.
- Need to couple expanded conservation efforts with enhanced hunting and fishing opportunities, with goal to minimize the need for future fee increases and the attendant political battles.
- Need to improve educational outreach and engagement of the public in support of healthy fish, wildlife and habitats.
- Need to engage diverse and underserved communities.
- Difficult funding decisions needed now; only more difficult in the future. Need proactive approaches to avoid problems before they become such, e.g. ESA listings.

Process

- Year of monthly meetings and work groups.
- Review of historic and projected funding for ODFW's programs and Secretary of State audits.
- Research on conservation funding elsewhere.
- Statistically valid survey of 900 Oregonians.
- Determination of funding (revenue) need.
- Evaluation criteria and assessment of 100+ funding mechanisms.
- Briefings with Governor's Office and Legislative committees
- Vetting proposals to stakeholder groups.



Public Opinion Survey

- High value placed on conservation of fish and wildlife and opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Availability of fish and wildlife-related recreation opportunities – 47% excellent, 34% good.
- Satisfaction with ODFW's management of fish, wildlife and habitat – 65% satisfied, 12% dissatisfied.
- ODFW credibility – 88% credible or very credible
- Significant disconnect between public values and how ODFW is funded.
- How ODFW should be funded:
 - 33% said general state taxes, 19% licenses
 - Current – 8% of budget is General Fund



Responsive Management™



What's the Funding Need?

- Expand Conservation Efforts (\$46.7 million / biennium)
- Improve Fishing and Hunting & Eliminate Fee Increases (\$22.3 million/biennium)
- Connect Oregonians with the Outdoors (\$8.3 million / biennium)
- Deferred Maintenance (\$9.6 million / biennium)

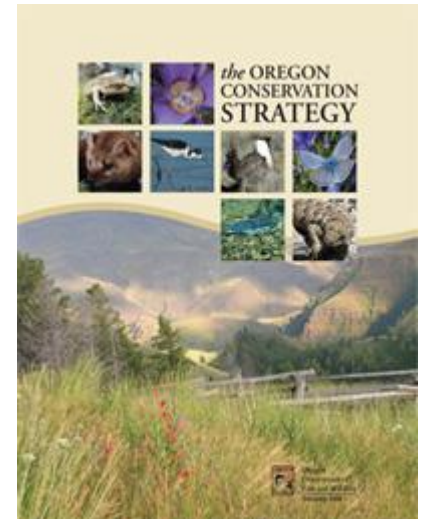
Total Funding Need = \$86.9 million

- 23% increase in current budget
- 15% increase in FTE
- Scalable

Expand Conservation Efforts

- Increase funding for science, research, monitoring and inventories of species and habitat to fill data gaps.
- Increase investments in data management, analysis and distribution.
- Increase efforts to restore ecosystems to resiliency.
- Expand enforcement of laws to protect and conserve natural resources.
- Expand conservation partnerships with landowners, agencies, industry and organizations

Investment - \$46.7 million / biennium
54% of Funding



Improve Fishing and Hunting

- Eliminate second and third phases of license fee increases; index future fee increases.
- Target new funding to improved hunting and fishing opportunities and to marketing them.
- Provide additional fishing opportunities for urban and underserved communities.
- Expand/improve research, monitoring and management of game/non-game species.
- Expand collaborative efforts to improve and restore habitat.
- Expand enforcement, focusing on areas currently with limited enforcement presence.

Investment - \$22.3 million / biennium
26% of Funding



Connect Oregonians with the Outdoors

- Expand conservation education with emphasis on urban areas and partnerships
- Develop wildlife viewing opportunities and facilities
- Develop new communication strategies to reach new, broader audiences (youth, millennials, diversity)
- More volunteers and “Citizen Scientists”
- Expand marketing and outreach to increase participation in wildlife recreation
- Increase diversity in participation and the workforce

Investment - \$8.3 million / biennium
9% of Funding



Deferred Maintenance

- Respond to Secretary of State audit
- Adopt multi-biennial bonding approach; \$16 million in ten-year bonds for six consecutive biennia
- Undertake assessment to more accurately determine funding needs.
- Additional spending in rural communities

Investment - \$9.6 million / biennium
11% of Funding



FOUNDATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

- Dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, administration, enforcement and other activities that protect, maintain or enhance the native fish and wildlife of the state.
- Provide resources to improve hunting and fishing
- Expand opportunities for participation in outdoor recreation
- Increase education and outreach to youth, families and diverse communities about conservation and outdoor recreation.

Alternative Funding Evaluation

- **Sufficient** - Is it sufficient to address current and future needs?
- **Sustainable** - Does it generate continuous, dedicated funding?
- **Stable and flexible** – Will it fluctuate year to year? Can it adapt to changing circumstances?
- **Diverse and equitable** - Does it spread the cost of fish and wildlife management and conservation over a broader base?
- **Enhance diversity or engagement** - Does it affect the engagement of diverse and/or underrepresented individuals?
- **Cost effective** - Will it be easy to collect, administer and track?
- **Defensible** - Is there a connection between the funding and the need?
- **Politically feasible** - What will it take to implement this proposal?
- **Politically insulated** - Can it be diverted for other purposes?

More Than 100 Options Considered

- Marijuana Tax
- Recreational Equipment Tax
- Beverage Container Surcharge
- Unredeemed Bottle Deposits
- Wildlife License Plate
- General Fund/Lottery Fund Allotments
- Income Tax Return Surcharge
- Agricultural Chemical Fee
- Wild Bird Seed Tax
- Recreational Vehicle Tag
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Rental Car Fee
- Lodging Fee
- Donations



Alternative Funding Sources Forwarded for Legislative Consideration

OREGON INCOME TAX RETURN SURCHARGE

- Applied to individual (non-corporate) tax returns.
- Exemption for low income filers.
- Rate - .62%
 - Family of 4; \$50,000 = \$17.64
 - Family of 4; \$75,000 = \$29.47
 - Family of 4; \$100,000 = \$42.08

WHOLESALE BEVERAGE SURCHARGE

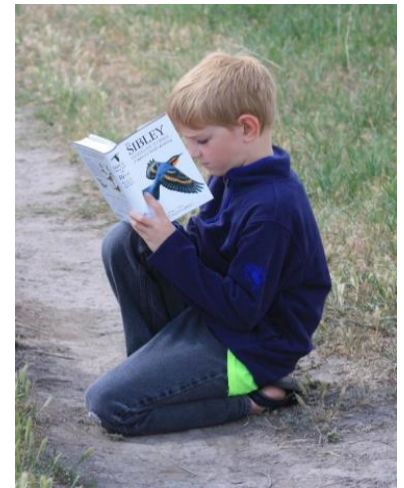
- Applied to cost of beverages subject to the Bottle Bill; not a beverage container deposit.
- Rate - 2.19%
 - 6 pack of soda = 7 cents
 - 6 pack of domestic beer = 11 cents
 - 6 pack of microbrew beer = 19 cents

Among Other Recommendations

- Monitoring and reporting based on specific metrics.
- Support Department's efforts to implement HB 3315.
- Support national legislation for conservation program funding.
- Variety of program adjustment recommendations.
- Variety of partnering/leveraging recommendations.

Summary

- Establish Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund dedicated to:
 - Expanded conservation efforts
 - Improved hunting and fishing opportunities
 - Connecting Oregonians with the outdoors
 - Deferred maintenance
- Dedicate a minimum of \$86.9 m/b in new revenues.
- Eliminate future license fee increases.
- Develop monitoring and reporting programs.



Questions?

